

# NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1015 SEVENTH ST. • NOVATO, CALIFORNIA 94945 • TEL: (415) 897-4211 • FAX: (415) 897-4221

Jim Hogeboom, Superintendent

June 13, 2017

The Honorable Kelly V. Simmons  
Marin County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 4988  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Jay Hamilton-Roth, Foreperson  
Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Hamilton-Roth:

Attached please find the response requested by the 2016-2017 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report entitled "Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability" released on April 12, 2017, from the Novato Unified School District Board to Recommendation (R4) that "Each school district should investigate building teacher and staff workforce housing on their land."

We appreciate that the Grand Jury recognizes the cost of housing in Marin County is an impediment to recruiting and retaining the best-qualified staff for our schools. While Senate Bill 1413 paved the way for schools to establish and implement affordable workforce housing, research is currently underway to determine how to best approach a situation that requires land, financing and property management.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R4.** Each school district should investigate building teacher and staff workforce housing on their land.

### **Response:**

The recommendation has been implemented as a collaborative effort of all school districts in Marin.

The topic of workforce housing is a complex topic with the potential to benefit ALL districts in our county. As such, it was prudent for districts to collaborate in efforts to research and potentially implement a system.

In 2009, the Efficiency and Effectiveness Task Force (EE), composed of superintendents, school district trustees and the Marin County Office of Education, was established in an effort to identify ways in which the agencies could collaborate to be more effective and efficient in their daily operations. Over the past year, the EE has made the topic of affordable housing a priority and is researching this issue through a variety of methods including:

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- Developing an inventory of currently available property,
- Surveying staff to determine the level of interest/need,
- Reviewing unique financing options available, and
- Reviewing successful efforts elsewhere in the state.

In addition, the EE hired a consultant to develop a realistic cost estimate for providing workforce housing, including the alternatives of building on currently owned land or purchasing an existing multi-unit facility. Such possibilities exist under Senate Bill 1413 signed in 2016. The work of the EE will continue into the 2017-18 year.

Ultimately, the boards of trustees, superintendents, and the entire school community will need to engage with the issues. Local elected officials and governmental bodies (city councils, planning commissions, County government, etc.) will also need to be involved in the process.

The Novato Unified School District intends to review all of its surplus properties during the 2017-18 school year to see what might be available for potential teacher and staff workforce housing.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,



Jim Hogeboom  
Superintendent

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## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: **Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability**

Report Date: **April 6, 2017**

Response Date: **July 12, 2017**

Agency Name: Novato Unified School District Agenda Date: June 13, 2017

Response by: Jim Hogeboom Title: Superintendent

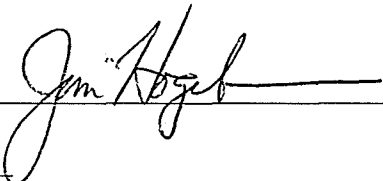
### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R4 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6/13/17 Signed: 

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