

CASMALIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 207  
CASMALIA, CA 93429

July 31, 2003

Honorable Clifford R. Anderson, III  
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 21107  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

RE: GRAND JURY REPORT ON CASMALIA, JUNE 16, 2003

The following is our response to the above referenced report.

**Finding 1**

If Casmite legally discontinues operations of the well and infrastructure, a new water system would be needed.

**Recommendation 1**

The CCSD should meet with LAFCO and the Board of Supervisors and consider dissolving the CCSD and establishing a County Service Area. The District should gain a clear understanding of the services specifically required by the community and should be fully cognizant of all the incurred costs, funding sources and methods of financing.

**District Board Comments:**

We do not believe that Casmite (Unocab) can *legally* discontinue operations of the well and infrastructure, since they have acted as a public utility by providing water to the community of Casmalia for over 50 years. As to dissolving the CCSD and having the County provide water to the community, we do not believe that is in the best interest of the community, nor has the County shown any desire to assist us in any way other than helping obtain grant monies.

**Finding 2**

The water system is in a severely deteriorated state and demands immediate attention.

**Recommendation 2**

The CCSD should begin an immediate inspection of the water system, identify the most pressing problems, and make a priority list of what must be fixed. Decide who has maintenance responsibility for each area and begin repairs.

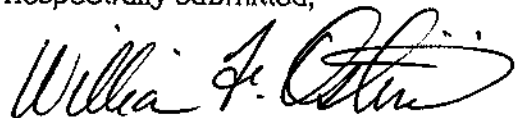
**District Comments:**

We agree some repairs are needed on our water tank, but those are minor and we will start the process of seeking bids in August. The pipes in the community are inspected weekly by our manager, Ruben Gonzales. We have had numerous leaks the past few months, and are also in the process of finding someone who can determine what condition

our pipes are in. As to the well, tanks, pipes, etc. under the control of Casmite, we do not know what there condition is.

We thank the Grand Jury for taking the time to investigate this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William F. Ostini". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

William F. Ostini, President  
Casmalia Community Services District