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***Confidential***

The Honorable Kevin G. DeNoce, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93003

August 30, 2023

The Meiners Oaks Water District Board of Directors has enclosed its responses to the findings and recommendations from the Ventura County Grand Jury Report (2022-2023): Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County. Meiners Oaks Water District would like to thank the Ventura County Grand Jury for the time it dedicated to this topic.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Martinez", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Justin Martinez

General Manager

(805) 646-2114 ext. 4

Enclosures: Report Form & Summary of Actions

CC: Ventura County Grand Jury



# COUNTY of VENTURA

## Grand Jury

800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
Tel (805) 477-1600  
Fax (805) 658-4523  
grandjury.countyofventura.org

### Response to 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Form (Please See California Penal Code Section 933.05)

Report Title: Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County

Responding Entity: Michel Etchart, Meiners Oaks Water District

#### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: F-01 to F-10, and F-12 to F-14
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed;  
include an explanation of the reasons.)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01 to R-03 and R-05 to R-08 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a summary indicating the timeframe for implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation to include: scope and parameters of the analysis or study and timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion with the agency or department head. The timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the report.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: August 30, 2023

Signed: 

Title: General Manager

Number of pages attached: 2

## Meiners Oaks Water District – Statements to Recommendations

<p><b>R-01.</b></p>	<p><b>The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors establish written operational procedures and training to provide for increased water supply for fire flow during FWWs, RFWs, active fires and PSPS. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-07)</b></p>
	<p><i>The District has an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) includes staff roles, responsibilities, critical tasks, resources, facilities, communication methods, and procedures during a wildfire. The District is already on the Southern California Edison (SCE) PSPS notification list; however, access to the SCE PSPS portal for critical infrastructure was requested on July 19, 2023. District cell phones are enabled to receive National Weather Service alerts. The District will continue adding more procedures to its Emergency Response Plan, including training for increased water supply for fire flow during FWW, RFWs, active fires, and PSPS events.</i></p>
<p><b>R-02.</b></p>	<p><b>The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors have emergency power on site for all critical water infrastructure, including SCADA systems. (F-08, F-09)</b></p>
	<p><i>The District has two emergency diesel generators as backup power supply available for our highest priority facilities to provide power to critical equipment essential to maintain public health. The CAT XQ230 generator can operate up to 24 hours at 75% load; the Multiquip generator can operate up to 20.5 hours at 75% load; each can be extended by refueling. The battery backup provides power to our SCADA system until the generated power is on. Each facility is already wired for direct connection to the generators. The District will be purchasing an additional diesel generator dedicated to the District Office, where the network and SCADA systems are located. The District will continue to assess priority needs for generated and/or solar power at each facility.</i></p>
<p><b>R-03.</b></p>	<p><b>The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors establish common communication protocols with adjoining water purveyors to coordinate needed actions, including water transfers during active fires. (F-10)</b></p>
	<p><i>As outlined in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, the District has established communication protocols with adjoining water purveyors. The District will enhance these protocols to include radios, satellite phones, and GETS/WPS-enabled devices.</i></p>
<p><b>R-05.</b></p>	<p><b>The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors enroll their employees in the FCC Wireless Priority Service (WPS) providing cell phone priority in emergencies. (F-12)</b></p>
	<p><i>The District submitted the enrollment application for the FCC Wireless Priority Service, providing cell phone priority in emergencies, on July 21, 2023. The District's enrollment was approved by the Cybersecurity &amp; Infrastructure Security Agency and employees were enrolled as of July 24, 2023.</i></p>

R-06.	<b>The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors enroll in the Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS) providing landline phone priority in emergencies. (F-12)</b>
	<i>The District submitted the enrollment application for the Government Emergency Telecommunications System, providing landline phone priority in emergencies, on July 21, 2023. The District's enrollment was approved by the Cybersecurity &amp; Infrastructure Security Agency and employees were enrolled as of July 24, 2023. The GETS cards were received on August 1, 2023.</i>
R-07.	<b>The Grand Jury recommends that all water purveyors enroll in CalWARN, a network of water and wastewater agencies that can provide emergency resources. (F-13)</b>
	<i>The District submitted the signed CalWARN Mutual Assistance Agreement and required documents for Regional 1 to the CalWARN Steering Committee on July 21, 2023.</i>
R-08.	<b>The Grand Jury recommends that all water purveyors provide brush clearance around water tanks, water supply pumps, pump houses and related infrastructure. (F-14)</b>
	<i>The District maintains a minimum clearance of 30 feet around water tanks, pumps, pump houses, and related infrastructure per the Ventura County Fire Department Ordinance 32, Section 4907.8: Defensible Space. The District will continue to maintain the minimum clearance on an ongoing basis and is routinely inspected by Ventura County Fire.</i>