



**Santa Cruz County**  
**Civil Grand Jury**

Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

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## Required response to Grand Jury report is due on August 22, 2022

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'Beau Kayser' via Santa Cruz Grand Jury

Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 1:42

<grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

PM

Reply-To: Beau Kayser <beau.kayser@cityofwatsonville.org>

To: Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org, grandjury@scgrandjury.org

Dear Honorable Judge Cogliati and the members of the Grand Jury,  
As the City of Watsonville Water Division Manager, I am submitting responses to the invited response from the Grand Jury. Unfortunately, I misinterpreted that responses from me could also represent the response from the City Council. Our Council had a recess between July 12 and August 30. A formal response from our Council, which will be the same response attached here from me, will be delivered after the 8/30 Council meeting has been held.  
Please let me know if I should further discuss this with yourself or one of the Jury.  
thank you,  
Beau

**Beau Kayser**  
**City of Watsonville Water Division**  
**desk phone: (831) 768-3193**  
[beau.kayser@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:beau.kayser@cityofwatsonville.org)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Santa Cruz Grand Jury** <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Date: Mon, Aug 15, 2022 at 5:17 PM

Subject: Required response to Grand Jury report is due on August 22, 2022

To: Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

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**2022-2q Water OS-WatsWD Invited.pdf**  
324K

**RESOLUTION NO. 184-22 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING RESPONSE TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED “OUR WATER ACCOUNT IS OVERDRAWN – BEYOND CONSERVATION: ACHIEVING DROUGHT RESILIENCE”; AND DIRECTING THE WATER DIVISION MANAGER TO SUBMIT RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury published a report regarding the water supply situation in Santa Cruz County titled, Our Water Account is Overdrawn – Beyond Conservation: Achieving Drought Resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Jury has assigned two Findings and one Recommendation for which the Council is to respond; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Jury has assigned the same two Findings and one Recommendation, plus an additional Finding, for which the Water Operations Supervisor (i.e. Water Division Manager) may respond.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. This action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), in that adopting a Resolution approving a response to the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury report entitled “Our Water Account is Overdrawn – Beyond Conservation: Achieving Drought Resilience” does not meet CEQA's definition of a “project,” because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and if a “project,” is exempt under the “common sense” exception (14 Cal. Code Regs. §

15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment.

2. The City Council hereby approves the response to the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury Report entitled “Our Water Account is Overdrawn-Beyond Conservation: Achieving Drought Resilience” attached hereto as Exhibit A (“Response”).

3. The City Council directs the Water Division Manager to submit the Response to the Grand Jury.

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The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Watsonville, held on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022, by Member Dutra, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Member Hurst, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **Dutra, Estrada, García, Hurst, Montesino, Quiroz-Carter, Parker**

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

DocuSigned by:  
*Ari Parker*  
DA4E22F36993465...  
Ari Parker, Mayor

ATTEST: DocuSigned by:  
*Irwin Ortiz*  
95926F9A882E4FA...  
City Clerk

9/6/2022 | 3:37 PM PDT

Date

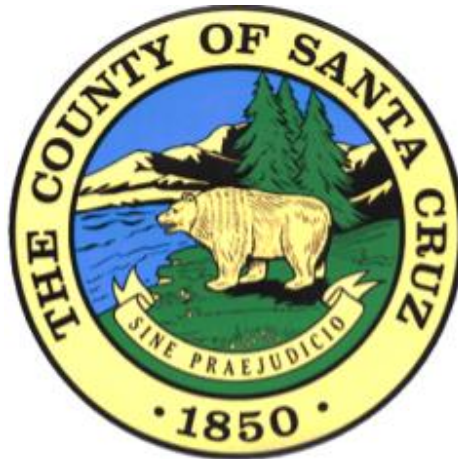
APPROVED AS TO FORM: DocuSigned by:  
*Denise Bazzano*  
E2ACB076C77E4CC...  
City Attorney

\*\*\*\*\*

I, Irwin I. Ortiz, City Clerk of the City of Watsonville, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 184-22 (CM) was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Watsonville City Council at a meeting thereof held on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022, and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of said Resolution.

