September 15, 2010

Honorable Steve White
Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court
720 9th Street, Department 47
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report on Special Districts

Honorable White and Members of the Grand Jury:

Thank you for inviting the Rancho Murieta Community Services District to participate in the Sacramento County Grand Jury Survey of Independent Special Districts. This letter provides the District’s response to the survey findings and recommendations in compliance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05.

Finding 1.0
Recommendation 1.1: Concur
Recommendation 1.2: Concur
Recommendation 1.3: Concur

Finding 2.0
Recommendation 2.1: Concur
Recommendation 2.2: Concur

Finding 3.0
Recommendation 3.1: Concur
Recommendation 3.2: Do not concur. This issue should either be addressed by a statewide requirement or left to each district. If this issue is addressed as the Grand Jury recommends only in this region, area districts will be at a significant disadvantage in recruiting and retaining employees.
Recommendation 3.3: Concur
Recommendation 3.4: Partially concur. The District currently has certain pension benefits that do not include an employee contribution component. The District is responsive to the general view that benefits should have an employee contribution component, particularly in light of current long-range economic forecasts. However, the District believes that agencies need to retain discretion in evaluating and implementing employee contributions.

Finding 4.0
Recommendation 4.1: Partially concur. The District concurs with establishing and adhering to a goal of minimizing no-bid purchasing. The District currently follows such a policy. However, the District believes that agencies need to retain discretion to establish a reasonable threshold for no-bid purchasing as it would be cost-prohibitive and an inefficient use of tax payer money to competitively bid all small purchases.

Finding 5.0
Recommendation 5.1: Concur
Recommendation 5.2: Concur

Very truly yours,

Edward R. Crouse
General Manager

ERC