

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

2403



FROM: General Manager-Chief Engineer

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 12, 2005

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Report

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board instruct the District to forward to the Executive Office, within 30 days, a draft of the Board's response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury that pertain to the District's operational areas; and direct the Executive Office to submit draft responses to the Board within 60 days.

BACKGROUND: The attached report has been issued by the Grand Jury.

Section 933 (c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

The District's draft response will be presented by the Executive Office for the Board's consideration; the response ultimately approved by the Board will then be forwarded to the Grand Jury as required by statute.

Departmental Concurrence

Warren D. Williams
WARREN D. WILLIAMS
General Manager-Chief Engineer

FINANCIAL DATA

Current F.Y. District Cost: N/A
Current F.Y. County Cost: N/A
Annual Net District Cost: N/A

In Current Year Budget: N/A
Budget Adjustment: N/A
For Fiscal Year: N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30
Requires 4/5 Vote

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature

[Signature]

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: All

Agenda Number:

11.11

2004-2005 GRAND JURY REPORT

Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Background

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was created on July 7, 1945 by an act of the California State Legislature (Assembly Bill 8). The District covers 2,700 square miles, located in the western portion of Riverside County and extends easterly to the Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs area. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors serves as the governing body for the District. The District was formed, per the mission statement, "to protect people and property from flooding through responsible and effective storm water management."

The District's 2004-2005 revenue budget is \$62,446,495. The District's primary source of general-purpose revenue is 1% of the property tax. The balance of the revenue comes from Government and Proprietary funds. Undesignated/unreserved funds of \$1,565,874 are projected at the end of 2004/2005. According to the Director, "These balances are more than adequate to offset the gap between revenue and appropriations expected to occur in some funds."

The district is divided into seven geographic zones. Property taxes and other revenue generated from each zone must be spent for projects within or proportionally beneficial to that zone.

At the beginning of the FY 2004-2005 there were eighty-four (84) capital infrastructure appropriated projects on the Flood Control books. Forty-one (41) of these are completely funded. The remaining forty-three (43) projects are funded solely for design or administrative purposes to cover the final costs of previously completed projects.

With sixty (60) years of flood control and drainage infrastructure being built, the needs, while not complete, are diminishing. Urbanization of the county is increasing demands on water conservation. Optimization of existing water resources through new conservation and reuse will be necessary to sustain the county's growing population. The current population in Riverside County is estimated to be 1,846,095 as of July 1, 2004.

The Flood Control Director's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report stated: "Traditionally, the planning, design and construction of public works infrastructure involved two principles: engineering soundness and economic feasibility. However, over the past decade, two additional tenets have been brought into the mix: environmental impacts and regulatory compliance. This is especially true with regard to flood control and drainage infrastructure projects. Today, a typical flood control project may require compliance with no less than eleven local, State and Federal statutes."

2. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors consider changing its policy whereby the seven (7) zones can loan monies from one zone to another for more than the current year, i.e. up to five (5) years, to make available funds more flexible.
3. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors implement a task force to study the merits of merging TLMA and Flood Control facilities, equipment, and personnel as demonstrated in surrounding counties.
4. Flood Control direct hiring to include specialists in water conservation, i.e. chemical, environmental engineering, etc.