



November 18, 2020

The Honorable Judge Andrew E. Sweet
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Foreperson Lucy Dilworth
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Marin County Grand Jury Follow-Up Report Entitled *Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?*

Dear Judge Sweet and Foreperson Dilworth:

This letter is in response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report entitled *Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?* (Report) dated September 11, 2020. We appreciate the Grand Jury's recognition of this critical issue, and we remain committed to being a leader on this issue in the water sector, in Marin County.

The Grand Jury requested that the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) respond to 6 Findings and 2 Recommendations, please see our responses below:

Finding 1: *Climate change mitigation efforts by Marin governments have been notably effective in meeting their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

Response: MMWD agrees with this finding.

Finding 2: *Adaptation planning is essential to protect local public utility and transportation infrastructure as well as private property interests, and to enable Marin's citizens to maintain their current standards of living.*

Response: MMWD agrees with this finding.

Finding 3: *With the BayWAVE and C-SMART initial vulnerability assessments completed, the county is now well-positioned to focus on adaptation planning and policies related to sea level rise.*

Response: MMWD agrees with this finding.

Finding 4: *The existing adaption efforts across the county pay insufficient attention to the other potential effects of climate change, including impacts on public health, ecosystems, and social equity.*

Response: MMWD agrees with this finding.

Finding 5: *There are insufficient staff and financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation efforts across county government as well as in the cities, towns, and other agencies, and many of the existing efforts are highly dependent on grant funding.*

Response: MMWD agrees with this finding.

Finding 7: *Cross-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination will be required for successful adaptation efforts, but Marin lacks any overarching organizational or governance structure to facilitate this.*

Response: MMWD agrees with this finding. However, MMWD does not have land use responsibility or authority. Therefore, it is not well positioned to weigh-in on a county-wide organizational or governance structure.

Recommendation 1: *The board of supervisors, in collaboration with the municipalities and other agencies affected by climate change, should convene a multi-jurisdictional task force (referred to in this report as the Marin Climate Adaptation Task Force) charged with developing a single, comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional adaptation strategy for all of Marin.*

Response: MMWD is supportive of this recommendation but believes that the recommendation requires further analysis. MMWD has specific responsibilities and related activities related to climate impacts, including the growing potential for prolonged drought, the intensifying threat of wildfires, and the potential decrease of watershed health and biodiversity due to shifting patterns of rainfall and temperature.

Recommendation 4: *Each member of the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership, should declare its support for broadening the partnership's mission and increasing its funding as necessary to enable it to support overall climate change planning efforts, including both mitigation and adaptation in cities, towns, and other member agencies throughout the country.*

Response: MMWD believes that this recommendation requires further analysis as to the best approach to design and develop a county-wide effort to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ben Horenstein, *General Manager*
MMWD

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COUNSEL'S OFFICE