

SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 5 OF MARIN COUNTY

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Date: May 21, 2020

To: Lucy Dilworth, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

From: Catharine Benediktsson, Board President

Subject: **Grand Jury Report Findings Response to “Follow-Up on Web Transparency of Agency Compensation Practices”**

This letter, along with the attached “Response to Grand Jury Report Form”, represents Sanitary District No.5 of Marin County’s response to the recent Grand Jury report titled *Follow-Up on Web Transparency of Agency Compensation Practices*: dated April 28, 2020. Comments or Explanations associated with specific Findings and Recommendations are included below.

FINDINGS

F4 – Regarding compensation policies for elected officials, many public agencies do not provide the public with easy access to information regarding salary, meeting fees or stipends (including compensation for serving as liaison to other advisory committees, councils and forums), reimbursements, health and retirement benefits, and other benefits such as equipment.

WE DISAGREE WITH THIS FINDING

Under the District’s “About Us” tab you can easily access the District’s compensation policies for elected officials. (For quick reference, please see: <http://www.sani5.org/about/board/board-information>)

F5- Regarding detailed disclosure of total compensation paid, most public agencies do not break out all components of compensation paid to their elected officials, including salary, meeting fees or stipends (including compensation for serving as liaison to other advisory committees, councils and forums), reimbursements, health and retirement benefits, and other benefits such as equipment.

WE DISAGREE WITH THIS FINDING

The District Rules of Procedure are available on the District’s website. The Districts “Directors shall receive compensation in an amount not to exceed \$100.00 per day for each day’s attendance at meetings of the Board.” (For quick reference, please see: <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/MarinCSD5/#!/MarinCSD502/MarinCSD50205.html>)

RECOMENDATIONS

R5- No later than 90 days after the date of this report, in addition to any other compensation links, agencies should include a link on their board or council web pages that leads directly to their “Elected Officials” page on the publicpay.ca.gov site, conforming to the format suggested on Appendix A.

IMPLEMENTED

The District provided a link shortcut as recommended on Appendix A of the grand jury report on the District’s website (www.sani5.org) on May 15, 2020. (For quick reference, please see: <http://www.sani5.org/about/board/board-information>)

R6- No later than 120 days after the date of this report, agencies should include on their board or council web pages a comprehensive description of their policies regarding all compensation paid to elected officials specifying, at a minimum, salary, meeting fees or stipends (including compensation for serving as liaison to other advisory committees, councils and forums), reimbursements, health and retirement benefits, and other benefits such as equipment.

IMPLEMENTED

The District’s Rules of Procedure policy contains the information above and it is available on the District’s website (www.sani5.org) and has been available since December 1, 2019. (For quick reference, please see: <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/MarinCSD5/#!/MarinCSD502/MarinCSD50205.html>)

R6- No later than 120 days after the date of this report, agencies should adopt a practice to compile and publish each year an annual report detailing the compensation actually paid to their elected officials for the previous calendar year. Compensation disclosures should include, at a minimum, salary, meeting fees or stipends (including compensation for serving as liaison to other advisory committees, councils and forums), reimbursements, health and retirement benefits, and other benefits such as equipment. A link to this report should be posted on the agency’s board or council web page.

WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED, because they are not warranted or are not feasible.

The District’s Board of Directors make \$100 dollars per Board Meeting. The annual estimated cost for our Directors is budgeted in our annual budget as a single line item. The District also has monthly financial statements which track and account for actual payments to Directors throughout the course of the Fiscal Year. The District is very transparent in all of its financial obligations.