

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

**Report Title:** The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems: Part I & Part II

**Report Date:** June 10, 2014

**Response by:** Marin County Board of Supervisors

### FINDINGS

#### PART I

- We agree with the findings numbered: **F9 and F12**

#### PART II

- We agree with the finding numbered: **F2**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### PART I

- Recommendations **R1 and R5 have been implemented.**
- Recommendation **R4 has not been implemented, but will be implemented.**
- Recommendation **R3 will not be implemented.**

#### PART II

- Recommendation **R2 will not be implemented.**

## Marin County Board of Supervisors

### Response to Findings and Recommendations from Grand Jury Report The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems: Part I & Part II

#### **FINDINGS:**

**Statement regarding findings**, the County Board of Supervisors, through the Department of Public Works and County Administrator's Office provides the following information:

#### **PART I**

- F9. "There are many costs that are duplicated among wastewater agencies, particularly with regards to management, administration, overhead and governance."**

Response: Agree. Although we cannot speak to an individual agency, in general, such costs can be duplicated amongst multiple agencies. The County has maintenance agreements in order to minimize overhead with Ross Valley Sanitary District for Murray Park SMD, and with Central Marin Sanitation District (CMSA) for San Quentin SMD.

- F12. "Districts are working together across the County, demonstrating an increasing level of commitment to cooperation and resource sharing. Most districts agree that there is potential for greater collaboration and cost reduction."**

Response: Agree. The County recently entered into a maintenance agreement with Central Marin Sanitation District.

#### **PART II**

- F2. "Bollinas Public Utility District, Mill Valley, Murray Park Sewer Maintenance District, San Quentin Sewer Maintenance District, Tamalpais Community Services District and Tomales Village Community Services District do not have financial reserve policies."**

Response: Agree. While we cannot speak to the non-County governed districts, the two County sewer maintenance districts have reserves, have capital improvement plans and are prudently managed, but do not have a reserve policy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2013-2014 Marin County Civil Grand Jury recommends that:

### PART I

- R1. “All districts must work to eliminate spills, through in-depth analysis and investment in infrastructure.”**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Both Murray Park SMD and San Quentin SMD have had major investments in infrastructure in recent years to prevent spills. Murray Park, through our maintenance agreement with RVSD, recently completed a program of pipe repairs based on an ongoing CCTV program. San Quentin SMD pipelines were also videoed in the past year and pipeline repairs were made. The San Quentin SMD system's only pump station recently underwent an improvement program that included new pumps, guide rail systems, and valve boxes. An upgrade for the emergency generator for this station is being planned for this year.

- R3. “All agencies adopt an ordinance that will require private laterals to be inspected routinely and repaired as necessary.”**

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted at this time. In June this year the Local Agency Formation Commission adopted a final study schedule for 2013-2017. For calendar year 2015, the study includes plans to examine financial and governance consideration in North Central Marin including needs/issues relating to wastewater services for San Quentin SMD and Murray Park SMD. At this time we would like to see the results of the LAFCO study before pursuing a lateral policy for the County's two small sewer maintenance districts.

- R4. “All agencies conduct an analysis to determine the feasibility of using treated waste water for flushing pipes in routine maintenance work.”**

Response: The recommendation will be implemented once the treated waste water supply becomes readily available. CMSA, which maintains the San Quentin SMD system, will supply the recycle water once it is

certified and authorized for this use. RVSD is planning a test program and would implement for Murray Park SMD as well.

**R5. “All agencies continue to cooperate with each other and find further ways to reduce costs.”**

Response: This recommendation has been implemented for Murray Park and San Quentin Sewer Maintenance Districts. In 2012 an O&M agreement was established with Central Marin Sanitation Agency to provide daily monitoring of the pump station and weekly site inspections as well as emergency response. The Ross Valley Sanitation District provides O&M services for Murray Park SMD.

**PART II**

**R2. “Bollinas Public Utility District, Mill Valley, Murray Park Sewer Maintenance District, San Quentin Sewer Maintenance District, Tamalpais Community Services District and Tomales Village Community Services District develop financial reserve policies.”**

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted at this time. While we cannot speak to the non-County governed districts, the two County sewer maintenance districts have reserves, capital improvement plans and are prudently managed, but do not have a reserve policy.