



July 20, 2023

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

Dear Honorable Judge Kevin G. DeNoce,

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO WATER AVAILABILITY FOR WILDFIRES IN VENTURA COUNTY

The Ventura River Water District has reviewed the *Water Availability for Wildfires In Ventura County* report and provides the attached responses to Findings and Recommendations for which the District is required to respond.

A copy of the District responses will also be provided to the Ventura County Grand Jury.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alma Quezada", is written in a cursive style.

Alma Quezada, P.G.
Assistant General Manager



**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: President Ed Lee, Ventura River 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-02, R-08 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-03, R-05, R-06, and R-07 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: July 20, 2023

Signed: 

Title: President

Number of pages attached: 1

Ventura River Water District - Statements 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)

The District has an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that includes staff assignments, critical tasks and procedures during a wildfire.

The District will update its Emergency Response Plan ERP to include training for increased water supply for fire flow during FWWs, RFWs, active fires and PSPS.

- 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)

The District has emergency diesel generators and battery storage as backup power supply at both of our pumping facilities to provide power to critical equipment essential to maintain public health. The backup power supply provides power to our pumps, boosters, office and SCADA systems. The Baldwin facility stores 550 gallons of diesel fuel, and Parker stores 200 gallons. Each facility is capable of operating up to 30 hours at ¼ load, with an additional 18 hours of battery backup supply at each facility. The total approximate backup supply at each facility is 48 hours and can be extended with refueling. In 2024 the District is scheduled to install solar at both pumping facilities which will further boost emergency pumping capabilities.

- 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)

The District will work on establishing common communication protocols with adjoining water purveyors for when normal communications have been disrupted. The District anticipates this will be an ongoing effort to maintain readiness in the event of an emergency.

- 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)

The District plans to enroll in WPS by September 30, 2023.

- 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)

The District plans to enroll in GETS by September 30, 2023.

- 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)

The District plans to enroll in CalWARN by September 30, 2023.

- 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)

The District works to maintain a minimum clearance of 30-feet around water tanks, water supply pumps, pump houses and related infrastructure in accordance with the Ventura County Fire Department Ordinance 32, Section 4907.8: Defensible Space.

Ventura County Grand Jury
RE: Water Availability for Wildfires
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009