



## CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

July 10, 2007

*Mayor*

L. Anthony Beall

*Mayor Pro Tempore*

Gary Thompson

*Council Members*

Neil C. Blais

Jerry Holloway

James M. Thor

*City Manager*

Steven E. Hayman

Nancy Wieben Stock  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**RE: Assembly Bill 939 Waste Diversion: Are We Finally Making Progress?**

Dear Judge Stock:

We have received a copy of the 2006-07 Grand Jury Report, "Assembly Bill 939 Waste Diversion: Are We Finally Making Progress?" dated June 5, 2007. The Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the City of Rancho Santa Margarita respond to Finding 6 and Recommendation 6 of this Report.

***F-6 The presence of non-franchise haulers and so-called "Ghost Haulers" bins, in cities which bypass the recycling system, needs to be corrected in order to establish waste haulers' confidence that their municipalities are looking out for their best interests.***

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita concurs with this finding from the Orange County Grand Jury. This issue is not believed to be a significant problem in the City. The City enacted a Solid Waste Ordinance in 2006, which requires a permit to haul any temporary solid waste from the City. The Solid Waste Ordinance provides for penalties against haulers who violate its provisions.

***R-6 Municipalities need to solve their unauthorized waste bins problems by enacting city ordinances forbidding these practices, imposing fines, including stepped-up fines for additional violations, and impounding unauthorized bins.***

On February 10, 2006, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita's Solid Waste Ordinance went into effect, which includes permitting haulers for construction and demolition projects. The Ordinance forbids non-permitted haulers from hauling any solid waste from the City. It also imposes fines for non-permitted haulers and authorizes impounding unauthorized bins. The City has seen a dramatic decrease in the amount of unauthorized haulers since the establishment of this Ordinance. Additionally, each of the permitted



haulers helps to regulate the non-permitted haulers by reporting unauthorized bins to the City.

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita would like to thank the Orange County Grand Jury for taking the time to research these issues and for involving the City in its investigations. Please let us know if there is any additional information we can provide. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (949) 635-1800 ext. 6704.

Sincerely,

Nate Farnsworth  
Recycling Coordinator

cc: Orange County Grand Jury  
Steven E. Hayman, City Manager  
Tom Wheeler, Public Works Director