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August 17, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091
Email: epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov
Via U.S. Mail and Email

RE: Grand Jury Report No. 1602, "Protecting our Groundwater Resources"

Dear Mr. Simmons:

On behalf of the City of El Cerrito, this letter serves as a response to Grand Jury Report No. 1602, "Protecting our Groundwater Resources," by the Contra Costa Grand Jury.

In accordance with your request and Section 933.05 of the California Government Code, the City is responding as required to Finding 13 and Recommendation 8 as outlined in the Grand Jury Report.

FINDINGS

F13: "Based on historical records and more recent hydrological studies, the City could access more groundwater for landscape watering and emergency purposes."

Response: The City of El Cerrito partially disagrees with this finding. At this time, the City cannot make a determination as to whether groundwater could be sustainably accessed and thus cannot agree with this finding. The City will be collaborating with other agencies, per the requirements of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, to address various issues relating to managing and accessing groundwater from the East Bay Plain Basin.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R8: "As funds are identified or become available, the City should consider consulting hydrological specialists to provide advice about the best locations for accessing groundwater for landscape irrigation and emergency purposes."

Response: This recommendation will require further analysis. The City will be collaborating with other agencies, per the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, to address various issues relating to managing and accessing groundwater from the East Bay Plain Basin. The City anticipates meeting with other agencies on this matter within the next few months.



Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or require additional information concerning the above responses. You can reach me directly at (510) 215-4302 or by email at kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Pinkos".

Karen E. Pinkos
Assistant City Manager
City of El Cerrito

cc: El Cerrito City Council
Scott Hanin, City Manager