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COUNTY of VENTURA

Grand Jury

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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: Mayor Fred Thomas, City of Simi Valley City Council

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: F-02, F-04, F-12, F-13, F-14
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: F-01, F-03, F-05, F-06, F-07, F-08, F-09, F-10,
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-02, R-05, R-06, R-07, 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 R-03 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: September 11, 2023
City Council Approval Date

DocuSigned by:
Signed: Fred D. Thomas

Title: Mayor, City of Simi Valley/Chair WWD#8

Number of pages attached: 7



**Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8
City of Simi Valley**

The City of Simi Valley (City)/ Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 (VCWWD8) explanations for partially disagreeing with the following Findings and Recommendations:

F-01. Potable water systems are designed to provide domestic water service and sufficient supply of water for structure fires per requirements of the Ventura County Fire Department. The City of Simi Valley (City)/ Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 (VCWWD8) makes every effort to maximize the water storage and flow available to fire personnel to aid in the successful suppression of wildfires.

F-03, F-05, F-06, and F-07. The City/VCWWD8 has a written Standard Operating Procedure that is reviewed and updated annually for wildfire preparedness defining specific actions taken during a Fire Weather Watch, Red Flag Warning, active fire and PSPS events.

F-08. The City/VCWWD8 has stationary generators, battery back-up systems, and the capability to deploy mobile generators and battery back-up systems, at its critical pumping, control, and communication facilities.

F-09. A standby generator equipped with an automatic transfer switch and an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) is located at City/VCWWD8 SCADA system to provide backup power in all instances.

F-10. The City/VCWWD8 maintains an updated contact list for its neighboring water agencies such as Calleguas Municipal Water District, Golden State Water Company, Ventura County Waterworks District 17, and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. The City/District participates in monthly Water Agency Managers meetings spearheaded by Calleguas Municipal District.

R-01. The City/VCWWD8 has a written Standard Operating Procedure for FWWs, RFWs, active fires, and PSPS events, reviewed and updated annually, and conducts training sessions every September.

R-02. The City/VCWWD8 utilizes stationary and mobile emergency generators at critical pumping and reservoir sites, inspected on a weekly and monthly basis. An onsite emergency generator and a UPS support the central SCADA system. All reservoir sites and pump stations have battery back-up systems or UPS units installed to support communications and the components of the SCADA system.

R-03. The City/VCWWD8 maintains an updated contact list for its neighboring water agencies such as Calleguas Municipal Water District, Golden State Water Company, Ventura County Waterworks District 17, and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. The City/VCWWD8 maintains an existing interconnection with Ventura County Waterworks District 17 and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.



Additional interconnection with neighboring water agencies requires further analysis as there are infrastructure limitations of systems to be able to transfer water between purveyors during an active fire event.

R-05. The City/VCWWD8 is currently enrolled in Wireless Priority Service (WPS)

R-06. The City/VCWWD8 is currently enrolled in Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS).

R-07. The City/VCWWD8 is currently enrolled in CalWarn.

R-08. The City/VCWWD8 conducts brush clearance on an annual basis around its water tanks, pump stations, and access roads, as required and in compliance with Ventura County Fire Code section 4907.8.



**Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8
City of Simi Valley**

Grand Jury Report

Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County

RSPONSES TO FINDINGS

F-01. The Grand Jury finds that an adequate supply of water is essential for successful suppression of wildfires. (SF-O1, SF-02, SF-03, SF-04)

Response: Potable water systems are designed to provide domestic water service and sufficient supply of water for structure fires per requirements of the Ventura County Fire Department. The City of Simi Valley (City)/ Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 (VCWWD8) makes every effort to maximize the water storage and flow available to fire personnel to aid in the successful suppression of wildfires.

F-02. The Grand Jury finds that the limited number of Fire Weather Watch (FWW) advisories amplifies the importance of establishing written procedures, protocols and training. (SF-01, SF-05, SF-07, SF-10)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 concurs.

F-03. The Grand Jury finds that written procedures for actions taken by water purveyors during a Fire Weather Watch event is a best practice that is lacking in Ventura County. (SF-01, SF-05, SF-07, SF-10)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 has a written Standard Operating Procedure that is reviewed and updated annually for wildfire preparedness defining specific actions taken during a Fire Weather Watch.

F-04. The Grand Jury finds that the limited number of Red Flag Warning (RFW) events amplifies the importance of establishing written procedures, protocols, and training. (SF-O1, SF-06, SF-07, SF-10)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 concurs.

