

STAFF MEMBERS

Hector Ruiz, General Manager
Michael Perea, District Secretary
Cindy Byerrum, District Treasurer
Bowie, Arneson, Wiles & Giannone,
District General Legal Counsel



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Dopudja, President
Glenn Acosta, Vice President
James Haselton, Director
Edward Mandich, Director
Michael Safranski, Director

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 29, 2015

Honorable Glenda Sanders, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

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

Subject: Required Response of Trabuco Canyon Water District to 2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury Report - Increasing Water Recycling: A Win-Win for Orange County

Dear Judge Sanders,

As required by Penal Code 933.05, the Trabuco Canyon Water District ("TCWD") is providing the following response to the 2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury Report – "Increasing Water Recycling: A Win-Win for Orange County" ("Report"), Finding F.6 and of 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.

TCWD's Response to Finding No. F.6: *TCWD partially disagrees with findings totals set out in Table 1: Wastewater Volume of the Report. Due to continuous and on-going projects that increase, and have increased, the use of recycled water in South Orange County the discharge of treated wastewater to the ocean continues to decrease. In particular, due to the current drought conditions, recycled water projects that offset the use of imported potable water have been recently implemented by the various agencies shown in Finding F.6. This includes a number of reclaimed/recycled water facilities and systems of TCWD, including, but not limited to, TCWD's Dry Weather Runoff Recovery System components. TCWD cannot confirm the recycled water volumes and/or amounts shown for the other agencies referenced, however TCWD's wastewater volume In of 0.6 mgpd (million gallons per day) and wastewater volume Out 0.6 mgpd for use in Purple Pipe (non-potable water) are correct. TCWD recycles all (100%) of its wastewater and does not discharge any of its wastewater to the ocean.*

Subject: Required Response of Trabuco Canyon Water District to 2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury Report - Increasing Water Recycling: A Win-Win for Orange County
July 29, 2015
Page 2 of 2

Recommendation R.4: The El Tero 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.)

TCWD's Response to Recommendation R.4: *TCWD has already implemented this recommendation with the other South County water-providing agencies. TCWD participated in a regional workshop sponsored by the Santa Margarita Water District in March 2014 titled, Future of Recycled Water Use in South Orange County and TCWD is a member of the South Orange County Watershed Management Area ("SOCWMA") and participates in bi-monthly meetings that include identifying regional recycled water projects and projects to reduce imported water to Orange County. SOCWMA has been meeting since 2012 and was formerly part of another working group of water-providing agencies that had been meeting since 2005, or earlier, to specifically study methods and projects and to implement inter-agency and regional projects that increase recycled water use and reduce the amount of imported water required for Orange County.*

For TCWD, examples of recent projects that have been implemented as a result of the above workshops, meetings and planning efforts include:

- *Interconnection project undertaken and completed between TCWD and Santa Margarita Water District for the conveyance of available recycled water; and*
- *The Shadow Rock Detention Basin Urban Water Recovery Project that captures urban and storm water runoff for use in meeting recycled water demands within TCWD's boundaries.*

The capture and reuse of urban and storm water runoff by TCWD is an important component for meeting recycled water demands for landscape irrigation during peak periods when the recycled water demands exceed TCWD's recycled water production.

It is our hope that our response provides more insight into the many positive and proactive projects that TCWD and other Orange County water agencies have been working on together, and have undertaken and completed, over the course of many years with the goal of increasing recycled water use resulting in a corresponding reduction in imported water requirements. Reaching a future goal of recycling 100% of wastewater flows (which TCWD has already achieved) will help Orange County reduce imported water requirements while still meeting the overall water demands of customers and the public.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen Dopudja
Board President