

July 23, 2004

Honorable Clifford R. Anderson, III  
Presiding Judge  
Santa Barbara County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 21107  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

RE: 2003-2004 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report on "Who Ya Gonna Call:  
Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District"

Dear Judge Anderson:

The purpose of this letter is the City of Buellton's response to the referenced Grand Jury Report received June 1, 2004. In accordance with the provisions of Penal Code section 933, the City has 60 days to reply to the Report. This letter is intended to satisfy that reporting requirement.

The Grand Jury Report made one Finding and one Recommendation pertaining to the City of Buellton. The following is the City's response to the Finding and Recommendation:

Finding 2:

Cities in the North County have chosen to remain independent, relying on their own departments to face any health hazard. They do not see West Nile Virus as a threat.

Response:

The City of Buellton has no knowledge of the accuracy of the first sentence in Finding 2 as it relates to the other North County cities. We disagree with the statement that we do not see West Nile Virus as a threat. We perceive the approach of West Nile Virus as a threat in the North County but to a much lesser degree than in the South County for the same reasons contained in the Grand Jury Report.

Recommendation 2:

Before any summer outbreak, the cities of Buellton, Lompoc and Santa Maria need to reassure their citizens that they have a mechanism in place to safeguard the public welfare, and monitor and control disease-carrying vectors, even on private properties.

Response:

We feel it is the responsibility of state and county public health agencies, and not the City of Buellton, to educate the general public as to health concerns. We will, however, continue to monitor the threat of West Nile Virus and will take preventive measures as necessary to insure the safety of our residents. Staff has attended meetings pertaining to vector control issues and has relative information available to the public upon request.

In the event that a mosquito-borne disease outbreak occurs, the City of Buellton will utilize the California Department of Health Services, Operational Plan for Emergency Response to Mosquito-Borne Disease Outbreaks as our guide, in addition to calling upon other appropriate state and county agencies for assistance.

The City appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury Report on the Vector Control District. Should you have any questions regarding the City's response to the Grand Jury Report, please contact City Manager Steve Thompson.

Sincerely,

Bill Traylor  
Mayor

c: Buellton City Council  
City Attorney