

Administration
925.335.7899
925.335.7893 fax

Clerk-Recorder Division
925.335.7900
925.335.7923 fax

Elections Division
925.335.7800
925.335.7836 fax

Contra Costa County
Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Joseph E. Canciamilla
County Clerk-Recorder
and Registrar of Voters

Deborah R. Cooper
Deputy County Clerk-Recorder



August 2, 2016

Sent via email and hard copy

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
2015-16 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
PO Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report No. 1607, "Delta Levees in Contra Costa County"

Dear Mr. Simmons,

Attached is a copy of this department's response to Grand Jury Report No. 1607, "Delta Levees in Contra Costa County." We have included responses to those items listed on the Grand Jury Report as required responses for this department.

Please contact me if you would like any additional information.

Regards,

Debi Cooper
Deputy County Clerk-Recorder

COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-ELECTIONS RESPONSE TO
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 1607:
Delta Levees in Contra Costa County

August 2, 2016

Note: Only those findings and recommendations required to be responded to by the County Clerk-Recorder are included in this response.

FINDINGS:

F16. In addition to permitting procedures and intermittent newsletters, there are other opportunities to educate the public, and especially residents of reclamation districts, about the hazards that can damage or impair the levees.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F17. Explaining the hazards to levees by multiple means at appropriate times – i.e., just before the start of storm season in the fall – can help to keep awareness at a heightened and effective level.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F18. Efforts to educate and raise public awareness could be enhanced by cross-departmental and/or cross-agency cooperation such as including Flood Control safety bulletins with other seasonally appropriate, apt-to-be-read or mandatory mailings such as property tax bills or voter information packets.

Response: The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R7. After identifying the necessary funding, the County Clerk-Recorder should consider including informational material on flood preparedness or levee safety precautions, available at no charge from our County Flood Control or Central Valley Flood Control Agency or DWR, with election materials sent to addresses within a reclamation district.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because this department feels it may not be warranted and that there is a less expensive method of communicating flood preparedness information.

The Contra Costa County Floodplain Management Program website offers a wealth of information on floodplain issues as well as distributing brochures at the Public Works Department. Perhaps there is an opportunity for the Program to work with the County Treasurer-Tax Collector to provide direction to this website information via County tax bills.

Voter Election Information Guides are mailed directly from the printing house to voters. The Elections Division of the Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department currently includes informational pages in the voter information guides only when there are “blank” pages available. The department provides the informational pages on a very limited basis depending on a number of factors, including but not limited to, the size of the booklet, countywide appeal of the issue, the relationship to elections or broad public policy, and if it does not conflict with any ballot measure or candidate.

The printing cost of providing a single page of information in English and Spanish is approx. \$.0225 per voter. For inclusion in a countywide voter pamphlet, the cost would be approximately \$15,000, including translation and typesetting.