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July 19, 2013

VIA FACSIMILE (951) 955-8989

Riverside County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 829
Riverside, California 92502

Re: 2012-13 Grand Jury Report, Riverside County Water and Sanitation Districts; Compensation and Transparency

The Board of Directors of the Gardens County Water District (HGCWD) has reviewed the 2012-13 Grand Jury Report, Riverside County Water and Sanitation Districts; Compensation and Transparency (Report) and appreciates the opportunity to provide this response to the Report. The Board generally agrees with the findings in the Report and appreciates the recognition that HGCWD stands out insofar as the frugality displayed in its Board of Directors' compensation continues with its General Manager. This finding is a reflection of the leadership of the HGCWD Board in safeguarding the HGCWD's funds and limiting expenditures so as to avoid charging its residents excessive water rates. As a result, our customers enjoy reasonable water rates relative to other districts.

As to the specific Findings and Recommendations, we provide the following responses consistent with the obligations under Penal Code Section 933.5:

(a) FINDINGS:

- 1: The HGCWD agrees that its compensation levels are low. As referenced above, the HGCWD is recognized in the Report as a standout in displaying frugality in the compensation of both its Board of Directors and General Manager, which compensation is among the lowest of the districts surveyed. Indeed, the HGCWD does not pay any benefits to its Board of Directors and negligible benefits to its General Manager. In fact, the current General Manager's benefits are even lower than those surveyed at the time of the Report and included in Table E.
- 2: The HGCWD concurs that it does not maintain a website.

- 3: Not relevant to the HGCWD since its meetings are held in the evenings.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1: Not relevant to the HGCWD in light of the Report's finding that compensation levels for the HGCWD Board of Directors and General Manager are low.
2. HGCWD partially disagrees with this recommendation. The HGCWD strictly enforces the California Public Records Act (CPRA) in providing access to records concerning the conduct of its customer's business. The HGCWD provides access to all records that are made public per the CPRA. Insofar as the HGCWD has ever withheld or redacted records, such was done in strict compliance with the authorization provided under the CPRA and the HGCWD has never been challenged for its refusal to provide records. As such, we believe the HGCWD adequately and fully complies with the CPRA and intends to do so at all times. In light of the HGCWD's scarce funds, paying to create and maintain a website in an area where the majority of the customers are of low income and may not have easy access to a computer with internet access does not seem to be a high priority. Additionally, HGCWD Board of Directors do not serve on any committees or sub-committees where the posting of FPPC Form 806 would seem warranted. Nevertheless, the HGCWD intends to continue to evaluate the opportunity and cost of creating and maintaining a website and, finances permitting, hopes to implement one in the future.
3. Not relevant to the HGCWD.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this response further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



David Vigil
District Manager