



IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

15600 Sand Canyon Avenue • P.O. Box 57000 • Irvine, California 92619-7000 • (949) 453-5300 • www.irwd.com

September 8, 2011

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris, Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Irvine Ranch Water District Response to the 2010/2011 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Compensation Survey of Water and Sanitation Districts"

Dear Presiding Judge Borris:

The following represents the Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) response to the findings and recommendations contained in the above referenced *2010/2011 Orange County Grand Jury Report*. The responses are specific to the role and responsibilities of IRWD as a retail water supplier formed under the laws applicable to California Water Districts. The format for each section identifies each finding and recommendation followed by a specific response to the same.

F.1: District websites often do not provide easy public access to compensation and financial data of the district, if available at all.

We disagree wholly with this finding as it applies to IRWD. The main page of the IRWD website provides clear and easy-to-use links to compensation, board meetings and financial information. The compensation section provides information on board members, general manager and staff compensation including information on benefits. A copy of the general manager's contract is also posted. The finance section includes three calendar years of the IRWD Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, as well as copies of the District's operating and capital budgets.

IRWD has long-used the internet to effectively convey information regarding the agency to its customers and other interested parties. In fact, in 1998 IRWD became one of the first water districts in California to establish a presence on the internet. In July of 2010 the IRWD website was updated and awarded the Best in Industry New Media Institute Award for excellence in online communications. In July of 2011, the IRWD website was recognized with an Award of Excellence by the Orange County Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Many water districts and other governmental agencies now look to the IRWD website as the new standard for website excellence.

F.2: Districts websites were sometimes not updated to reflect public meeting changes or cancellations.

We disagree wholly with this finding as it applies to IRWD. IRWD follows and complies with all requirements of California Government Code Sections 54954.2 and 54956 regarding public meeting notification requirements. In addition to these requirements, the IRWD website offers its customers updated agendas, minutes, meeting schedules and accurate meeting location information. It also includes copies of full meeting packets and easy-to-navigate calendars. Interested parties are able to sign up and receive advance emailed notices of availability on the website of meeting agendas and information packets. Throughout the website and in IRWD publications, customers and interested parties are encouraged to sign up for this service.

R.1: Provide in an easily accessible format on the district's website, data on compensation for the board of directors and general manager as well as current budget and financial reports.

This recommendation has already been implemented as a standard practice for IRWD. The main page of the IRWD website includes clear links to compensation, board meetings and financial information. The Compensation section provides information on board members, general manager and staff compensation including information on benefits. A copy of the general manager's contract is also posted. The Finance section includes three calendar years of IRWD's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) as well as copies of the District's operating and capital budgets. IRWD's CAFR has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence by the Government Finance Officers Association.

R.2: Maintain and update agendas, minutes, meeting schedules and location on the district's website.

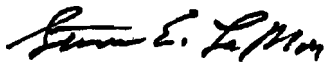
This recommendation has already been implemented as a standard practice for IRWD. IRWD follows and complies with all requirements of California Government Code Sections 54954.2 and 54956 regarding public meeting notification requirements. In addition to these requirements, the IRWD website provides its customers updated agendas, minutes, meeting schedules and accurate meeting location information. It also includes copies of full meeting packets and easy-to-navigate calendars. Interested parties are able to sign up and receive advance emailed notices of the availability on the website of meeting agendas and information packets. Throughout the IRWD website and publications, customers and interested parties are encouraged to sign up for this service.

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris, Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
Page 3

The District recognizes the need for public transparency and is dedicated to providing its customers with straightforward and timely access to important information. The District believes that we serve the public and we are committed to providing the highest value to our customers in the form of the lowest possible cost.

If you have questions or require further information, do not hesitate to contact the District's Interim General Manager, Paul Cook, at 949-453-5590.

Sincerely,



Steven E. LaMar
President