

**CITY OF SANTA PAULA
MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: John Cotti, City Attorney
John Ilasin, Interim Public Works Director

Subject: Approval of a Response to the Grand Jury's Report Entitled Water Considerations for Cities

Date: July 17, 2017

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council: (1) Approve the response letter to the Ventura County Grand Jury and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter; and (2) take such additional, related action that may be desirable.

Report by: John C. Cotti, City Attorney; John Ilasin, Interim Public Works Director

Fiscal Impacts: There are no fiscal impacts associated with this item.

Personnel Impacts: There are no personnel impacts associated with this item.

General Discussion: In California, civil grand juries are authorized to “investigate and report upon the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, functions, and the method or system of performing the duties of any such city or joint powers agency and make such recommendations as it may deem proper and fit.” (Cal. Penal Code §925(a)).

On May 8, 2017, the Ventura County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) issued its report entitled “Final Report – Water Considerations for Cities.” The investigative report focuses on whether Ventura County’s cities have adequately considered long-term water needs. Specifically to Santa Paula, the Grand Jury found that the City failed to submit the required 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (2015 UWMP) to the State Department of Water Resources, which could result in an inability to secure State grant funding or loans.

At the conclusion of the Report, the Grand Jury requested a response from the City to Conclusions one through eight and Recommendations one through six. Within 90 days after a Grand Jury’s issuance of the report, the City Council must comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report. In responding to each Grand Jury recommendation, State law requires the City indicate whether the recommendation (1) has been implemented; (2)

has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future; (3) requires further analysis; or (4) will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

The attached proposed Response to the Report addresses the Grand Jury's conclusions and recommendations.

Alternatives: State law requires the City Council to respond to the Grand Jury report. The City Council may:

- 1) Accept and file the Staff Report and approve the proposed response for submittal;
- 2) Propose alternative language to the response.

Attachments:

Grand Jury Report - Water Considerations

Response to Grand Jury - Water Considerations