F-05. The Grand Jury finds that written procedures for actions taken by water purveyors during a Red Flag Warning event is a best practice that is lacking in Ventura County. (SF-O1, SF-06, SF-07, SF-10)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 has a written Standard Operating Procedure that is reviewed and updated annually for wildfire preparedness defining specific actions taken during a Red Flag Warning event.



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F-06. The Grand Jury finds that written procedures for actions taken by water purveyors during an active fire event is a best practice that is lacking in Ventura County. (SF-01, SF-08, SF-10)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 has a written Standard Operating Procedure that is reviewed and updated annually for wildfire preparedness defining specific actions taken during an active fire event.

F-07. The Grand Jury finds that written procedures for actions taken by water purveyors during Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events is a best practice that is lacking in Ventura County. (SF-01, SF-09, SF-10)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 has a written Standard Operating Procedure that is reviewed and updated annually for wildfire preparedness defining specific actions taken during PSPS events. Water levels in reservoirs are increased to maximize storage capacity.

The City/VCWWD8 is a member of the SCE Public Safety Partner Portal, providing advance notices and updates about potential PSPS events.

F-08. The Grand Jury finds that backup power to critical infrastructure is not always available. (SF-01, SF-11)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 has stationary generators, battery back-up systems, and the capability to deploy mobile generators and battery back-up systems, at its critical pumping, control, and communication facilities.

F-09. The Grand Jury finds that SCADA systems are not equipped with backup power in all instances. (SF-01, SF-12)

Response: A standby generator equipped with an automatic transfer switch and an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) is located at City/VCWWD8 SCADA system to provide backup power in all instances.

F-10. The Grand Jury finds that inadequate communication between adjoining water purveyors limits the ability to coordinate needed actions such as available water transfers. (SF-13, SF-14)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 maintains an updated contact list for its neighboring water agencies such as Calleguas Municipal Water District, Golden State Water Company, Ventura County Waterworks District 17, and Las Virgines Municipal Water District. The City/District participates in monthly Water Agency Managers meetings spearheaded by Calleguas Municipal District.



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F-12. The Grand Jury finds that enrolling in GETS and WPS would allow Ventura County water purveyors priority access to landline and cellular telephone networks in emergency situations. (SF-16, SF-17)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 is enrolled in GETS and WPS.

F-13. The Grand Jury finds that enrolling in CalWARN would allow Ventura County water purveyors access to statewide resources. (SF-18)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 is enrolled in CalWarn.

F-14. The Grand Jury finds that Ventura County Fire Code section 4907.8 regarding brush clearance around water tanks, water supply pumps, pump houses and related infrastructure applies to all rural and unincorporated communities, and all cities except Fillmore, Oxnard and Ventura. (SF-19, SF-20, SF-21)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 complies with Ventura County Fire Code section 4907.8 regarding brush clearance around water tanks, water supply pumps, pump houses and related infrastructure.

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

R-01. 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)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 has a written Standard Operating Procedure for FWWs, RFWs, active fires, and PSPS events, reviewed and updated annually, and conducts training sessions every September.

R-02. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors have emergency power on site for all critical water infrastructure including SCADA systems. (F-08, F-09)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 utilizes stationary and mobile emergency generators at critical pumping and reservoir sites, inspected on a weekly and monthly basis. An onsite emergency generator and a UPS support the central SCADA system. All reservoir sites and pump stations have battery back-up systems or UPS units installed to support communications and the components of the SCADA system.



**Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8
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R-03. 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)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 maintains an updated contact list for its neighboring water agencies such as Calleguas Municipal Water District, Golden State Water Company, Ventura County Waterworks District 17, and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. The City/VCWWD8 maintains an existing interconnection with Ventura County Waterworks District 17 and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.

R-05.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)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 is enrolled in Wireless Priority Service (WPS)

R-06.The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors enroll in the Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS) providing landline phone priority in emergencies. (F-12)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 is enrolled in Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS).

R-07.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)

Response: Response: The City/VCWWD8 is enrolled in CalWarn.

R-08.The Grand Jury recommends that all water purveyors provide brush clearance around water tanks, water supply pumps, pump houses and related infrastructure. (F-14)

Response: The City/VCWWD8 conducts brush clearance on an annual basis around its water tanks, pump stations, and access roads, as required and in compliance with Ventura County Fire Code section 4907.8.