



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: Ventura County Board of Supervisors

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: F-01, F-02, F-04, F-12, F-13, F-14
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: F-03, F-05, and F-06 thru 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-03, R-05, R-07, R-08 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R-06 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: 9/12/2023

Signed: Mike Bellis

Title: Assistant County Executive Officer

Number of pages attached: 2

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County

Report Date: June 12, 2023

Response By: Jeff Pratt Title: Public Works Agency Director

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

F-03, F-05, F-06, F-07, F-08, F-09, F-10. These findings are not applicable to the four Ventura County Waterworks Districts managed by the Ventura County Public Works Agency Water and Sanitation Department (PWA-WS).

F-03 and F-05. PWA-WS has written procedures for actions to be taken during Fire Weather Watch (FWW) advisories and Red Flag Warning (RFW) events.

F-06. PWA-WS has written procedures for actions to be taken during an active fire event.

F-07. PWA-WS written procedures for FWW and RFW events are also used for Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events.

F-08. PWA-WS Waterworks infrastructure has adequate back-up power for its critical infrastructure and has a proven track record of maintaining power to its critical systems during PSPS, FWW, and RFW events.

F-09. PWA-WS Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems monitoring critical Waterworks infrastructure have adequate back-up power.

F-10. All four County Waterworks Districts purchase water from Calleguas Municipal Water District (CWMD). Communications amongst CWMD purveyors during emergencies is facilitated by CWMD's Emergency Response Coordinator. Any transfer of water could potentially be accomplished via CWMD's infrastructure. CWMD is also working on establishing interconnections with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Ventura Water.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-01, R-02, R-03, R-05, R-07, R-08. These recommendations have been implemented by PWA-WS.

R-01, R-02, R-03. See responses to F-03, F-05, F-06, F-07, F-08, F-09, and F-10.

R-05. PWA-WS County-issued cell phones have FCC Wireless Priority Service (WPS) capability.

R-06. Full Government Emergency Telecommunication Service (GETS) implementation is expected by December 2023.

R-07. PWA-WS enrolled in the CalWARN mutual aid system in 2019.

R-08. PWA-WS maintains a contract with a grounds maintenance contractor that ensures all County Waterworks infrastructure is compliant with the Ventura County Fire Protection District brush clearance requirements.