



May 8, 2017

RC 5/17/17

The Honorable Ricardo Cordova, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Stanislaus  
P.O. Box 3488  
Modesto, CA 95353-3488

Re: Response to the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report  
Oakdale Irrigation District Redistricting

Dear Honorable Ricardo Cordova:

This will serve as the Oakdale Irrigation District Board of Directors' and the Oakdale Irrigation District General Manager's written response to the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury's Report. Each finding and recommendation will be addressed on behalf of the Board of Directors and on behalf of the General Manager.

**FINDINGS**

F1. OI D-BOD's voting districts are not equal in population. Based on the 2010 Federal Census, the largest district has a population of approximately 8,366; and its smallest district has a population of approximately 4,307. The largest district is 30.1% larger than the calculated average of the OI D districts, and the smallest district is 33% smaller than the calculated average OI D district.

Response: The Oakdale Irrigation District Board of Directors (OI D-BOD) and the Oakdale Irrigation District General Manger (OI D General Manger) agree with this finding.

F2. OI D-BOD is required by Federal and State law to redistrict, as necessary, after each Federal Census.

Response: OI D-BOD and OI D General Manger agree with this finding.

F3. OI D-BOD failed to take action after becoming aware OI D voting districts were out of compliance with Federal and State redistricting law in 2011.

Response: The OI D-BOD and OI D General Manger agree with this finding.

- F4. OID-BOD last redistricted in 1991, after the 1990 Federal Census release; therefore, it has been over 25 years since OID has redrawn its voting districts.

Response: The OID-BOD and OID General Manger agree with this finding.

- F5. OID-BOD failed to reapportion its five voting districts, as needed and in a timely manner, after both the 2000 census release and again after the 2010 census release.

Response: The OID-BOD and OID General Manger agree with this finding.

- F6. OID currently has no formal policy on record to redistrict after each Federal Census data release.

Response: The OID-BOD and OID General Manger agree with this finding.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1. OID-BOD should comply with the existing redistricting laws, including California Election Code Sections 21500-21506 and 22000-22001, and redraw its voting districts' boundaries no later than 180 days prior to the November 2017 election of OID's Board of Directors.

Response by the OID-BOD and OID General Manager: The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

The Board of Directors approved a Resolution Adopting Redistricting Map of the Directors' Divisions to within less than 2% difference in the population of the Directors' divisions of the Oakdale Irrigation District on April 18, 2017, a copy of Resolution 2017-44 is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A." The map was hand delivered to Ms. Lee Lundrigan, the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters, on May 2, 2017 along with all other necessary documentation as requested by the Registrar of Voters' Office. A copy of the map is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "B."

- R2. OID-BOD should immediately develop and implement a district policy to redistrict within the first six month period after the release of every Federal Census, to assure redistricting is done, as required by law when voting districts differ by more than 5 percent.

Response by the OID-BOD and OID General Manager: The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

The District has prepared a Reapportionment / Redistricting Policy which has been reviewed by the District's General Counsel, and will be presented to the Board of Directors on June 6, 2017 for adoption by resolution. A copy of the Policy is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "C." The District prepared the policy following the criterion outlined by the Civil Grand Jury, with one exception. The Civil Grand Jury requested that the policy state that the redistricting would be done within six months of the federal census; however, the Elections Code requires that the

redistricting be done no later than 180 days prior to the general election or in the District's case, 180 days prior to the off-year election date. This requirement is reflected in the policy.

- R3. OID-BOD should determine if redistricting is needed after the release of every upcoming Federal Census population data in 2021, 2031, 2041, and subsequent years. OID-BOD should redistrict in a timely manner, as consistent with the law.

Response by the OID-BOD and OID General Manager: The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

The District as stated above, has prepared a Reapportionment / Redistricting Policy. The policy states that, "After each 10-Year federal census, and using that census as a basis, the District shall adjust the boundaries of any division so that the divisions do not differ by more than 5% in population."

Sincerely,

OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Steve Knell, P.E.  
General Manager

SK;lfp

Enclosures

cc: Timothy Warnock, Foreperson, Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury