

# RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

**Report Title:** *Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability*  
**Report Date:** April 12, 2017  
**Response By:** Ross Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors  
**By:** Mary Sylla, Board President

Ross Valley Sanitary District  
Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report  
*Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability*

The Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) hereby responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations that are germane to RVSD's mission and within its jurisdiction.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

R5. Each utility district should adopt waivers for hook-up fees for low-income housing projects and accessory dwelling units.

### Response:

The Recommendation impacts two separate types of new housing units; low income housing projects and ADUs. RVSD agrees with the Recommendation as it relates to deed or otherwise legally restricted low income housing projects. RVSD's Ordinance 64, attached, currently allows for the Board to reduce wastewater utility service connection fees for deed-restricted low income or legally restricted affordable housing.

RVSD disagrees with the recommendation regarding ADUs for the following reasons. As defined in the newly passed state law, ADUs may or may not be legally restricted for low income or affordable housing. RVSD believes there are objective public policy reasons to differentiate between market rate ADUs and deed-restricted ADUs allocated for low income or affordable housing. Examples include equitable cost of service allocation and subsidizing of service between customer classes. RVSD will comply with the requirements of state laws regarding connection fees for ADUs, but does not agree that all ADUs should have all connection and capacity charges waived as recommended.

Signed:   
Mary Sylla, RVSD Board President

Date: 6/21/17