September 8, 2011

Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report, "Compensation Survey of Water and Sanitation Districts"

Dear Judge Borris:

In accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find the Yorba Linda Water District’s response to the Orange County Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report, "Compensation Survey of Water and Sanitation Districts." If you have any questions, please contact YLWD’s General Manager, Ken Vecchiarelli at (714) 701-3000.

Regards,

Sincerely,

Michael J. Beverage
President, YLWD Board of Directors

CC: Orange County Grand Jury
Dear members of the Grand Jury,

The Yorba Linda Water District (District) has received and reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report titled “Compensation Survey of Water and Sanitation Districts.” The District has reviewed the findings in a collaborative effort with necessary personnel and has prepared the following response.

FINDINGS

FINDING 1

District websites often do not provide easy public access to compensation and financial data of the district, if available at all.

Response: Agree with Finding.

Though the compensation and financial information has been readily available on the District’s Website, locating the information required navigating through various pages of the site.

FINDING 2

District websites were sometimes not updated to reflect public meeting changes or cancellations.

Response: Disagree with Finding.

The District, on its Website, has made a practice of keeping its meeting calendar updated regularly with agendas and corresponding reports readily available to the public.
RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

Provide in an easily accessible format on the district’s website, data on compensation for the board of directors and general manager, as well as current budget and financial reports.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented

Although the information was already available on the District’s Website, in an effort to make the site more user friendly and facilitate ease of use and navigation, a drop down has been added on the home page under the tab for ‘News and Publications’ with a link titled ‘Compensation Transparency’. There, you will find the compensation information for the Board of Directors for the previous calendar year, the General Manager’s salary and the salary ranges for the Management staff. The current budget documents and financial reports have been available on the District’s Website for years. The District is currently undergoing a website makeover and as a result, these items are now more readily accessible on the front page of its Website.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Maintain and update agendas, minutes, meeting schedules and location on the district’s website.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented

The District has made it a practice to maintain and provide current and accurate calendars, agendas and meeting minutes on its Website. These items have been readily available on our Website for years and will continue to be readily available.