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August 30, 2016

Contra Costa County Grand Jury
Michael Simmons, Foreperson
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Mr. Simmons and members of the Grand Jury,

In response to your letter dated June 3, 2016 and the Grand Jury report on Delta Levees in Contra Costa County, the District staff and Board of Trustees have reviewed the report and have responded to the requested findings and recommendations; please find our response attached.

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact the District Office at 925-634-2351.

Thank you,

Jeffrey D. Conway
District Manager
Reclamation District 800

Contra Costa Grand Jury response to report

Required responses:

Findings 4, 5, 11-17, 21

Recommendations 2-5

Findings:

4. Agree – each Reclamation District has been responsible for strengthening its levees as determined to be appropriate by its governing board.

5. Agree

11. Agree – RD 800 has an operations & maintenance manual that addresses our Districts facilities but there is no general manual for all District's.

12. Agree

13. Agree

14. Agree

15. Agree

16. Agree

17. Agree

21. Agree

Recommendations:

R2. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The recommendation assumes that all Districts and their flood control facilities are essentially the same. They are not. RD 800 and other RD's have different maintenance schedules and items of concern. What is considered "best practice" for one district isn't necessarily a best practice for another. Seasonal specific tasks again are different from District to District. The levees are built to different standards and require different maintenance; for that reason a joint website would not be feasible.

R3. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The levees in the Delta have different regulations/standards according to how they are rated and depending on whether they protect urban areas (like Discovery Bay) or agricultural areas (like most other RD's in the County). A conference to discuss RD 800's 200 year levee program would have little meaning to other RD's. Similarly, discussions of the 100 year levee standards, which would help some Districts, is of no use to RD 800. For these reasons, such a conference would be time consuming and expensive.

R4. This recommendation has already been implemented by RD 800. The District Engineer and the District Attorney attend all Board meetings and have a place on the agenda to discuss new guidelines and standards that affect the District. The District Engineer presents the Board with flood preparedness/emergency training binders and goes over the District's responsibilities and tasks in an emergency situation.

R5. This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the near future. The District will immediately begin working on a list of contacts and information for "mutual aid" purposes. The District anticipates that this will be finalized by November 2016.