

September 27, 2006

Honorable Sharon J. Waters, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Riverside
4075 Main Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

Subject: City of Riverside's Response to 2005-06 Grand Jury Report:
Riverside County Mosquito and Vector Control Services

Dear Judge Waters:

Pursuant to *California Penal Code* section 933 *et seq.*, the City of Riverside hereby submits its response to the 2005-06 Riverside County Grand Jury's Report on the Riverside County Mosquito and Vector Control Services. The Riverside City Council at its meeting of September 26, 2006 authorized this response.

While this Grand Jury Report concerns a department of the County of Riverside, the Grand Jury made findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the City of Riverside.

California Penal Code section 933 requires that the governing body of the public agency, not later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report, shall comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body. Section 933.05 sets forth the manner in which the governing body must respond to the findings and recommendations.

The following are the applicable findings and recommendations from the Grand Jury report followed by the City's response to each of the items.

Finding 1:

In pertinent part states that of the one hundred-one (101) West Nile Virus cases reported in Riverside County as of November 2005, the attachment to Finding 1 shows seven (7) West Nile Virus cases reported within the City of Riverside.

Pursuant to *Penal Code* section 933.05, the City of Riverside agrees with this factual statement.

Finding 3:

In pertinent part states that with five (5) agencies, separate areas of responsibility and unclear geographic boundaries, the public is often confused about whom to call for assistance or to report vector activity.

Pursuant to *Penal Code* section 933.05, the City of Riverside disagrees with this finding. Of the five (5) agencies referenced, two (2) are located and responsible for vector calls within the City of Riverside. The two agencies are the City of Riverside and Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District (NMVCD). The City immediately redirects service requests received by the City for NMVCD customers and vice versa. Having two service providers does not adversely affect Riverside residents.

Conversely, there are benefits associated with the current service arrangement within the City of Riverside. Benefits of the redundancy include the capacity to respond effectively and efficiently to emergencies as well as to call on specialized equipment and/or expertise when needed.

Recommendation 1:

Conduct a study of vector control effectiveness throughout the areas covered by the five agencies. Based upon study results, consider the benefit to the County of dividing all vector control responsibilities between the two Special Districts, the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District (NWMVCD) and the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Pursuant to *Penal Code* section 933.05, the City of Riverside disagrees with this recommendation. The City and NWMVCD currently provide effective vector control services within the City of Riverside as evidenced by the statistics contained in the Grand Jury Report. Should Riverside County initiate a study of vector control effectiveness, however, the City of Riverside should request to participate in the study.

Recommendation 2:

Conduct a survey and/or prepare a ballot measure for voters outside the present Special Districts to determine their willingness to support the additional cost for Special District coverage.

Pursuant to *Penal Code* section 933.05, the City of Riverside disagrees with this recommendation. The City and NWMVCD currently provide effective vector control services within the City of Riverside as evidenced by the statistics contained in the Grand Jury Report. Should Riverside County conduct a survey and/or prepare a ballot measure for voters outside the present districts, however, the City of Riverside should request to participate in the effort.

Recommendation 3:

If accepted by the voters, merge County Vector Control into the two Special Districts, or form a third Special District. Such a merger or expansion should offer any non-participating cities the option to contract with the appropriate Special District.

Pursuant to *Penal Code* section 933.05, the City of Riverside disagrees with this recommendation. The City and NWMVCD should continue to provide mosquito and vector

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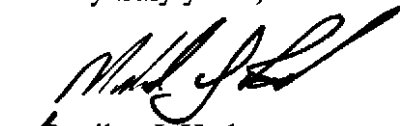
control services within the City. City residents receive professional, cost effective, and timely service under the current arrangement. Further and as stated previously, City residents benefit from the resources of two agencies.

The low number of West Nile Virus cases reported within the City of Riverside as stated in Finding 1 of the Grand Jury Report dramatizes the effectiveness of the current services arrangement. Less than 7% of West Nile Virus cases reported in the County of Riverside are within the City; yet the City's population makes up more than 23% of the County's total population.

An additional drawback is that the formation of a Special District would likely result in increased property taxes for City residents.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,



Bradley J. Hudson
City Manager

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Siobhan Foster, Public Works Director
Gregory P. Priamos, City Attorney