

June 3, 2009

Honorable Tom Cahraman, Presiding Judge
Riverside County Superior Court
Executive Office
4050 Main Street
Riverside, California 92501

Riverside County Grand Jury
Post Office Box 829
Riverside, California 92502

**Re: Response to Grand Jury Report Concerning the Coachella Valley
Mosquito and Vector Control District**

Dear Judge Cahraman and Grand Jury Members:

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury report on the above –referenced special district (the “District”).

As you are aware, the City of Cathedral City (the “City”) has a single representative on the District’s Board of Trustees, and does not have direct control over the policies, practices and activities of the District. Accordingly, this letter will address the existing City representative to the District Board and the means by which the City selects such representatives.

The City selects its representatives, as well as members of City commissions, by requiring each applicant to fill out an application form. An example of this form is attached to this letter for your review. City staff undertakes an initial review to see that each application is complete and that the applicant is a resident of the City in those cases where residency is a requirement.

All applications for a position are then forwarded to the City Council, which schedules personal interviews between each applicant and the entire Council. After due deliberation, the Council selects the applicant which demonstrated the highest levels of the qualities which are required for the given position.

Honorable Tom Cahraman, Presiding Judge
Riverside County Superior Court
Riverside County Grand Jury
June 3, 2009
Page Two

The City's current representative to the District Board is Gary Howell, a City resident with a 20 year background in accounting. He is currently a licensed real estate broker and is well known and well respected within the community. In addition, Mr. Howell has been active in the City in a number of ways, both in terms of donating his time and efforts to deserving non-profits operating within the City and by serving on a City non profit board and by volunteering on other ad hoc committees from time to time. Coupled with his ability to work with others in developing consensus and his natural intelligence, he was an excellent choice for this position.

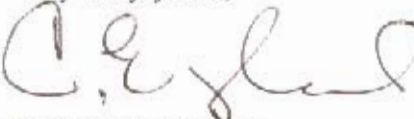
Mr. Howell has come before the Council periodically each year to report on events and operational issues at the District. He last addressed the Council on May 13, 2009, after the Grand Jury Report was made available. Attached to this letter is a copy of his remarks to the City Council on that date.

The City Council has the utmost confidence in Mr. Howell's ability and determination to work effectively with the Board in properly responding to the Grand Jury Report.

Hopefully, this letter adequately explains the City's process for selection of its representative to the Board, and its requirement for frequent reports from that representative. The City is pleased to see that the District has made some major personnel changes, which it believes will be beneficial to all of the District's members as well as to its staff, which had operated for some time under difficult conditions. The City believes that the progress to date, as well as a number of changes which the future will undoubtedly bring, are due in part to the effective representation of the City which Mr. Howell provides.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,


for Kathleen J. DeRosa
Mayor

cc: Council Members
City Attorney
MVCD/0001-02/1 TR/003 DOC

PAGE 2

Describe your knowledge of the functions, regulations, and procedures of the Board/Commission on which you would like to serve.

What specific attitudes, skills, and expertise do you think you have to enhance the work of the Board/Commission?

What issues or problems do you see facing the Board/Commission? Do you have any suggestions to address those issues or problems?

Your name will be considered by the City Council upon receipt of your application, provided a vacancy exists on the Board or Commission for which you have applied. If there is no vacancy, your application will be kept on file for one year, to be considered when an opening does occur. **PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT STATE LAW REQUIRES SPECIFIC BOARD OR COMMISSION MEMBERS TO FILE A FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.**

NOTE: If you are filing for a vacancy occurring in June, your application will not be considered during the following annual recruitment unless you specifically request that it be carried forward.

PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION TO:

Office of the City Clerk
City of Cathedral City
68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero
Cathedral City, CA 92234

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT