



CITY OF SAN RAMON

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August 31, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Simmons,

On behalf of the City of San Ramon, this letter responds to the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury Report 1606. "Reclaiming Our Water". The City of San Ramon appreciates the time and effort that you and the Grand Jury spend on these matters and acknowledge the importance of the role in oversight of local government activities.

We trust the Grand Jury will find the responses to this survey helpful to its endeavor.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this response. If you have questions, please contact me or Eric Figueroa, Acting Planning/Community Development Director at 925-973-2632 or efigueroa@sanramon.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gorton
Interim City Manager

(1) Mayor & City Council

City of San Ramon

Grand Jury Report No. 1606 – “Reclaiming our Water”

Findings:

F8. "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."

The City of San Ramon partially disagrees with this finding. As a suburban community San Ramon is not able to adopt the same types of policies as a large urban city like San Francisco. However, the City through its permitting work does support and encourage larger developments to seek out water saving and recycling within their building and landscape design. The ability to work individually with a smaller number of customers allows San Ramon to take a more flexible approach to achieving these goals than a city like San Francisco could utilize.

Recommendations:

R6. "The city should consider adopting requirements relating to the use of reclaimed water for planned communities and large commercial buildings to maximize its use."

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation thereof.

The City of San Ramon works diligently to utilize reclaimed water itself and to have major development within the City adopt these policies as well. However due to some of the conditions within the community it may not be economically feasible for a planned community or large commercial building to use reclaimed water. For example, the Faria development currently under construction is using reclaimed water in construction by trucking it to the job site since cost prohibits the ability of the developer and EBMUD to install in the hills. Also, the decision to provide or not provide reclaimed water rests in the water providers within the community, EBMUD and Dublin San Ramon Sanitary District. Therefore it is not feasible for the City to mandate this use by ordinance when the City does not control the use or adoption of reclaimed water at a particular location.

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