



CITY OF MANTECA

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July 17, 2013

The Honorable David P. Warner
Presiding Judge
San Joaquin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 201022
Stockton, CA 95201

Re: Response to 2012-13 Grand Jury Case No. 1112
– “District Board Ignores the Peoples’ Right to be Informed”

Dear Judge Warner:

The City of Manteca is in receipt of the above-noted 2012-13 Grand Jury Case No. 1112. On July 16, 2013, the Manteca City Council voted to authorize me to send the City’s response to the above-referenced Grand Jury report, consistent with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

Findings:

F4.1. Membership on the District Board is seen as a family right and obligation passed through generations, or as a pathway for political advancement.

Response: The City of Manteca respectfully disagrees with the opinion expressed by the Grand Jury. In past years, and consistent with City practice, the City of Manteca solicited applications from the public to serve as Manteca’s representative on the District Board. Generally, only the incumbent submitted an application for appointment. Thus, he was reappointed and represented the City for 22 years. Before his last four-year term expired, Manteca’s representative moved outside the Manteca City limits and was no longer eligible to represent Manteca. The Manteca Mayor, with consent of the City Council, appointed resident Jack Snyder on December 19, 2005, to represent Manteca. In December 2009, the City was contacted by the Manager of the District, informing the City that Mr. Snyder’s term was set to expire on January 1, 2010. Mr. Stroh (Manager) indicated Mr. Snyder was interested in being reappointed, and expressed his support of Mr. Snyder’s participation in District issues and solid attendance record. Mr. Snyder was reappointed by the Mayor and Council on January 19, 2010. These appointments were made during open, publicized regular City Council meetings, at which time no other interest to serve on the District Board was expressed by anyone in the public. The City of Manteca has

no opinion on appointments made by other cities in the County, nor the County itself.

F4.2. Long terms on the District Board may lead to complacency in reviewing District financial conditions and a clear understanding of issues brought before the Board for consideration.

Response: The City of Manteca has no opinion relating to the level of review undertaken by the District Board members. As for the "long terms" on the District Board, any length of service or terms for members of the District Board are determined by San Joaquin County and/or the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control Board – not the City of Manteca or any of the other cities.

F5.1. Issues regarding non-transparent functioning and actions of the District Trustees bring into question the need for the District Board as presently appointed by the Cities and the County Board of Supervisors.

Response: Response: The City of Manteca has no opinion relating to the need for the District Board. The existence of the organization and the operations of the District Board are determined by San Joaquin County and/or the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control Board – not the City of Manteca or any of the other cities.

Recommendations:

4.1. No later than November 1, 2013, the County Board of Supervisors and the City Council of each city in the County petition the appropriate agencies and/or the State legislature to establish term limits of two consecutive four-year terms for District Board Trustees.

Response: The City of Manteca respectfully disagrees with the Grand Jury's recommendation for the City to petition "the appropriate agencies and/or the State legislature" to establish term limits for the District Board. However, should any of those agencies or the legislature propose and approve such term limits, any appointments by the City of Manteca for membership on the District Board shall be adhered to consistent with those terms and limits.

Sincerely,



WILLIE W. WEATHERFORD
Mayor

c: Manteca City Council
City Manager
City Attorney