



# City of San Clemente City Council

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July 24, 2015

Glenda Sanders  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA92701

**Subject:** Required Response to 2014-2015 Orange County Jury Report Increasing Water Recycling: A Win-Win for Orange County

Dear Judge Sanders,

As required by Penal Code 933.05 (a) and (b), the City of San Clemente is providing the following response to Finding F.6 and Recommendation R.4:

**Finding F.6** The El Toro Water District, the City of San Clemente, the Santa Margarita Water District and the Trabuco Canyon Water District process a combined average total of 19.3 million gallons per day and send to the ocean 9.5 million gallons per day. The remaining 9.8 million gallons per day are used for landscape irrigation.

**Response:** San Clemente disagrees with the totals in the report. Due to the drought and the State of California's emergency regulations, San Clemente has noticed a reduction in sewer flow from water conservation. In addition, San Clemente recently completed a \$25 million expansion to its recycled water system and its customers are in the process of converting over 100 sites from potable to recycled water for irrigation purposes. Average annual sewer flows from San Clemente have dropped from approximately 4 million gallons per day to 3.4 million gallons per day. Recycled water production is currently 0.7 million gallons per day with anticipated flows to increase to approximately 1.9 million gallons per day within the next 12 months. San Clemente does not monitor the amount of or changes in flow from the remaining three public agencies and therefore cannot confirm the finding.

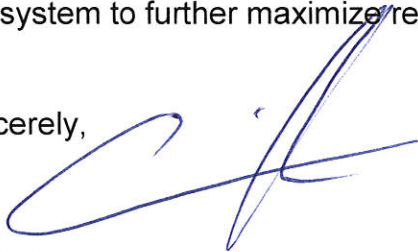
**Recommendation R.4** The El Toro Water District, the City of San Clemente, the Santa Margarita Water District and the Trabuco Canyon Water District should conduct a study of possible methods of increasing the amount of processed wastewater and implement the most cost effective method to reduce the amount of imported water to Orange County. (F.6.)

**Response:** The City of San Clemente has implemented this recommendation with the other South County Water Purveyors. A regional workshop was held on March 21, 2014 titled, Future of Recycled Water Use in South Orange County which identified regional recycled water demands and future planning as well as future wastewater flows. Subsequently, the agencies have worked collectively to identify points of interconnection of recycled water systems and regional projects to maximize production and reduce the dependency on imported water. The ongoing studies include:

- Engineering and Environmental Review of the Trampas Canyon Recycled Water Seasonal Storage Reservoir which can provide regional storage to expand the use of recycled water
- San Juan Basin Optimization Plan which studies the development of recycled water projects to recharge the groundwater basin
- Interconnection studies between City of San Clemente and Santa Margarita Water District for maximization of recycled water production
- Interconnection studies between El Toro Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District and Santa Margarita Water District for seasonal storage of recycled water and maximization of recycled water production and distribution
- Increased recycled water production at the 3A Water Reclamation Plant for groundwater recharge and irrigation purposes
- Santa Margarita and Trabuco Canyon Water Districts have an existing agreement for Santa Margarita to purchase any excess recycled water produced by Trabuco Canyon

In addition, San Clemente is receiving requests from customers not identified for recycled water use in the current expansion project and the City is evaluating potential expansion of the system to further maximize recycled water use within the City's service area.

Sincerely,



Chris Hamm  
City of San Clemente, Mayor

C: Orange County Grand Jury  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701