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EAST BAY
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

ALEXANDER R. COATE
GENERAL MANAGER

August 10, 2016

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

RE: EBMUD Responses to Findings and Recommendations of the 2015-2016 Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1606 "Reclaiming our Water"

Dear Foreperson Simmons:

EBMUD appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1606 "Reclaiming our Water." Per the Grand Jury's request, we are responding to the Report's Finding 9 and Recommendations 7 and 9. We have also included informational responses to other select recommendations in the report.

Responses to Finding 9 and Recommendations 7 and 9.

F9. Satellite wastewater treatment plants are feasible in situations where the user is distant from existing recycled water distribution systems, needs water for irrigation, and is able to meet the costs to build and operate the plant.
EBMUD agrees with this finding. However, we believe that factors such as close coordination between the water provider and the sanitary district, public acceptance for the treatment facility, and the availability of wastewater in sufficient supply and of acceptable quality also affect feasibility. Satellite wastewater treatment plants are identified as one possible means to increase recycled water use in the EBMUD service area. EBMUD has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with two country clubs located in Contra Costa County to facilitate planning of satellite wastewater treatment plants and hopes these projects will proceed to implementation.

R7. The District should consider facilitating the use of satellite wastewater treatment plants, where appropriate.
This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented. The District is facilitating the development of satellite wastewater treatment plants, where appropriate. EBMUD is a party with the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District to Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Diablo Country Club and Moraga Country Club. These MOUs guide feasibility planning and preliminary engineering necessary to determine feasibility of satellite wastewater treatment plants to serve those two large irrigators and surrounding areas.

R9. The County and Districts should consider meeting to discuss each District's need for land for demonstration of scaled-up recycling and desalination projects using green technologies, which may qualify for State grant money, and the County's ability to lease such land.
The recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented. EBMUD is always willing to meet with the County and other agencies and stakeholders to ensure the reliability of current and future water supplies. EBMUD is already actively engaged with many Bay Area utilities and has joint projects developed with the West County Wastewater District, Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the City of San Leandro. We are also currently developing the Bay Area Regional Reliability Study which includes creation of a regional drought contingency plan. This group will discuss recycling and desalination. EBMUD will initiate an update to its Recycled Water Master Plan later this year. Staff will meet with the county during this update to coordinate on land needs and potential projects.

Additional Informational Responses

R4. The Board of Supervisors should consider directing that priority be given to capture and reuse of stormwater where possible in all new County flood control projects.
EBMUD suggests that the Board work with local water utilities and future Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to ensure that flood stormwater capture and reuse does not have an adverse impact on existing or planned above or below ground storage projects, or with potential future groundwater sustainability actions.

R5. The Board of Supervisors should consider adopting ordinances that promulgate recycling and recovery of water on a County-wide basis.
EBMUD suggests that development of any ordinance on recycling be coordinated with the local water utilities and providers of recycled water to ensure that any future requirements be effective in promoting efficient use of recycled water.

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.
EBMUD suggests that cities developing reclaimed water use requirements work with water utilities and recycled water providers to ensure that any future requirements be effective in promoting efficient use of recycled water.

Please feel free to contact Richard Sykes, Director of Water and Natural Resources, at 510-287-1629 or richard.sykes@ebmud.com, if you have any questions regarding these responses or EBMUD's Recycled Water Program.

Sincerely,

Alexander R. Coate
General Manager

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cc: EBMUD Board of Directors