



CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD

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August 30, 2017

RECEIVED

SEP 7 2017

BY: _____

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Honorable Judge James Herman
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

RE: Response to Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury Report titled: *Managing Regional Water Supplies*

Dear Judge Herman:

Please find attached the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) responses to the above referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Douglas Morgan', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

W. Douglas Morgan
President, COMB Board of Directors

Encl/

Cc: Robert May, Foreman Pro Tem, 2016-17 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury

Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board

Finding 3

The South Coast Conduit Pipeline system is unable to accommodate peak water demand levels and is susceptible to single point failure.

The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board partially agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 3

That a redundant (parallel) pipeline system be built from the existing South Portal of the Tecolote Tunnel through Carpinteria to minimize the possibility of single point failure.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The South Coast Conduit (SCC) system is able to accommodate peak water demand levels. The water purveyors on the South Coast have developed individual diversified water supply portfolio's thereby mitigating SCC system demands which may otherwise cause a strain on the system.

The South Coast Conduit system is susceptible to a single point failure in certain sections of the system. The Modified Upper Reach Reliability Project was designed and constructed during calendar years 2011 and 2012. This section of the pipeline serves as a redundant system for reliability and maintenance purposes. Sections of the South Coast Conduit are continually under evaluation through inspection and may be replaced if they are determined to be at risk of near term failure. In addition, various alternative sources of water have been identified, developed and financially supported by the South Coast water purveyors during the past few years rendering the construction of a complete, parallel pipeline through Carpinteria cost prohibitive and therefore not feasible.

Finding 5

Critical pipeline infrastructure, including redundancy, has not been developed throughout southern Santa Barbara County.

The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board partially disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 5

That critical pipeline infrastructure, including redundancy, be developed throughout southern Santa Barbara County.

The recommendation has been partially implemented and requires further analysis. The Modified Upper Reach Reliability Project was designed, implemented and constructed during calendar years 2011 and 2012. This section of pipeline serves as a redundant system for reliability and maintenance purposes. The remaining portion of the Upper Reach Reliability Project has been evaluated in Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board's (COMB) Reliability and Alternatives studies and proposals to repair, replace or improve these facilities are outlined in the COMB Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP). The IIP provides critical component detail of the system to be improved, repaired or replaced to ensure reliability of service. In addition, various alternative/diversified sources of water have been identified, developed and financially supported by the South Coast water purveyors to deal with unanticipated short and long term losses of supply.

Finding 7

The meetings of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board do not adequately reveal to the public the competing and conflicting objectives.

The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board disagrees with the finding.

Recommendation 7a

That all Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board meetings be telecast live on community channels.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board is a Joint Powers Authority which is legally obligated to abide by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950, et seq.) by noticing all public meetings in a timely manner according to the law. The agendas for all public Board meetings are posted at the COMB office and on the COMB website. In addition, all materials associated with the Board packet are posted to the COMB website and available at the public meeting in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

The COMB Board of Directors are selected by their respective Governing Boards to serve as representatives on the COMB Board. In that role, the COMB Directors provide reportable information to their respective Governing Boards on topics discussed and approved at the COMB Board meeting. The equipment necessary to provide a live streaming telecast of Board meetings is very expensive. The cost to telecast Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board regular Board meetings live on community channels has been evaluated and is not financially justified.

Recommendation 7b

That Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board meetings be digitally recorded and posted on their website for greater transparency.

The recommendation could likely be implemented by January 2018.

Finding 8

The Tecolote Tunnel is a single point failure location that is in urgent need of maintenance and reinforcement.

The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board disagrees with the finding.

Recommendation 8

That Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board develop and implement a plan to maintain and reinforce the Tecolote Tunnel.

The recommendation requires further analysis. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation performs inspections of the Tecolote Tunnel on a periodic basis. The previous inspection was conducted in 2012 with identified maintenance work defined as a category 2 recommendation per Reclamations guidelines. These recommendations are outlined in the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board's Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan. The next inspection of the Tecolote Tunnel conducted by Reclamation as a periodic review is scheduled for December 2017.