

CITY OF CONCORD
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August 2, 2016

By U.S. Mail and email (epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov)

Mr. Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Re: City of Concord Response to May 24, 2016 Grand Jury Report No. 1606, "Reclaiming our Water – More Complicated than it Might Appear"

Dear Mr. Simmons:

This letter serves as the City of Concord's response to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations set forth in Report No. 1606, entitled "Reclaiming our Water – More Complicated than it Might Appear." This letter was reviewed by the Concord City Council at its August 2, 2016 City Council Meeting, and I was directed to submit the response for the City of Concord.

I. FINDINGS

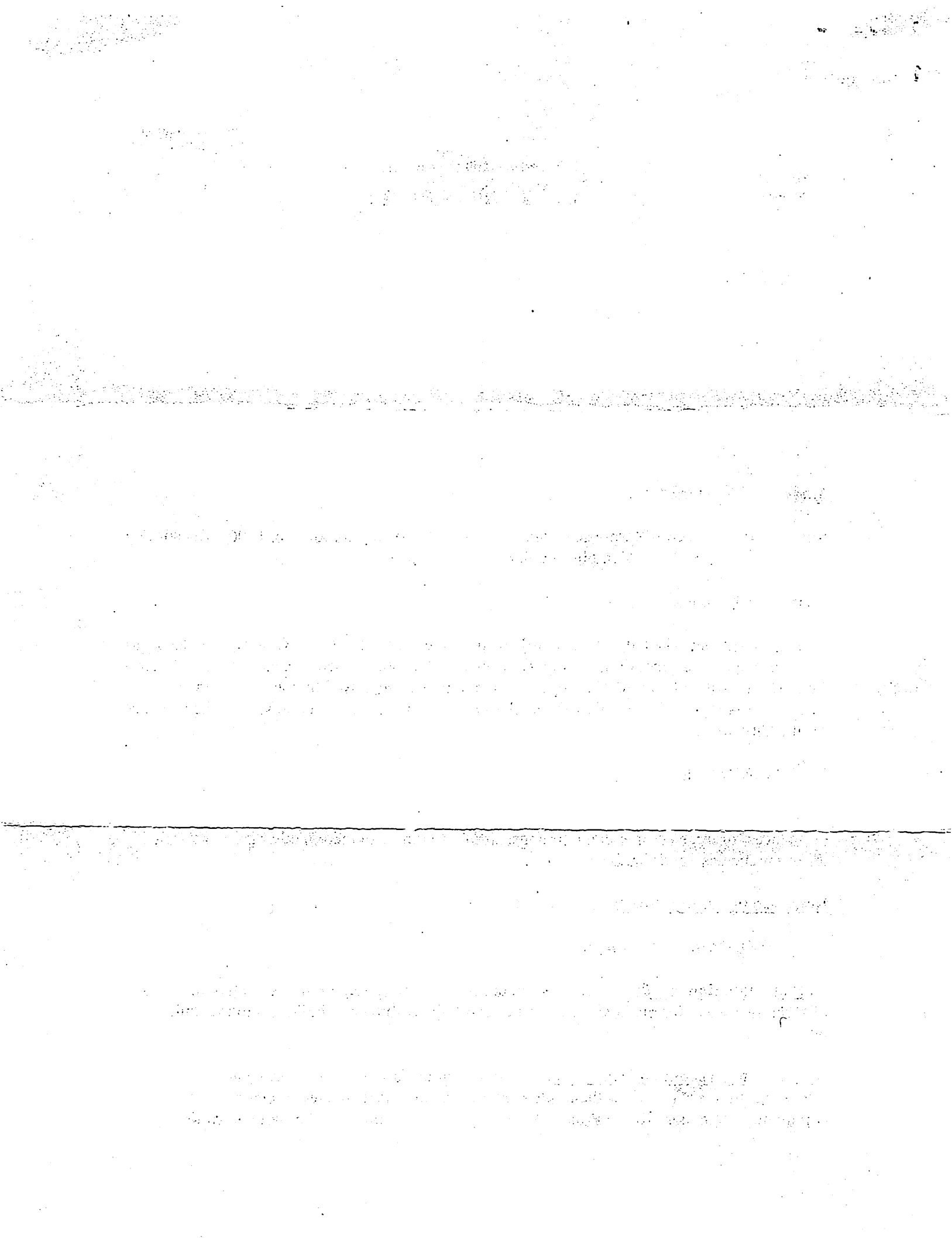
Finding No. 8: Contra Costa County and its cities could adopt water saving and recycling ordinances for large commercial buildings, similar to those adopted in other large urban locations such as San Francisco.

