



**ERIC H. WOOLERY, CPA**  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER



August 28, 2015

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


Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, "Joint Powers Authorities: Issues of Viability, Control, Transparency, and Solvency"

Dear Judge Sanders:

Per the request from Paul S. Borzcik, Foreman, 2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the Orange County Auditor-Controller response to the subject report.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Ishida, Internal Audit Manager, at (714) 796-8067.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Eric H. Woolery, CPA  
Auditor-Controller

Enclosure

cc: FY 2014-15 Orange County Grand Jury Foreman  
Frank Kim, County Executive Officer  
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer, County Executive Office  
Jessica O'Hare, Assistant to the COO, County Executive Office



Responses to Findings and Recommendations  
2014-15 Grand Jury Report:

*“Joint Powers Authorities: Issues of Viability, Control, Transparency, and Solvency”*

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**SUMMARY RESPONSE STATEMENT:**

On June 29, 2015, the Grand Jury released a report entitled: “Joint Powers Authorities: Issues of Viability, Control, Transparency, and Solvency.” This report directed responses to findings and recommendations to the Orange County Auditor-Controller, select City Mayors and City Councils, and select Public Agencies, which are included below.

**FINDING AND RESPONSE:**

**F.7. The Orange County Auditor-Controller knows of the Joint Powers Authorities in which the County is a member, but does not have a list of all of the Joint Powers Authorities in Orange County and cannot confirm compliance of their submittal for the public access. The Orange County Auditor-Controller does not provide easy-to-use online access to the data submitted to it by the Joint Powers Authorities that are compliant with the requirement to submit.**

**Response:** Disagree partially with the findings. The County Auditor-Controller’s office does maintain a list of JPAs in which the County is not a member. Furthermore the Auditor-Controller’s office does maintain copies of the JPA submittals for public access. As part of the newly elected Auditor-Controller’s desire for greater financial transparency and fiscal openness, the Auditor - Controller’s new website will have the reports submitted by the JPAs posted for easier access by the public. This should be complete by October 31, 2015.

**RECOMMENDATION AND RESPONSE:**

**R.5. The Orange County Auditor-Controller should maintain a current list of all of the Joint Powers Authorities in Orange County, confirm that reports have been submitted annually, and post the completed reports with all the details on an easy-to-use Internet public access website. (F.7)**

**Response:** Agree with the recommendation. The newly elected Auditor-Controller wants to create greater transparency in the fiscal reporting of JPAs. The department is currently developing a procedure for collecting and tracking JPA audited financial reports. As the JPA financial reports are received by the Auditor-Controller's Office, they will be posted on the Auditor-Controller's website.