DocuSigned by:  
*Irwin Ortiz*  
95926F9A882E4FA...  
Irwin I. Ortiz, City Clerk

Date 9/6/2022 | 3:37 PM PDT



The 2021–2022 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury  
Requires the

**City Council, City of Watsonville**

to Respond by August 22, 2022

to the Findings and Recommendations listed below  
which were assigned to them in the report titled

**Our Water Account Is Overdrawn**  
Beyond Conservation:  
Achieving Drought Resilience

Responses are **invited** from appointed agency and department heads, appointed committees, and non-profit agencies contracted to the county which are investigated by the grand jury. You are not required to respond by the California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#).

If you choose to respond, your response will be considered **compliant** under [PC §933.05](#) if it contains an appropriate comment on **all** findings and recommendations **which were assigned to you** in the report.

Please follow the instructions below when preparing your response.

## Instructions for Respondents

Your assigned [Findings](#) and [Recommendations](#) are listed on the following pages with check boxes and an expandable space for summaries, timeframes, and explanations. Please follow these instructions, which paraphrase [PC §933.05](#):

- 1. For the Findings, mark one of the following responses with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **AGREE with the Finding**, or
  - b. **PARTIALLY DISAGREE with the Finding** – specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons why, or
  - c. **DISAGREE with the Finding** – provide an explanation of the reasons why.
  
- 2. For the Recommendations, mark one of the following actions with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – provide a summary of the action taken, or
  - b. **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – provide a timeframe or expected date for completion, or
  - c. **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – provide an explanation, scope, and parameters of an analysis to be completed within six months, or
  - d. **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – provide an explanation of why it is not warranted or not reasonable.
  
- 3. Please confirm the date on which you approved the assigned responses:**

We approved these responses in a regular public meeting as shown in our minutes dated August 30, 2022.

- 4. When your responses are complete, please email your completed Response Packet as a PDF file attachment to both**

The Honorable Judge Syda Cogliati [Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org](mailto:Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org) and

The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).

**If you have questions about this response form, please contact the Grand Jury by calling 831-454-2099 or by sending an email to [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).**

# Findings

**F6.** Limited interdistrict water transfers have been achieved and serve as proof of concept.

- AGREE**
- PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
- DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

**F9.** Agency communications to the public emphasize conservation and sustainability while downplaying agency planning to achieve drought resilience.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

Water conservation and sustainability are both significant components that help communities become more resilient.

The City of Watsonville communicates regularly with its community and meets regularly with local public water agencies to discuss its water. We highlight our water resources through local events such as Day of the Child, World Wetlands Day (in partnership with Watsonville Wetlands Watch) and Coastal Cleanups.

The City of Watsonville's programs of water use efficiency have effectively lowered the gallons per capita per day of water consumption, allowing the water system to maintain a flat level of water production, despite changing populations.

For areas outside City limits, the City has continued its nearly twenty-year working relationship with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) to focus on sustainable drought resiliency for the agricultural community. Continued agency collaboration within the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin, combined with residential and commercial programs aimed at conservation will continue this trend towards resiliency.



## Recommendations

- R3.** By December 31, 2022, local water districts should jointly publish an integrated recycled wastewater action plan that specifies the infrastructure improvements, expected costs, and construction schedule that will fully utilize existing wastewater sources by December 31, 2026. Responding agencies are the Scotts Valley Water District, the City of Santa Cruz Water Department, the Soquel Creek Water District, the Central Water District, the Mid-County Groundwater Management Agency, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, and the City of Watsonville Water Division.

- HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

### Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The City of Watsonville and PV Water have been operating and distributing recycled water since 2009 with the intent to continue this partnership for many years to come. In 2021, over 3000 AF of wastewater was recycled and reused as a supplement to PV Water's Coastal Distribution System. When there is agricultural demand, all the available wastewater is being recycled and reused.