



City of Riverside, California  
Office of the Mayor  
**PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON**



June 11, 2024

**Judith C. Clark, Presiding Judge**

Superior Court of California, County of Riverside  
4050 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

**Riverside County Grand Jury**

Post Office Box 829  
Riverside, CA 95202

**Riverside County Clerk-Recorder**

2720 Gateway Drive  
Riverside, CA 95207

Subject: Responses to Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations

To the Honorable Judge Clark, Riverside County Grand Jury, and Riverside County Clerk-Recorder:

The Riverside County Grand Jury issued a report titled March Joint Powers Authority: Marginally Transparent, March 21, 2024 (the "Report"). The Report was addressed to me, in my official capacity as Mayor of the City of Riverside and requires me to file a response with the agencies set forth above within ninety (90) days. In addition, the Report requires a response to Findings 4, 11, 16, and 19 and Recommendations 2, 6, and 9. Please find the City's responses to the required Finding and Recommendation below.

**Findings:**

F-4 The March JP A Commissioners infrequently seek a consensus on March JPA issues from other elected officials on their city council/board.

City response: The City agrees with this finding. March JPA Commission members are authorized to exercise their own discretion when voting. (See Harbach v. El Pueblo de Los Angeles etc. Com. (1971) 14 Cal.3d 828, 834. The Joint Powers Act, the March Joint Powers Agreement, the City of Riverside City Charter, and the ordinances and resolutions of the City of Riverside do not limit this authority.

F-11 The March JP A does not have a permanent community advisory committee



comprised of Riverside County residents.

City response: The City agrees with this finding.

- F-16 The March JPA violated Government Code §6503.8 by not submitting all required March JPA agreements and amendments to the Riverside County's Local Agency Formation Commission Office.

City response: The City has reviewed the MJPA response to the Report, and based upon the MJPA response, the City agrees with this finding.

- F-19 Effective on July 1, 2025, the March JPA transfers its land use authority, public works, policing, and fire protection responsibilities to the County of Riverside.  
City response: The City partially agrees with this finding. In 2023, the March JPA Commission member agencies agreed to amend the Joint Powers Agreement for the 14<sup>th</sup> time, "to reflect the refinement and reduction of duties of the March Joint Powers Authority, anticipated future completion of the land use redevelopment phase of the original purpose of the Agreement, and the transition into a new phase of inter-governmental cooperation in the operation and management of the civilian airport through the March Inland Port Airport Authority." The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is more complicated than the summary set forth in finding 19 and is more fully explained in the amendment itself.

### **Recommendations:**

- R-2 By October 1, 2024, the Grand Jury recommends that elected officials on the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors and city council members in Moreno Valley, Perris, and Riverside establish times when March JP A issues will be discussed, and a consensus developed for their representatives on the March JP A Commission.

City response: This recommendation has not been implemented by the City. This recommendation is not required by the Joint Powers Act, the March Joint Powers Agreement, the City of Riverside City Charter, or the ordinances or resolutions of the City of Riverside.

- R-6 By August 1, 2024, the Grand Jury recommends that the March JP A Commission establish, or be in the process of establishing, a permanent community advisory committee made up of Riverside County residents.

City response: This recommendation has not been implemented by the City. This matter falls within the jurisdiction of the March JPA Commission. March JPA Commission members are authorized to exercise their own discretion when voting for any item coming before the Commission. (See Harbach v. El Pueblo de Los



Angeles etc. Com. (1971) 14 Cal.3d 828, 834.

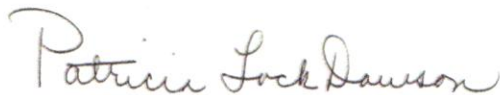
Based upon the MJP A response to the Report, it appears that at least one Commissioner has raised the possibility of establishing a community advisory committee and the MJP A may be discussing this matter in the future. We support the direction, if any, provided by the MJP A Commission to MJP A staff.

- R-9 By October 1, 2024, the Grand Jury recommends that the March JP A Commission reconsider its decision to transfer its land use authority, public works, policing, and fire protection to the County of Riverside until all land development projects are completed.

City response: This recommendation has not been implemented by the City. The MJP A members agencies, including the City of Riverside, approved the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in accordance with the Joint Powers Act. To the extent this matter falls within the jurisdiction of the March JPA Commission, the March JPA Commission members are authorized to exercise their own discretion when voting for any item coming before the Commission. (See Harbach v. El Pueblo de Los Angeles etc. Com. (1971) 14 Cal.3d 828, 834.

The City of Riverside defers to the MJP A with respect to all other findings and recommendations including the findings and recommendations that the City of Riverside was invited to respond to.

Very truly yours,



Patricia Lock Dawson  
Mayor

