

AGENCY RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: **Consolidation of Sanitation Districts**

Report Date: **April 13, 2018**

Response Date: **July 13, 2018**

Agency Name: Almonte Sanitary District

Agenda Date: June 25, 2018

Response by: Lew Kiou

Title: President of the Board

FINDINGS

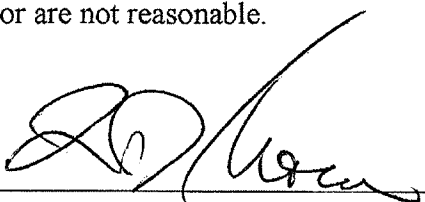
- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F2, F9
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: F6
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: F4, F5, F8

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered NA have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered NA have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered NA 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 R3 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6/25/18

Signed: 

Number of pages attached 1

EXPLANATION

The Board of Commissioners of the Almonte Sanitary District (ASD) does not agree with the assumption that a larger organization would necessarily provide better customer service or be more cost effective. On June 25, 2018, the ASD Board voted to oppose the consolidation, reflecting the wishes of their constituents as evidenced by a special vote in 2013.

The ASD Board believes that they have achieved an excellent and efficient form of collaboration. A good example is the adoption of the Model Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance in 2014. This ordinance provided a model for each of the six SASM member agencies who, in turn, all adopted a similar ordinance. As a result of this collaboration, over 800 private sewer laterals have been repaired or replaced within the SASM jurisdiction since 2014.

Routinely, the district managers of SASM's Member Agencies meet to review, discuss and coordinate common issues and to develop and execute collaborative actions leading to greater efficiency for each agency. Some examples include: 1) development of a public education and outreach brochure on fats, oil and grease (FOG), 2) collaboration on the Marin County Zero Waste program to support its implementation, 3) implementation of a Flow Monitoring Study in 2015 to evaluate the impact of the Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) on the SASM WWTP, and 4) discussions leading to the 2016 \$38 M Bond issue, providing funding for the WWTP rehabilitation and improvements to SASM pump stations and sewer lines. Additionally, the ASD Board has aggressively pursued a sewer line inspection and replacement program, as well as a homeowner lateral replacement program.

Based on the above, the ASD Board doesn't believe that there is enough evidence demonstrating that consolidation will provide better service or will be more cost-effective for the rate payers.