Response to Finding No. 8: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 6: The city should consider adopting requirements relating to the use of reclaimed water for planned communities and large commercial buildings to maximize its use.

Response to Recommendation No. 6: The recommendation has been implemented. The following summary describes the implementation requirements related to planned communities (Concord Reuse Project Area) and for large commercial buildings within the



existing developed areas of Concord where recycled water is available, primarily the Diamond Boulevard area.

Summary: The Concord Reuse Project Area Plan (Book 2 –Technical Chapter 5.5 Recycled Water) includes provisions for a reclaimed water system that will be planned and implemented for the entire 2,000 + acre planned development area “to reduce total water demand and avoid the need to use drinking water for irrigation and other non-potable purposes.”

The following Reclaimed Water Principle and Policies are included in the Concord Reuse Project Area Plan:

Principle U-4: Reduce the use of potable water for non-potable purposes by providing a reclaimed water system serving the Los Medanos Area (Reuse Project Developed Area).

Policy U-4.1: Reclaimed Water Quality

Ensure that recycled water complies with all applicable health and safety standards and other pertinent water quality regulations.

Policy U-4.2: Reclaimed Water Use

Use reclaimed water as the primary water supply for residential and commercial landscape irrigation, building cooling, and all other applications with the Los Medanos Area, where potable water is not essential. Prohibit use of potable water for irrigation unless there are not alternative supply sources.

Policy U-4.3: Water System Design Flexibility

Design buildings and irrigation systems to accommodate future use of reclaimed water in the event that reclaimed water is not available at the time of construction.

Policy U-4.4: Purple Pipe

Require developers to install “purple pipe” in outdoor irrigation systems throughout the Planning Area to maximize the potential future use of recycled water.

In August 2009, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) provided a “Will Serve” letter to the City of Concord indicating its commitment to be the supplier of reclaimed water. The Letter acknowledges that the precise amount of reclaimed water has yet to be determined, but cites the CCCSD’s ability and intent to provide up to 6,000 acre-fee per year. The State Water Resources Control Board has granted CCCSD the authority to provide up to 26,120 acre feet of recycled water per year for irrigation and industrial purposes throughout its service area.

Delivery of recycled water to the Reuse Project Area would require construction of a pipeline connecting CCCSD’s treatment facility to the site. A reservoir or other containment facility

could be required within the Planning Area. Expansion and renovation of CCCSD's tertiary treatment facility would also be required. The specific needs and associated costs for recycled water facilities would be determined through upcoming Specific Planning activities for the Phase 1 Development at the base and will be incorporated into project-level development approvals.

New reclaimed water distribution lines ("purple pipe") and pumping stations also will be required to service the new development. These facilities will allow reclaimed water to be used for parks, recreational facilities and various residential and commercial purposes.

In addition, recycled water is currently available from CCCSD to private properties along Diamond Boulevard in Concord. Recycled water is currently used for irrigation and other non-potable uses by a number of large businesses along Diamond Boulevard, including the Concord Hilton and the recently constructed Buffalo Wild Wings retail development. Recycled water facilities will be incorporated into the new 300,000 square foot Veranda shopping center on Diamond Blvd. that was formerly the site of the Chevron office facility.

Victoria Walker, Director of Community and Economic Development, is available to answer any questions or provide any additional information concerning the above responses or enclosed documents. You can reach her at (925) 671-3434 or by email at victoria.walker@cityofconcord.org.

Sincerely,



Valerie J. Barone
City Manager