

City of Los Alamitos

Agenda Report Discussion Item

October 5, 2009
Item No: 9B

To: Mayor Troy Edgar and Members of the City Council

Via: Jeffrey L. Stewart, City Manager

From: Steven Mendoza, Director of Community Development

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury Regarding its Final Report
“Paper Water – Does Orange County Have a Reliable Future?”

Summary: On June 15, 2009, the Grand Jury approved a final report named “Paper Water – Does Orange County Have a Reliable Future?” During the September 21, 2009 Council meeting, Council directed staff to modify the draft response, have the City Attorney review, and resubmit the response at the October 5, 2009 meeting. Staff is presenting the modified version herein.

Recommendation:

1. Approve the response contained in the draft letter regarding the Grand Jury’s 2008-09 final report entitled, “Paper Water – Does Orange County Have a Reliable Future?”; and,
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign and transmit the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with a separate copy to the Grand Jury.

Background

During the September 21, 2009 Council meeting, Council directed staff to modify the draft response, have the City Attorney review, and resubmit the response at the October 5, 2009 meeting. Staff is presenting the modified version herein.

On June 15, 2009, the Grand Jury released a report entitled, “Paper Water – Does Orange County Have a Reliable Future?”

This report directed findings and recommendations regarding the extent to which Orange County cities, water districts, residents and businesses are, or are not, planning for and responding to potential long term disruption to the County’s water supply.

Discussion

In summary, the Grand Jury report indicates that the Orange County water supply is very vulnerable to extended outages and potential long-term failure due to recent water shortage and new development without sufficient water resources. The report emphasizes that the water supply is heavily reliant on imported water and that water resources for Orange County region are rapidly depleting. To further investigate the issue, the Grand Jury studied public records and conducted case studies that resulted in compilation of several findings.

In general, the Grand Jury Report offers ways to strengthen the awareness of the public and policy makers about the County's water supplies and highlights the need for water agencies to be as prepared as possible for future water supply challenges.

Per California Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05, the City of Los Alamitos is required to review and respond to the Grand Jury on its findings. The submitted report and the draft response letter are attached.

Fiscal Impact

None

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Steven Mendoza
Director of Community Development

Jeffrey L. Stewart
City Manager

Attachments: 1) Draft Response Letter
 2) Grand Jury Report