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Ventura County
Grand Jury

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Ventura County Dam Safety

Report Date: May 10, 2018 Responding Agency/Dept: Board of Supervisors

Response by: Mike Pettit Title: Assistant County Executive Officer

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: C-10

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-05 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered R-01 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 9/9/18 Signed: Mike Pettit

Mike Pettit, Assistant County Executive Officer

Number of pages attached 2

CONCLUSIONS:

C-10. The Grand Jury concluded that while inspections are required by the DSOD, there is no local monitoring or public awareness as to the status of the dams and the actions taken by their owners to improve their reliability and safety. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06)

Response: wholly disagree

Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this conclusion. Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) conducts annual pre-winter inspection of all its dams and inspects dams during and after each storm. Dams are also inspected if they are within predefined radius of an earthquake. In addition, the VCWPD Flood Warning System provides predictive and real time storm flow data throughout the County watersheds and specifically for the Matilija Dam area to include: Matilija Creek, North Fork Matilija Creek and at the dam during all storm events.

Ventura County Sheriffs Office of Emergency Services (OES) partners with dam operators and stakeholders to coordinate preparedness, mitigation and response and recovery efforts. This includes workshops, planning efforts and exercises on a routine basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the OES track the progress of remedial action taken at Matilija Dam, Santa Felicia Dam, Castaic Dam, and Bouquet Canyon Dam. Reports of progress should be made to the BOS annually. (C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04, C-05)

Response: wholly disagree

We disagree wholly with this recommendation this is the responsibility of dam operators and state and federal regulatory agencies.

R-05. The Grand Jury recommends the BOS direct the Public Works Department to provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to the OES, augmenting its expertise in dam safety and operation. (C-10)

Response: agree

We agree with this recommendation and its already taking place. The Ventura County Sheriffs OES already partners with VCWPD regarding community emergency preparedness, response and recovery that includes dam safety. VCWPD maintains inundations maps and Emergency Actions Plans that it provides to Sheriffs OES. In

addition when the County Emergency Operations Center is activated in response to an emergency VCWPD and Sheriff's OES participate and serve a critical role in dam safety preparedness and coordinating and supporting emergencies.