



CITY OF SAN PABLO
City of New Directions



July 19, 2016

Civil Grand Jury
The Honorable John Laettner
c/o Foreperson Michael Simmons
725 Court Street, Martinez CA 94553
(also by email to epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov)

Re: **Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Protecting our Groundwater Resources" (Report No. 1602)**

Dear Judge Laettner:

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Protecting our Groundwater Resources." The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on July 18, 2016.

We appreciate the time that you and the Grand Jury spent considering these matters. We trust that the Grand Jury also appreciates the City time spent reviewing and responding to Grand Jury reports. Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05, the City of San Pablo's response to the finding and recommendation follows:

Finding

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

Partially Disagree. The City currently has three wells located on public properties which are used for landscaping. These wells may also be used for emergency purposes.

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires that Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) be formed by June 2017 for mid-priority areas. San Pablo is part of the East Bay Plain Basin which extends from Richmond to Hayward and is classified as a mid-priority area. The East Bay Municipal Utility District has agreed to take the lead for this basin and has organized meetings in order to submit the appropriate documentation to create a GSA.

San Pablo staff have attended and will continue to attend the GSA meetings. As part of this process, the GSA will likely investigate how much available groundwater exists in the basin and how much can be sustainably withdrawn. Until that information is provided, the City does not know if more groundwater can be assessed and thus cannot agree with the finding at this point.

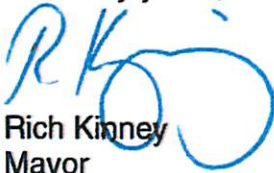
Recommendation

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

The recommendation requires further analysis: The GSA will likely consult with hydrological specialists to identify the best locations for accessing groundwater for landscape irrigation and emergency purposes.

We trust that the Grand Jury will find these responses helpful to its endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



Rich Kinney
Mayor

cc: San Pablo City Council
Matt Rodriguez, City Manager
Lynn Tracy Nerland, City Attorney
Lisa Rosales, Police Chief
City Clerk's Office