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**SANTA MARIA VALLEY  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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June 15, 2006

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury  
Committee on Audit and Finance  
1100 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Attn: Ted Stern  
Forman

Dear Mr. Stern:

The Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District ("District") hereby responds to the 2005-2006 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report entitled '*Flood Control and Water conservation District – Prepared for Winter Storms?*', in which our department is named as an affected agency.

**Finding 4** *Silt accumulation in Twitchell Reservoir and the downstream channel is an ongoing problem.*

The District agrees that the silt accumulation in Twitchell Reservoir and the downstream channel is an ongoing problem. Silt accumulation in Twitchell Reservoir is proportionate to upstream activity.

**Recommendation 2** *The Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District should continue to address the silting issue at Twitchell Dam.*

The District has taken the following actions:

- Historically proven flushing program
- Silt Removal operation in 1999
- Several companies have tested the silt for various applications
- Silt Removal operation in 2002
- District commissioned Penfield & Smith for '*Twitchell Dam Outlet Works Stilling Basin Sedimentation issues and Capacity Study*' in 2002 to determine the best engineering methods for removing silt.
- Have given away silt in the past

The District is currently taking the following actions:

- Continuing our Historical flushing program
- Working with the Forest Service as they are the greatest sources of sediment. We are engaging and interacting with them to be involved in their plan for burning to make sure our silting issues are being addressed.
- The Watershed Planning Committee will coordinate with other agencies to address comprehensive water shed issues.
- The District continues to study options and pursue the most viable solutions.
- The District will consider selling silt.
- The District will be soliciting through the RFP process for consultant to develop a scope of work and permits for downstream silt removal
- Expects to have a draft short term and long term sediment management plan for review and possible approval at the July 2006 board meeting.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions regarding this response.

Sincerely yours,

Debi Askew  
District Secretary