



July 1, 2009

Hon. Tom Cahraman, Presiding Judge
Riverside County Superior Court
4050 Main Street
Riverside, California 92501

Yvonne Parks
Mayor

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

Karl Baker, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem

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

Russell Betts
Councilmember

Dear Judge Cahraman and Grand Jury Members:

Scott Matas
Councilmember

On April 14, 2009, the Grand Jury forwarded a copy of its report regarding the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (the "District") to the City of Desert Hot Springs.

Jan Pye
Councilmember

Please be advised that the City of Desert Hot Springs has no direct control over the activities of the District. However, in 2006 the City appointed City Mayor Pro Tem Karl Baker Jr. as its representative on the District Board of Trustees. Trustee Baker is an excellent Trustee and keeps the City fully apprised of the activities of the District. The City has complete confidence that Trustee Baker will assist the District in addressing all the findings and recommendations set forth in the Grand Jury Report in the appropriate and legally required manner. Recent Board actions, including but not limited to the selection of a new General Manager, will surely address many of the issues raised in the Report and will ensure the District fulfills its mission of effective and environmentally sound vector control and disease prevention programs through research, development, and public awareness.

Rick Daniels
City Manager

The City noted that Recommendation #8 stated in part: "Appointing authorities (Riverside County and the nine cities) should develop criteria for trustee qualification and apply more intense vetting of potential trustees prior to appointment, thereby improving the quality of appointments to the District Board of Trustees." The City will subject this appointment to a similar process that it uses to appoint to City boards, commissions and other regional bodies. That process calls for public notice of vacancies, opportunity for citizens to apply for the position, and due consideration by the Mayor and City Council.

65950 Pierson Blvd.
Desert Hot Springs
California 92240

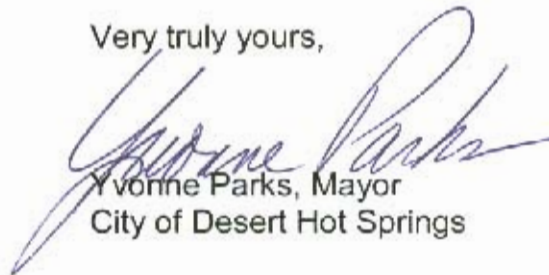
(760) 329-6411

www.cityofdhs.org

Additionally, the City of Desert Hot Springs has a concern that was not addressed by the Grand Jury. Riverside County is represented by two trustees on the CVM&VCD to represent the unincorporated areas of the County. Yet both appointments are made by a single County Supervisor: Supervisor Roy Wilson who represents most, but not all of the Coachella Valley. Instead, As a result Supervisor Wilson has appointed residents and/or landowners from within his district. Supervisor Marion Ashley represents the residents of the City of Desert Hot Springs, portions of the cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City as well as all of the unincorporated areas in between. Therefore, those residents are taxed to support the District yet lack representation on the Board to address their concerns which are far different than the communities at least 30 miles to the east. An obvious recommendation to consider would be to have Supervisor Ashley appoint a trustee from the western portion of the Coachella Valley to represent the communities there.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact City Manager Rick Daniels at (760) 329-6411, Ext. 101.

Very truly yours,



Yvonne Parks, Mayor
City of Desert Hot Springs

cc: Branka B. Lothrop, Ph.D., General Manager
Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Trustees
Supervisor Marion Ashley, Riverside County
Supervisor Roy Wilson, Riverside County