

The 2015 – 2016 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2016

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News Release

Cuyama Community Services District

Operating under Difficult Circumstances

Based on a citizen complaint, the 2015 – 2016 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury (Jury) has investigated the operations of the Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD). Under the direction of a five person elected Board of Directors (BOD), the CCSD provides water and sewer services to the town of New Cuyama.

Although the CCSD reliably provides the required services, the Jury found several problems with the manner in which the BOD has been managing the district. Areas that must be corrected include, but are not limited to, the BOD's failure to: maintain current job descriptions, conduct annual performance reviews, enforce its delinquent accounts policy, enforce its company vehicle policy, and enforce its policy against the existence of a hostile work environment. In order for the CCSD to remain financially viable, the Jury also recommends that the BOD implement rate increases suggested by an October, 2015 study done by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation.

The Jury has written a report on its investigation in which it lists 15 findings and recommendations. The Cuyama Community Services District Board of Directors has 90 days in which to respond to the Jury's report.

The Jury's report, titled "Cuyama Community Services District, Operating Under Difficult Circumstances", can be found on its website at www.sbcgj.org.

The Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury is a basic part of government within the judicial branch. The Grand Jury acts independently, yet is under the general control of the Superior Court Presiding Judge to assure that it acts in accordance with the Penal Code of the State of California.

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