

September 22, 2015

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

Re: Brea Olinda Unified School District's Response to the 2014-15 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Mello-Roos: Perpetual Debt Accumulation and Tax Assessment Obligation"

To the Honorable Glenda Sanders:

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the Brea Olinda Unified School District responds to Findings and Recommendation in the 2014-15 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled, "Mello-Roos: Perpetual Debt Accumulation and Tax Assessment Obligation."

Finding 1: There is a lack of transparency to homeowners relative to how CFD funds are being used.

**Response to Finding 1:** The Brea Olinda Unified School District disagrees completely with this Finding. All of the information related to CFDs is accessible on the school district's website or from the district office. The school district has posted annual reports and a historical and financial summary of the CFD on its website.

Finding 2: There does not seem to be appropriate oversight and auditing of CFDs and special tax expenditures within the County of Orange.

**Response to Finding 2:** The Brea Olinda Unified District disagrees completely with this Finding. The Brea Olinda Unified School District believes there is sufficient oversight and auditing of its CFDs.

Finding 3: While the assumption is that the CFD debt would be repaid in a finite period of time, there is a mechanism available to controlling entities to extend debt obligations and thereby extend the CFD special tax in perpetuity.

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Response to Finding 3: The Brea Olinda Unified School District disagrees completely with this Finding. The Brea Olinda Unified School District has not extended the time for repayment nor do the legal documents establishing the school district's CFD allow unlimited extensions of time for repayment.

Recommendation 1: Each local agency that established the CFD should create an oversight committee and an audit committee to provide for an independent, transparent view of the manner in which CFD funds are being expended.

Response to Recommendation 1: The Brea Olinda Unified School District sees no need to create an oversight committee or an audit committee. The Brea Olinda Unified School District has a district website that contains all of the information the taxpayers need regarding the CFD. Annual reports for the CFD are posted and a contact number to the District's CFD Administrator is provided which allows the property owners to obtain specific Mello-Roos tax information by address, APN or parcel number. Therefore, the recommendation will not be implemented.

Recommendation 2: Audit report information, as delineated in California Government Code, 1982 Section 53343.1, should be made available to the CFD taxpapyers on a website after each fiscal year for each CFD number.

**Response to Recommendation 2:** All information is available on the Brea Olinda Unified School District Website. Taxpayers may access this information on the Brea Olinda Unified School District's Website. Therefore, this recommendation has been implemented.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact Jean Aldrete at (714) 990-7827.

Sincerely,

Jean Aldrete

Assistant Superintendent

**Business Services** 

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

Ronald D. Wenkart, Esq. General Counsel