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August 30, 2023

Ventura County Grand Jury  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93003

**WATER AVAILABILITY FOR WILDFIRES IN VENTURA COUNTY**

Attached are the responses from Triunfo Water & Sanitation District to the questionnaire that accompanied the Grand Jury's June 12, 2023, Final Report on Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Rydman at (805) 658-4643.

Sincerely,

Mark Norris  
General Manager

cc: Justice Kevin G. DeNoce



# COUNTY of VENTURA

## Grand Jury

800 South Victoria Avenue  
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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: Chair Jane Nye, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District

#### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: 2, 4, 10 & 12-14
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: 1, 3, 5-9  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1-8 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: 8/30/2023

Signed: [Signature]

Title: Operations Manager

Number of pages attached: 3

## FINDINGS OF THE GRAND JURY

1. The Grand Jury finds that an adequate supply of water is essential for successful suppression of wildfires.

**Response: Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (TWSD) partially disagrees with the finding. Potable water systems are not designed to nor intended to fight wildfires. They are designed to provide domestic water service and sufficient supply for structure fires per requirements of the local fire authority – in this case, Ventura County. Requesting potable water providers agree to a finding of the Grand Jury that an adequate supply of water is essential for successful suppression of wildfires should not be construed to suggest that potable water providers are in any way responsible for providing such supply of water. However, TWSD does make every effort to maximize the amount of water available to fire personnel through hydrants and warf heads during wildfires emergencies.**

3. 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.

**Response: TWSD partially disagrees with the finding. While TWSD does not know the extent of written procedures for other water providers in Ventura County, we have a written Standard Operating Procedure that is updated and reviewed each year for wildfire preparedness that defines the specific actions that are taken during a Fire Weather Watch.**

5. The Grand Jury finds that written procedures for actions taken by water purveyors during a Reg Flag Warning event is a best practice that is lacking in Ventura County.

**Response: TWSD partially disagrees with the finding. While TWSD does not know the extent of written procedures for other water providers in Ventura County, we have a written Standard Operating Procedure that is updated and reviewed each year for wildfire preparedness that defines the specific actions that are taken during a Red Flag Warning.**

6. 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

**Response: TWSD partially disagrees with the finding. While TWSD does not know the extent of written procedures for other water providers in Ventura County, we have a written Standard Operating Procedure that is updated and reviewed each year for wildfire preparedness that defines the specific actions that are taken during an active wildfire event.**

7. 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.

**Response: TWSD partially disagrees with the finding. While TWSD does not know the extent of written procedures for other water providers in Ventura County, TWSD has standby generators and battery back-up systems installed at its critical pumping, control, and communication facilities that are used during PSPS events. TWSD also increases reservoir levels whenever Southern California Edison issues PSPS warnings. TWSD is a member of the SCE Public Safety Partner Portal which provides advances notices and updates about potential PSPS events.**

8. The Grand Jury finds that backup power to critical infrastructure is not always available.

**Response: TWSD partially disagrees with the finding. TWSD has standby generators and battery back-up systems installed at its critical pumping, control, and communication facilities.**

9. The Grand Jury finds that SCADA systems are not equipped with backup power in all instances.

**Response: TWSD partially disagrees with the finding. While TWSD does not know the extent of back-up power facilities for other water providers in Ventura County, a standby generator equipped with an automatic transfer switch is onsite at the location of TWSD's SCADA system.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRAND JURY

1. 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.

**Response: TWSD has fully implemented this recommendation. TWSD has a written operational procedure for FWWs, RFWs, active fires, and PSPS events and staff receive refresher training on this procedure each September.**

2. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors have emergency power on site for all critical water infrastructure including SCADA systems.

**Response: TWSD has fully implemented this recommendation. TWSD has stationary emergency generators at its two primary potable pump stations that are inspected on a weekly and monthly basis. TWSD's SCADA system is supported by one of these emergency generators. TWSD also has uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units and battery back-up systems installed to support the HMI and PLC components of the SCADA system at its tank sites and smaller pump stations.**

3. 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.

**Response: TWSD has fully implemented this recommendation. TWSD maintains an updated contact list for its neighboring water agencies – Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, California Water Service Company, Ventura County Waterworks District, City of Thousand Oaks, and Calleguas Municipal Water District. TWSD has existing interconnections with both Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and California Water Service Company.**

4. No response requested

5. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors enroll their employees in the FCC Wireless Priority Service (WPS) providing cell phone priority in emergencies

**Response: TWSD has fully implemented this recommendation. TWSD utilizes FirstNet, a nationwide, high-speed wireless broadband network and set of specialized innovative tools, technologies and features specifically built for public safety. FirstNet is a similar service to the FCC's WPS. FirstNet uses AT&T commercial spectrum bands and a special lane of connectivity called Band 14. During an emergency, this band can be cleared and locked just for FirstNet subscribers.**

6. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors enroll in the Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS) providing landline phone priority in emergencies.

**Response: TWSD is enrolled in the GETS program.**

7. The Grand Jury recommends that all water purveyors enroll in CalWARN, a network of water and wastewater agencies that can provide emergency resources

**Response: TWSD has fully implemented this recommendation by enrolling in CalWARN. We provide updated contact information to CalWARN annually.**

8. The Grand Jury recommends that all water purveyors provide brush clearance around water tanks, water supply pumps, pump houses and related infrastructure.

**Response: TWSD has fully implemented this recommendation. TWSD conducts brush clearance, as required by Ventura County Fire Department, on an annual basis around its water tanks, pump stations, and access roads, and verifies compliance with these requirements during an annual inspection by Ventura County Fire Department.**