

Office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector
Contra Costa County

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Russell V. Watts
Treasurer-Tax Collector
Brice E. Bins
Chief Deputy
Belinda Zhu
Assistant Treasurer

July 27, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
2015-2016 Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Enclosed is the response from the County Treasurer-Tax Collector Office to the Grand Jury Report No. 1607, Delta Levees in Contra Costa County: How Well Do We Protect This Vital Safety System? My office appreciates the efforts and the findings of the Civil Grand Jury.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of our responses, please do not hesitate to call me at (925) 957-2801.

Sincerely,

Russell V. Watts
Treasurer-Tax Collector



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**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT NO. 1607
DELTA LEVEES IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
HOW WELL DO WE PROTECT THIS VITAL SAFETY SYSTEM?**

FINDINGS:

F16. In addition to permitting procedures and intermittent newsletters, there are other opportunities to educate the public, and especially residents of reclamation districts, about the hazards that can damage or impair the levees.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F17. Explaining the hazards to levees by multiple means at appropriate times -- i.e., just before the start of storm season in the fall -- can help to keep awareness at a heightened and effective level.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F18. Efforts to educate and raise public awareness could be enhanced by cross-departmental and/or cross-agency cooperation such as including Flood Control safety bulletins with other seasonally appropriate, apt-to-be-read or mandatory mailings such as property tax bills or voter information packets.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R6. After identifying the necessary funding, the County Tax Collector should consider including informational material on flood preparedness or levee safety precautions, available at no charge from our County Flood Control or Central Valley Flood Control Agency or DWR, with every property tax bill that has an address within a reclamation district.

*Response: Tax bills that have a situs address within the reclamation district may have a message printed in the **Important Information to Taxpayer(s)** section, directing owners where to go online to learn more about flood preparedness or levee safety precautions.*