



City of Huntington Beach

2000 Main Street ♦ PO Box 190 ♦ CA 92648

Travis K. Hopkins, PE
Director
August 18, 2008

Department of Public Works
(714) 536-5431

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Stock:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to and address the findings and recommendations of the 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled *Water Budgets, Not Water Rationing*.

F-1. Opportunities for further water conservation exist especially with regard to landscape watering.

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with the findings.

F-2. Conservation pricing, or tiered pricing, with a fair and reasonable base allotment, followed by tiers of higher rates, can be an effective tool to motivate further conservation.

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with the findings.

R-1. Continue to emphasize methods and availability of tools that assist the customers in understanding weather-based irrigation practices by:

- Providing a hotline for assisting the public with landscape irrigation information
- Providing a countywide soil texture map on the MWDOC website
- Developing an Orange County specific water calculator on the MWDOC website

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with the findings.

R-2a. Develop monthly water allocations for each customer based on both of the following:

- **A per person indoor water allotment that satisfies basic needs**
- **An outdoor water allotment that applies the weather-based method over the customers' landscaped area**

The City of Huntington Beach is currently working with internal staff and consultants to study this concept, the report will be completed within the next six months.

R-2b. Develop a tiered-pricing structure with the first tier based on individual customer water allocation priced at a commodity rate, and subsequent tiers prices significantly higher to encourage conservation. The pricing shall be structured in a manner that will preclude the necessity of price increases as a result of reduced water use.

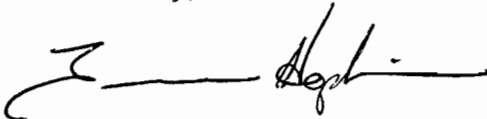
The City of Huntington Beach of Huntington completed such a study in 2005.

R-2c. Modify water bills to clearly explain customer monthly allotment and monthly water usage.

The City's current billing system is not capable of allocation/tiered based billing. The City is currently working with internal information systems staff, consultants and MWDOC's General Manager to develop an implementation plan for an allocation/tiered based system. Our goal is to complete our study and make a decision on what program the City will select within the next six months. Implementation schedule will be evaluated when the study is completed.

Should you require any clarification or additional information, please contact me at 714-536-5437.

Sincerely,



Travis K. Hopkins
Director of Public Works

TKH:jg

cc: Ann Avery Andres, Foreman
2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury