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## CITY OF SAN RAMON

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August 21, 2018

Civil Grand Jury - Foreperson  
725 Court Street  
PO Box 431  
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Re: Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1808, "Joint Powers Authorities: Transparency and Accountability"

Dear Foreperson Gutierrez,

On behalf of the City of San Ramon, this letter responds to the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury Report No. 1808, "Joint Powers Authorities: Transparency and Accountability". The City of San Ramon appreciates the time and effort that you and the Grand Jury spend on these matters and acknowledge the importance of the role in oversight of local government activities.

### Grand Jury Findings

**Finding #1:** In the Direct JPA model, each member delegates to the JPA a function that each member has the legal authority to provide. This shared approach results in cost savings and better efficiency on behalf of taxpayers.

**Response:** San Ramon agrees with Finding #1.

### Grand Jury Recommendations

**Recommendation #1:** All cities with JPAs in the County should confirm their compliance with Gov. Codes Sections 6505 by submitting the required audit report to the County Auditor by December 31, 2018.

**Response:** The recommendation will not be implemented. JPAs are legal independent entities and are responsible for producing required audit reports. The City of San Ramon is a member of numerous JPAs, many of which have independent staff which are responsible for producing the audit reports for the County Auditor. Additionally, such a requirement would


result in the County Auditor receiving multiple copies of the same audit from each of the member agencies of the JPA. JPA's, being independent entities, should fulfill all required duties.

Recommendation #5: All cities with JPAs should consider making special efforts, such as special mailings to taxpayers, website postings and announcements in local media, to communicate JPA debt decisions and audit reports to the public beyond simple notifications by December 31, 2018.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. JPAs are distinctly separate governmental entities. Each JPA and not the member agencies are responsible for communicating debt decisions and providing audit reports to the public on its website. Member agencies delegates to the JPA a function that each member has the legal authority to provide. The JPA with this delegated authority should also provide information on JPA debt decisions and audit reports on their own website ensuring accuracy and timeliness of the information.

We trust the Grand Jury will find the responses helpful to its endeavor.

The City of San Ramon appreciates the opportunity to provide this response. If you have questions, please contact me direct.

Sincerely,  
  
Joseph Gorton  
City Manager

(1) Mayor & City Council