



City of Pittsburg
65 Civic Avenue • Pittsburg, California 94565

August 17, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, Ca 94553

RE: City of Pittsburg Response to Grand Jury Report No. 1602, "Protecting Our Groundwater Resources"

Dear Mr. Simmons,

As requested, the following is in response to Grand Jury No. 1602, "Protecting Our Groundwater Resources" in the format you requested. Please note that because many of the Grand Jury's findings are general and not necessarily specific to the City of Pittsburg, we do not have the basis to agree or disagree on many of the findings since we do not have all of the information to review from the cities/agencies in Contra Costa County as the Grand Jury did when they prepared this report. We appreciate the time that and the Grand Jury spent considering these matters.

List of Findings

Finding #14: To help establish the Pittsburg Plain basin's sustainable yield and storage capacity, the City of Pittsburg could initiate formation of a GSA for this basin.

Response: Pittsburg disagrees with Finding #14. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The City of Pittsburg has looked into the formation of a GSA. Due in part to the current regulations, the City has determined there are not sufficient benefits to warrant formation of a GSA at this time. However, the City plans to review this option again in the future. The timing of this future review has not yet been determined. The majority of the Pittsburg Plain Groundwater Basin is within the Pittsburg city limits. The City is also upgradient of wells used by Golden State Water Company (Bay Point), which contributes to the expectation that actions taken by the City to protect its groundwater supply will also benefit unincorporated Bay Point. The City has also studied storage capacity and determined that there is neither a practical nor affordable way to increase storage capacity or to "bank" water.

City's Response to Grand Jury Recommendation #9

Recommendation #9: As funds are identified or become available, the City of Pittsburg should consider forming a GSA for the "low priority" Pittsburg Plain groundwater basin in order to establish its practical yield and maximums storage capacity.

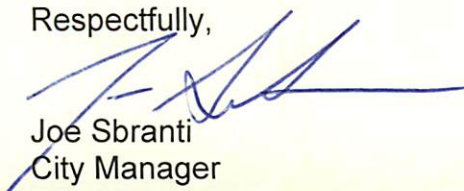
Response: Pittsburg disagrees with this recommendation and will not be implementing it. The Pittsburg Plain groundwater basin is classified as a "very low priority" basin. Even with this designation, the City of Pittsburg has looked into the formation of a GSA. Due in part to the current regulations, the City has determined there are not sufficient benefits to warrant formation of a GSA at this time. However, the City plans to review this option again in the future.

The majority of the Pittsburg Plain Groundwater Basin is within the Pittsburg city limits. The City is also upgradient of wells used by Golden State Water Company (Bay Point), which contributes to the expectation that actions taken by the City to protect its groundwater supply will also benefit unincorporated Bay Point.

The City has also studied storage capacity and determined that there is neither a practical nor affordable way to increase storage capacity or to "bank" water.

Since 2006, the City has used monitoring wells to check groundwater levels to ensure that the groundwater supply is sustainable and that the groundwater levels and quality are not adversely affected by the City's use of its groundwater wells. The City has also installed multi-port monitoring wells north of State Route 4 to measure any change in salinity resulting from being adjacent to the Sacramento River Delta. Intrusion of surface water into a groundwater basin can be the result of over-pumping, which can also draw groundwater from a different elevation. In either case, water drawn in would probably have a lower quality than the groundwater.

Respectfully,



Joe Sbranti
City Manager