



Tamalpais Community Services District

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July 11, 2018

Marin County Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Attention: Ron Brown, Foreperson

Subject: Grand Jury Report: Consolidation of Sanitation Districts
Report date: April 20, 2018

In response to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the Grand Jury Report, the Tamalpais Community Services District (TCSD) was asked to respond to recommendations R3.

TCSD finds that the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. An explanation and current practices are set forth below.

R3. Recommendation: TCSD should consolidate with SASM

- TCSD is a multi-function agency, providing sewer collection, solid waste curbside collection, and parks and recreation services. Section 56036 of the California Code defines a community services district as "transitional form of governance as the community approaches Cityhood". Therefore, TCSD would be open to discussion regarding incorporating other agencies or functions into its mission, if approved by the TCSD Board. However, TCSD's full function could not be consolidated with any Sanitation-only district.
- TCSD has a positive relationship with Sewerage Agencies of Southern Marin (SASM) and TCSD appreciates SASM's JPA structure, which allows TCSD residents to have elected representation on the SASM Board. Unfortunately, a small portion of TCSD's sewer flow goes SASM, while the overwhelming majority (approximately 95%) of TCSD's flow goes to Sausalito Marin-City Sanitary District (SMCSD). TCSD's relationship with the sewer treatment works at SMCSD is only contractual, thus TCSD residents do not have elected representation on the SMCSD Board.
- SASM's staff is currently fit within the City of Mill Valley's organization, thus providing a form of consolidation with the City of Mill Valley, and the City contributes the largest share of flow to SASM.
- No specific and compelling information was contained in the report that rate payers would pay less as a result of consolidation. Larger sewer organizations may in fact be more expensive and provide less accountability to local rate payers.
- TCSD very recently replaced two critical sewer operations staff due to retirement. One of the employees had been with TCSD for 40 years and the other had been with TCSD for 35

years. In the succession planning process, TCSD reached out to several local sanitary districts to enquire about the possibility of contracting with them for sewer collection staffing. However, the other districts told us that they were not in a position to provide the service at this time.

Please contact the District should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bartschat', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steffen Bartschat
TCSD Board President