



July 26, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
2015-2016 Contra Costa County Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

RE: City of Richmond's Response to Grand Jury Report 1602: "Protecting Our Groundwater Resources"

Dear Foreperson Simmons:

In accordance with California Government Code Sections 933.5(a) and 933.5(b), please find below the response of the City of Richmond to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. The City's response is in italics directly below each finding or recommendation.

FINDINGS

13. Based on historical records and more recent hydrological studies, the City could access more groundwater for landscape watering and emergency purposes.

Response: The City of Richmond agrees with the finding. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires beneficial users to sustainably manage the groundwater resources. Here in the East Bay Plain Groundwater Basin, a Groundwater Sustainable Agency (GSA) is to be formed and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is to be developed to manage the resources without causing undesirable impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. As funds are identified or become available, the City should consider consulting hydrological specialists to provide advice about the best locations for accessing groundwater for landscape irrigation and emergency purposes.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. City staff will meet internally before the end of October 2016, within the required six months of date of publication of the Grand Jury Report #1602, to discuss: 1) which department will take the lead on this initiative and funding options therein, 2) development of scope of services and Request for Proposals for a professional services contract, and 3) locations requiring landscape irrigation and nearby infrastructure if any.

The Richmond City Council reviewed and approved this response at their meeting of July 26, 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond on this very important issue. Please contact me at (510) 620-6512 or at bill_lindsay@ci.richmond.ca.us if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

William A. Lindsay
City Manager

cc: Tom Butt, Mayor
Bruce Reed Goodmiller, City Attorney
Ryan Smith, Director of Water Resource Recovery