



**Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One
PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
PHILLIP A. COX
District Three
J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four
MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: July 26, 2016

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Public Hearing Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Notice Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advertised Published Notice | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Meet & Confer Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Electronic file(s) has been sent | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Personnel Resolution attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s) | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CONTACT PERSON: Julieta Martinez PHONE: 636-5000 | | | | |

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Response

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Consider, modify as needed, and approve the responses to the 2015 /2016 Tulare County Grand Jury Final Report entitled: "Tulare County, Are We Ready for El Nino?"
2. Authorize the Chairman to sign the response letter.

SUMMARY:

The 2015/2016 Tulare County Grand Jury Final Report requests response from your Board regarding the report entitled: "Tulare County, Are We Ready for El Nino?"

Your Board is required to provide your comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days of receipt of the report.

The draft responses to the reports are attached for your consideration. It is requested the your Board modify the drafts, as needed, approve the responses to the Grand Jury, and authorize the Chairman to sign the Response Letters.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no Fiscal Impact associated with the response to this request.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's Strategic Plan includes the Organizational Performance Initiative, which provides for the objective evaluation and measurement of County program performance. The Board's approval of the Grand Jury Final Report responses assist

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Response
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in the fulfillment of this initiative by ensuring accurate information is available to all residents.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Julieta Martinez
Board Representative

Cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s) Draft Response Letter

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF GRAND JURY
RESPONSE**

)
) **Resolution No.** _____
) **Agreement No.** _____
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: MICHAEL C. SPATA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

1. Considered, modified as needed, and approved the responses to the 2015/2016 Tulare County Grand Jury Final Report entitled: "Tulare County, Are We Ready for El Nino?"
2. Authorized the Chairman to sign the response letter.

July 26, 2016

The Honorable Bret Hillman
Presiding Judge
Tulare County Superior Court
County Civic Center, Room 303
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

RE: Grand Jury Report: "Tulare County, Are We Ready for El Nino?"

Dear Judge Hillman:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, the following are the Board's responses to the findings and recommendations included in the 2015/2016 Tulare County Grand Jury Report titled "*Tulare County, Are We Ready for El Nino?*" The Board of Supervisors has consulted with the Tulare County Resource Management Agency to assist with these responses.

Findings and Board Responses

Finding 1

Various county and city agencies have been proactive in anticipation of an El Nino event.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 2

RMA "Hot Spot" (historically flood prone areas) identification will aid in:

- a) timely, adequate placement of personnel and equipment*
- b) identify which water conveyors will be impacted by flood waters and to use their system as pressure relief valve*

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 3

Tulare County has placed emphasis on the valley floor (Western region), but did not have any major flood control projects or management plan in the foothill area (Central region).

Response: The Board partially agrees with this finding. As mentioned in Finding 2, the Resource Management Agency (RMA) identification of “hot spots” helps assess and prioritize areas with the highest potential for threat to public safety. These areas are typically located on the valley floor.

Tulare County has a Flood Control Master plan that contains a list of improvement projects throughout the region, including the foothill area. Projects include roadside drainage swale maintenance, bridge inspections and clearing, community outreach, and more. Tulare County staff has worked diligently to be prepared for any potential flooding event whether it is in the valley floor or the foothills.

Finding 4

Clearing of bridges and channels will help the movement of water, in turn reducing flooding events.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 5

Preplanning of flood protection of county facilities has the potential to reduce flood damage and increase cost savings for taxpayers.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 6

Goal statements from various agencies show a greater emphasis on capturing and percolating rainfall and runoff into groundwater than in previous years.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding. The County will work with RMA to accomplish flood control goals as well as implement feasible projects that will aid in increasing groundwater recharge, onsite retention, etc.

Recommendations and Board Responses

Recommendation 1

Applicable agencies should increase emphasis in water storage projects when the opportunities for water retention are higher.

Response: Tulare County has and continues to implement this recommendation. RMA staff is modifying existing flood control project plans to emphasize water storage as well as address ongoing issues brought on by the recent drought and state regulations such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Recommendation 2

Applicable agencies should not ignore the importance of flood control projects due to drought conditions.

Response: Tulare County is already implementing this recommendation by working with the Tulare County Flood Control Commission and RMA to create and execute flood control projects like the replacement of bridges, stream bank restoration, and infrastructure protection projects.

Recommendation 3

Applicable agencies continue their progress on existing flood control projects.

Response: Tulare County is already implementing this recommendation. Aside from current approved flood control projects, RMA continues to update the Board on potential future projects such as the Seville-Sontag Ditch project scheduled to begin work in fall of 2016, work on the Juvenile Detention Facility at Cottonwood Creek in the summer of 2017, and construction of the Yettem Button ditch in 2017.

Recommendation 4

Tulare County adopt a foothill region flood management plan.

Response: Tulare County has already implemented this recommendation. As stated previously, the County has an adopted Flood Control Master Plan that covers all areas of the county from the valley floor to the foothill region.

Recommendation 5

When rehabilitating public parks, adding water retention and percolation capabilities should be considered.

Response: Tulare County has and continues to implement this recommendation with the construction of community parks and existing parks throughout the county.

Sincerely,

Michael Ennis, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

cc: Tulare County Grand Jury
5963 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277