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Villa Park

County of Orange

Costa Mesa
Sanitary District

Midway City
Sanitary District

Irvine Ranch
Water District

Yorba Linda
Water District

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Glenda Sanders, Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Presiding Judge Sanders:

On May 1, 2015, the Grand Jury released a report entitled: "Increasing Water Recycling: A Win-Win for Orange County." This report requires written responses to certain findings and recommendations from the Orange County Sanitation District.

A safe and reliable water supply is fundamental to the life and health of Orange County's citizens and visitors, and is essential to economic sustainability. The Orange County Sanitation District thanks the Grand Jury for its attention to this important issue.

Below are responses to each of the findings and recommendations of the report:

Responses to Findings Page 7

F.1. The Orange County Sanitation District processes an average of 198 million gallons per day of wastewater and sends 121 million gallons per day of secondary treated wastewater to the ocean.

The Orange County Sanitation District Response: Agree with the findings. The actual flow volumes vary daily based on water usage in the service area. As a result of the past economic downturn, conservation efforts, and the prolonged drought, the Orange County Sanitation District's actual influent flows have been dropping over the last decade. The average influent flow in 2004 was about 240 million gallons per day.

F.2. The Orange County Water District receives an average of 92 million gallons per day of treated wastewater from Orange County Sanitation District and recycles 70 million gallons per day of water treated to potable water standards that is then returned to the groundwater basin aquifers.





The Orange County Sanitation District Response: Agree with the findings. The Orange County Sanitation District and Orange County Water District have a long partnership for water recycling dating back to the 1970s. With the decreasing influent flow volumes, the Orange County Sanitation District has been actively diverting flow to its Fountain Valley plant to make as much water as possible available to the Orange County Water District for recycling. This includes an on-site pump station and manipulation of diversion structures in our collection system. These diversion management steps are very important in light of the generally decreasing influent flows and the expansion of recycling capacity recently completed by the Orange County Water District.

F.3. From the 92 million gallons per day from Orange County Sanitation District the Orange County Water District recycles 7 million gallons per day of water treated to plant irrigation standards.

Orange County Sanitation District Response: Agree with the findings.

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R.1. Orange County Sanitation District should conduct a study of possible methods of increasing the amount of processed wastewater sent to Orange County Water District, including timelines and noting any barriers that may prevent increasing flow, and implement the most cost effective method to reduce the amount of imported water to Orange County. (F.1.) (F.2.) (F.7.)

The Orange County Sanitation District Response: Agree with the recommendation. The Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors established a strategic plan goal in November 2013 to recycle all of the water we treat. The primary use envisioned is to support the ultimate build out of the Groundwater Replenishment System.

The staff of the Orange County Sanitation District and the Orange County Water District have collaboratively created a scope of work for an engineering study to investigate the feasibility of recycling all of Orange County Sanitation District's effluent flows. This study involves some potentially significant replumbing of the Orange County Sanitation District's infrastructure to segregate less desirable flows, and to pump effluent from our Huntington Beach Plant to Fountain Valley for recycling at the Orange County Water District. A fraction of the flows with high salt content or other constituents not conducive to drinking water reuse will be studied for other beneficial uses.



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The contract for this study has been awarded and work is scheduled to be complete in June 2016. The Orange County Sanitation District and Orange County Water District are sharing the cost of the study. In addition, grant funding of \$450,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation's U.S. Water Smart program was awarded in May 2015.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (714) 593-7110.

Sincerely,

Tom Beamish
Chair
Orange County Sanitation District

JDH/RT/clr