



# THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 21, No.3

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

August 2007

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**JOIN US FOR LUNCH**  
**Thursday September 6**  
**at Phoenix Club**  
**1340 S. Sanderson Ave Anaheim**  
**Speaker -**

**Arthur Kidman**  
**Attorney**

**"The Santa Ana Aquifer"**



## GJAOC BOARD ELECTIONS

Our Nominating Committee has done a great job this year, This is only the second time in our history that we have had more nominations than open positions and the first time we have had eight members applying for the six open seats on the board. The slate approved by the nominating committee and the additional nominees will be presented at the general meeting on September 6th. But the nominations are still open. Members can be nominated from the floor at the General Meeting provided that the nominee is either present to accept the nomination or that the nominator has the nominee's approval, in writing, at the meeting.

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## SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER

### WATER MATTERS - THE SANTA ANA AQUIFER

The topic for the September 6, 2007 luncheon meeting will be a current and contentious issue of who gets to pump water out of the underground Santa Ana River basin (aquifer). Our speaker will be Arthur Kidman, an attorney with wide knowledge of the water history and issues for the county and the state. A major source of water for many water agencies in the northern portion of the county is the Santa Ana River aquifer. The basin is managed by the Orange County Water District (OCWD). Imported northern water and from the Colorado River supplements the usage from our "native" water sources. As new water users have rapidly increased, particularly from development in the south county areas, the need for a dependable water supply has resulted.

The cost for imported water has sharply risen and also carries reliability threats. The dependability of the San Francisco delta area as a water source is of

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*Luncheon Speaker  
(contd. from p.1)*

great concern because of a myriad of structural problems. Limits on Colorado River water are increasingly conditioned on Arizona water rights and diversion agreements with many private and water agencies in the San Diego area.

In Orange County, the Santa Ana aquifer provides a lower cost, but finite, water resource shared by many local water agencies. A number of south county water agencies are now proposing to increase their usage of basin water. Included are water agencies not physically located over the basin. Their proposal includes "annexing" property in basin area cities so wells can be drilled and a pipeline to the south county be constructed.

To brief us with a "middle of the road" presentation on rising contentious annexation issues will be Arthur Kidman, an attorney and partner with the Costa Mesa based firm of McCormick, Kidman and Behrens LLP. He holds a BA from Washington State University and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School. In his 33 years of practicing law in Orange County, Art has specialized in representing public water agencies for groundwater rights and groundwater management issues. He has represented the cities of Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley and the Yorba Linda Water District in land annexation and water rights cases involving the OCWD. He has also represented clients involving the county's Local

Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

*Bob Fauteux*

**ELECTIONS cont.**

As specified in the Bylaws, a ballot will be mailed, to paid members, no later than September 15th. The members may vote for any six nominees. Multiple votes for a single candidate are not acceptable. Only one vote per candidate will be counted. The ballots must be returned so that they reach the Chairman of the Nominating Committee no later than October 1st. The six members receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Results of the election will be published in the November newsletter and the elected candidates will be installed at the General Meeting in December.

**Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee—**

**Selection Panel Report**

There were four COC positions that needed to be filled--two in District 1, one in District 4, and one in District 5. There were well over 50 applicants, but the deadline had to be extended because of the limited number from Districts 1 and 4. More than 30 applicants were interviewed over a period of seven days.

The final drawing results were:  
District 1: Charles Smith and  
Narinder Mahal  
District 4: Rose Coffin  
District 5: Richard Gann

*Joe Moreland,  
Selection Panel Chair*

**FOR YOUR SAFETY**

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house. It works whether you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around.... after a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And, remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there..... This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime. This would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. ....*Neighborhood Watch*

**MEMBERS NEWS...**

1993-94 Panelist Margot Palmgren has published a book documenting her immigration from Germany to the U.S. titled "Breaking Ties".

She is working on a second book telling her experiences of running a Bed and Breakfast for ten years.

