

Board declines comment on grand jury report

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The Riverside County Board of Supervisors has declined to comment on a recent grand jury report critical of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District.

The grand jury routinely forwards its reports to the Board of Supervisors and requests comment.

In a letter to John B. Todd, foreman of the 2007-2008 grand jury, Gary Christmas, deputy county executive officer, wrote, "Since the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District has no reporting relationship with Riverside County officials or the Board of Supervisors, it would be inappropriate for the County to comment upon the Grand Jury's findings."

The grand jury, in a report published on June 23, said it had found examples of Brown Act violations, nepotism and misuse of public funds in the water district. District General Manager Chuck Butcher has denied the allegations.

The grand jury report was forwarded to the Riverside County Auditor-Controller and the ethics division of the District Attorney's office, as well as the Board of Supervisors and water district.

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