



CITY of CYPRESS

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September 14, 2009

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

Attention: The Honorable Kim Dunning, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Subject: "Paper Water" – Does Orange County Have a Reliable Future?

Dear Judge Dunning:

We are in receipt of the 2008-2009 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Paper Water" – Does Orange County Have a Reliable Future? The Orange County Grand Jury Report requires responses to Findings F.1 through F.4 and Recommendations R.1 through R.4. It should be noted that the City is neither a retail water agency nor a member agency of the Municipal Water District of Orange County. In compliance with the Grand Jury's request, I, respectfully submit the following responses on behalf of the City of Cypress.

F.1: The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.1(a): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.1(b): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.

F.2: The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.2(a): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.2(b): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.

F.3: The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.3(a): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.3(b): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.3(c): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.

F.4: The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.4(a): The City of Cypress agrees with the findings.
F.4(b): The City of Cypress partially disagrees with the finding, as critical groundwater, recycled water, and desalination supplies are being developed in south Orange County. The Grand Jury findings imply that the Orange County Water District (OCWD) has the capacity to serve the entire County. This is not correct. The groundwater basin is managed and utilized to provide water supplies to its overlying constituent landowners (i.e. north Orange County). The operable storage in the basin has been developed at substantial cost and is insufficient to meet all demands. Allowing access to the lower cost groundwater to outside south Orange County agencies would increase the cost to the basin agencies and put the supply at risk.

Doug Bailey, Mayor

Prakash Narain, M.D., Mayor Pro Tem
Leroy Mills, Council Member

Phil Luebben, Council Member
Todd W. Seymore, Council Member

Recommendations

R.1: Even though the City is the planning agency, Golden State Water Co. (GSWC) already prepares an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) which is updated every five years. Therefore, we will not implement this recommendation. Additionally, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) prepares an Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) and updates its Water Supply Outlook periodically. Collectively, these documents provide a water element. For cities that do not have their own water utilities, they should not have to include a water element in their General Plan. This is something that should be left up to the private water company who services the City and their UWMP should cover this recommendation. Complying with this recommendation would be a duplication of efforts, financially burdensome on local agency staff, and ineffective in accomplishing the goals of the Grand Jury recommendation.

R.2: The City is not a retail or wholesale water agency and is, therefore, not subject to these provisions. A public education element has already been implemented. City staff, along with GSWC staff, attends various community events throughout the year, and water conservation materials and messages are disseminated via cable television and the City's website. In addition, GSWC holds toilet exchange events where materials are also provided to City residents. More innovative types of communication will be considered in the future to help deliver the message.

The recommendation regarding emergency planning has also already been implemented. A "complete, sudden break in imported water deliveries" was incorporated into the November 2008 statewide Golden Guardian exercise. During this exercise, twenty of Orange County's water and wastewater utilities participated. This is an exercise that should be coordinated and conducted solely by GSWC, with the City being notified of its occurrence.

GSWC is a participating member of the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC). This organization has expanded its preparedness efforts regarding water supply by initiating a new partnership with the Orange County Health Care Agency and, in addition to its own emergency exercises, now participates in the Health Care Agency's activities.

R.3: The City is not a retail or wholesale water agency and is, therefore, not subject to these provisions. Consequently, this recommendation will be implemented by GSWC.

R.4: The City is not a MWDOC member agency and is, therefore, not subject to these provisions. However, this recommendation is already being implemented by the City's water purveyor, GSWC. WEROC has been established to conduct emergency planning and preparedness at the regional level and response to disaster type events that impact water and wastewater agencies within the County. WEROC participates with regional and statewide forums as well. WEROC's focus, and the focus of emergency planning, is to improve "system reliability," and to

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continue meeting demands when parts of the water system have suffered outages. This is distinguished from "supply" reliability, which has to do with having supplies to deliver through the system.

GSWC's UWMB includes responses to drought situations. These responses include supply analyses for normal years, single dry years, and multiple dry years, and must include drought response measures for up to a 50 percent level of shortage. This Plan addresses many of the issues raised by the Grand Jury. A copy can be provided upon request.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (714) 229-6699.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Bailey', written in a cursive style.

Douglas A. Bailey
Mayor