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RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

To: *Jay Hamilton-Roth, Foreperson*
2016-2017 Marin County Civic Grand Jury

Report Title: *2015-16 Web Transparency Report Card: Bringing Marin County's Local Governments to Light*

Report Date: *July 18, 2016*

Response by: *Sara Jones, Chair, MARINet*
Daniel McMahon, MARINet Systems Administrator on behalf of MARINet

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1, 3 have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered 2 is being implemented in the future.

Date: July 26, 2016

Signed: _____

Sara Jones

Number of pages attached: 3

Marin County Board of Supervisors

Response to Findings and Recommendations from Grand Jury Report
"2015-16 Web Transparency Report Card:
Bringing Marin County's Local Governments to Light – (March 10, 2016)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury recommends that:

- R1. The agency should improve its web transparency score to "B-" (or better), by updating its website and submitting the appropriate self-audit form. The form may be obtained by emailing: grandjury-audit@marincounty.org.**

Information that was found to be missing in the survey, on staffing, budgets, audits, our Joint Powers Agreement and revenue sources is now posted on our site, at http://marinet.lib.ca.us/screens/help_marinet.info, along with the agency overview, meeting agendas and minutes that have always been posted there.

To the extent that MARINet's employees are actually employees of the County of Marin, we link to the County's HR site for detailed compensation information, to avoid duplication. In every sense of HR, we are a part of the County Library, but in all administrative and financial aspects, we are an independent Joint Powers Agency functioning under the direction of our Board of Directors, who are the directors of the 9 member libraries, each of whom is an employees of a different City, County department or academic library. (Links to all of those agencies are provided.)

General contact information about our agency is posted by the County of Marin at <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/df/special-districts>.

Salary and benefit information for our positions is maintained by Marin County at <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/hr/divisions/classification-and-compensation/salary-book>. MARINet has no elected officials, as we are either employees (of the County of Marin) or Board Members.

We have no information on our site at this time on contracts, and fall generally in the same position as the Marin County Free Library, though with almost no contracts large enough to meet the County's guidelines for a bid process.

We welcome a review of our newly posted information, and suggestions on how it could be better directed at explaining the purpose and methods of our agency.

Contracts

Regarding an "incomplete" grade from the Grand Jury in the area of "Contracts", we are in the process of implementing a new Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) financial system, including enhanced and more centralized procurement guidelines and practices. We will evaluate opportunities to enhance transparency in this area after the new ERP financial system "goes-live" July 1, 2016.

All professional services contracts in excess of \$50,000 are approved by the Board of Supervisors in public meetings. Professional services contracts of \$50,000 or less are delegated to the County Administrator consistent with State law – followed

by a quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors in a public meeting with summary detail regarding contracts approved on a delegated basis.

R2. The agency should file and keep updated its Statement of Facts with the California Secretary of State and the Marin County Clerk as required by California Code §53051.

Response: We have filled out and filed the Statement of Facts for our agency with the California Secretary of State as of two weeks ago. A copy of this information has been provided to the Marin County Clerk.

R3. The agency should update its website to include information of the annual compensation of its elected officials, officers and employees; and this information should also be submitted to the Controller, as required by Sections 12463 and 53909 of the California Government Code.

Response: This recommendation has implemented to a very limited extent. MARINet has no elected officials, officers are not compensated in any way by MARINet (they are all employees of other cities, schools or the County), and all the employees of MARINet are employees of the County of Marin. Our website does enumerate the staff positions assigned to MARINet and links to the County's website for further details. The County has provided links to the State Controller's Government Compensation in California website at publicpay.ca.gov – found in two areas on the Department of Finance's public website (under "Payroll" and its "Debt and Pension" information web page).

We believe this avoids confusion and maintenance of duplicative sources regarding the same information, and County Counsel has determined that this is fully compliant with Government Code 12463 and 53908. The County had already been submitting this information to the State Controller annually.