

Mayor
William Siegel
Mayor Pro Tem
Lois Wynne
Council Members
John Gordon
Edward Neal
Willard Rodarmel



**Office of City
Manager**

119 Fox Street
Lemoore, CA 93245
Phone (559) 924-6700
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Staff Report

ITEM NO. 2-6

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Jeff Laws, City Manager 
Date: May 30, 2014
Subject: Grand Jury Response – Water Management by Hanford and Lemoore

Discussion:

A copy of the Grand Jury report concerning our Water Management Plan is attached for your review. In keeping with Penal Code Section 933 (c), the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations.

Also attached is a draft response to the findings and recommendations respectfully submitted for your approval.

Budget Impact:

No budget impact at this time.

Recommendation:

That the Lemoore City Council, by motion, approve the response to the Grand Jury and authorize the Mayor to sign.



COUNTY OF KINGS
GRAND JURY
County of Kings Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 28 2014

RECEIVED

KINGS COUNTY
GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT
2013-2014

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF () COPY () COPIES
OF THE 2013- 2014 FINAL REPORT (s).

WATER MANAGEMENT BY HANFORD AND LEMOORE

I ACCEPT THAT I AM REQUIRED BY LAW (PC SECTION 933(c))
TO REPLY WITHIN 90 DAYS TO THE PRESIDING JUDGE.

THIS REPORT MAY BE PUBLISHED AFTER TWO WORKING DAYS OF
RECEIPT.

THIS COPY IS DIRECTED TO:

PRINT NAME:

J. R. LAWS

SIGNATURE:

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE / POSITION:

CITY MANAGER

MONTH/DAY/YEAR:

5-28-14

TIME: 11:40

WITNESS:

[Handwritten Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]

WATER MANAGEMENT BY HANFORD AND LEMOORE

WHY THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATED

Public Interest

AUTHORITY

California Penal §925(a) The Grand Jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city in the county.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

The Grand Jury interviewed the Public Works Directors of the Cities of Lemoore and Hanford and reviewed information provided by the Directors.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS

Both Lemoore and Hanford operate their water functions as an enterprise. In other words, they are self-supporting. Water supply for both cities is from groundwater, and accessed through wells. Within each of the cities, the water usage of most homes and industries are metered, and restrictions apply to water usage for the purpose of conservation. Lemoore meters all of its properties and Hanford is in the process of completely metering all of its properties. The state of California is experiencing severe drought conditions, and both Lemoore and Hanford have ordinances in place to address the issues created by such conditions.

The Cities of Hanford and Lemoore both restrict landscape water usage and car-washing for their residents. Landscape watering is restricted to a three day per week schedule, which can be found on the websites of both cities. Residents are required to use a shutoff nozzle on their hoses if they choose to wash their cars at home, and it is recommended that they use car washes that recycle water. Both cities have reduced their water usage on parks, landscaping, etc.

Lemoore has a three-step plan in place to restrict outdoor watering to two days per week, one day, or even none, should the need arise. There are financial penalties in place for repeatedly violating water restrictions. The City measures changes in the water table and makes adjustments accordingly. Hanford does not have a similar plan in place.

Both cities employ water enforcement officers, who monitor outdoor water usage in the cities and issue notices of violations when ordinances which require restricted watering are in place.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding

At the time of the interview with the Hanford Public Works Director, the Grand Jury was told that the City of Hanford does not have a contingency plan in place should the drought worsen.

Recommendation

The City of Hanford should consider the potential need for a similar plan to Lemoore's.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the Presiding Judge.

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May 30, 2014

Honorable Thomas DeSantos
Kings County Superior Court
1426 South Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Dear Judge DeSantos:

The City of Lemoore has received the Grand jury Report titled "Water Management by Hanford and Lemoore." As requested, we are providing the following comments to the recommendations contained in the report.

Finding:

At the time of the interview with the Hanford Public Works Director, the Grand Jury was told that the City of Hanford does not have a contingency plan in place should the drought worsen.

Recommendation:

The City of Hanford should consider the potential need for a similar plan to Lemoore's.

City Comment:

The City has no comment.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Siegel, Jr.
Mayor