



September 2, 2014

The Honorable Judge Faye D'Opal  
Marin County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 4988  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Reference: Response by City of Mill Valley Mayor, Stephanie Moulton-Peters to the 2013/2014 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report Entitled, "The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems: Part I".

Dear Judge D'Opal,

As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, I offer the following response to the 2013/2014 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report Entitled, "The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems: Part I".

This letter will serve as the official response from the City of Mill Valley.

**FINDINGS:**

Finding 5: The member agencies of Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin are addressing the critical problem of spills from private laterals by working on a model ordinance with triggers that will require private laterals to be inspected and repaired at the time of sale or remodels above a certain dollar amount.

- We agree with the above finding number F5.

Finding 9: There are many costs that are duplicated among wastewater agencies, particularly with regards to management, administration, overhead and governance.

- We agree with the above finding number F9.

Finding 12: Districts are working together across the County, demonstrating an increasing level of commitment to cooperation and resource sharing. Most districts agree that there is potential for greater collaboration and cost reduction.

- We agree with the above finding number F12.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1: All districts must work to eliminate spills, through in-depth analysis and investment in infrastructure.

- The City Council agrees that all districts must work to eliminate spills, through in-depth analysis and investment in infrastructure.

Recommendation 3: All agencies adopt an ordinance that will require private laterals to be inspected routinely and repaired as necessary.

- The City of Mill Valley City Council is currently considering the Model Sewer Lateral Ordinance recently adopted by the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin to determine the best approach to integrating its provisions into the City's Municipal Code. Timeframe for completion is approximately two months.

Recommendation 4: All agencies conduct an analysis to determine the feasibility of using treated waste water for flushing pipes in routine maintenance work.

- The City has considered using treated water as a part of its routine maintenance efforts. However, there are two factors that affect the City's ability to use the water. The first is the inability to temporarily store the treated water until it can be used. The second factor is the water coming from the waste water treatment plant has a high saline content which has a detrimental effect on the equipment. The City is exploring options to address these issues.

Recommendation 5: All agencies continue to cooperate with each other and find further ways to reduce cost.

- The City of Mill Valley continues to explore cost saving opportunities with our neighboring agencies.

Yours Truly,



Stephanie Moulton-Peters  
Mayor  
City of Mill Valley