



CITY OF SANTA MARIA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

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August 15, 2017

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AUG 29 2017

Presiding Judge James Herman
Department 1
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

BY: _____

Honorable Judge James Herman:

The 2016-17 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury recently released its report entitled *Managing Regional Water Supplies*. The Report includes nine findings and nine recommendations. The Grand Jury has requested the Santa Maria City Council respond to Finding 1 within 90 days of the report issuance.

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY

Finding 1: No single entity has decision or enforcement power within Santa Barbara County to lead regional planning.

City Response: The City agrees with the finding. Water supply is managed in the State of California by local agencies with mandates of reasonable use and the public trust regulated by the State of California, court decrees, and Federal law. Local agencies have the frontline responsibility for serving customers, complying with water quality regulations, and raising revenues to cover the operations, maintenance, and capital investments needed to support these efforts. Wholesale utilities sell water to local water agencies, such as the City of Santa Maria, which act as retail utilities delivering water to customers and oversee adjudicated and specially managed groundwater basins.

The above concludes the City's response to the Grand Jury's *Managing Regional Water Supplies*. The City respectfully submits this response to the Grand Jury and thanks the members of the Grand Jury for their service to the community.

ALICE M. PATINO
Mayor

cc: Santa Barbara County Grand Jury