# NOTES & MISCELLANY

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of March 31, 2007  
Orange County Credit Union  
Business Checking Balance  
\$ 8,555.93  
Certificate of Deposit  
\$ 5,224.67  
Total  
\$13,780.60  
Hiro Kranz, Treasurer

### IN MEMORIAM

Jocelyn Wickersheim  
1988-89 Panel

Ralph L. O'Neill  
1984-85 Panel

Hiroko Kranz  
1997-98 Panel  
GJAOC BOARD  
MEMBER / TREASURER

## LUNCH PRICE INCREASE

The September 6, 2007 meeting meal price will increase by \$1.00 to \$20.00. The no-reservation \$25.00 at-the-door price will remain the same.

The Phoenix Club raises its meal prices on a periodic basis. At \$20.00, GJAOC continues to subsidize part of the meal cost by absorbing the tax and service charges that are added to the regular menu cost.

We continuously review our general meeting accommodations to best serve our members including possible other locations. However, the Phoenix Club appears to remain our best meeting location. Member comments and suggestions about location, meal selection and the conduct of the general meetings are always welcomed.



## JURY MEMORABILIA

A number of albums with many pictures from the Grand Juries from 2000-01 to 2005-06 have been given to GJAOC for disposition. A clipping service Scrapbook going back to 1974 is also available for review.

These items will be available at the September meeting on the entryway side table at the Phoenix Club.

- Bob Fauteux

## What's Cookin' with California's Grand Juries?

A CGJA committee of four worked many months to produce a combination county reports/ cookbook publication. Included in this publication is a variety of summaries of grand jury reports that show the breadth of topics that are explored by grand juries throughout California. In reading the summaries a picture emerges as to the big and small problems faced throughout the counties and the part county grand juries play in bringing these problems into the light of public scrutiny.

CGJA's county reports/cookbook will be offered for sale at the September luncheon. A limited number of copies will be on hand for \$13.00 in cash or check. Please make out checks to GJAOC. If you are using cash, the exact amount of \$13.00 would be appreciated.....Rose Moreno

## **REPORTS FROM THE 2006 - 07 PANEL**

The following reports, listed in chronological order from the outgoing Grand Jury are available at: <http://www.ocgrandjury.org/reports.asp> Many of these reports have had responses which are also available at the website.

- The Mental Health Services Act In Orange County: Will It Measure Up?
- Orange County Disciplinary Procedures For Elected Officials
- The State Of Orange County Jails And Programs
- Pre & Post Emancipated Youth: Is Camelot Still A Dream?
- Assembly Bill 939 Waste Diversion: Are We Finally Making Progress?
- Orangewood Children's Home: Overstaffed And Underutilized?
- Death By Abuse: One Death Is Too Many
- Orange County's Beaches: An Environmental Scorecard
- Where Are Orange County's Foster Children?
- The Anaheim Union High School District Measure Z Capital Program: The Tip Of The Iceberg
- Orange County Department of Education
- What Is Social Services Agency Doing To Help Family Resource Centers Fulfill Their Strategic Mission?
- The Absentee Ballot Process: Does Your Vote Count?
  - Orange County Schools Disaster Plans: A Disaster Waiting to Happen?
- ICE in Orange County
- Newport Harbor Moorings: Are They Held in the Public Trust or for Private Profit?
- Orange County Rail Crossing Safety: Snapshot of Process
- An In-Custody Death Reviewed
- Orange County Zoos

### **CONGRATULATIONS to the new 2007-08 GRAND JURY PANEL MEMBERS**

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Wanda Shaffer        | 12. Irene Kennedy           |
| 2. Kent Wright          | 13. Karl Anatol             |
| 3. Amelia Arizmendez    | 14. Erick Faraldo           |
| 4. William Guidas       | 15. Ann Andres (Foreperson) |
| 5. Frederick Schwanbeck | 16. Lawrence Bertino        |
| 6. Michael Verrengia    | 17. Francis Tassin          |
| 7. Tammy Martinez       | 18. Donald Grime            |
| 8. Thomas Elder         | 19. Carol Ballesty          |
| 9. Allen Field          |                             |
| 10. Thomas Eichorn      |                             |
| 11. John Bushman        |                             |

Please forgive the Editor if this edition is not up to our usual high standard – our layout editor, Jim Burton had an emergency come up and I had to resort to the old-fashioned cut and paste technique. I guess I should have taken that Pagemaker class.

.....Ed