

Santa Rosa City School District Response to 2009-10 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report

ITEM #	GRAND JURY FINDING	DISTRICT RESPONSE
F-1	<p>Since being notified of the possible CEQA violation the SRSD has adopted a policy that includes mandatory neighborhood outreach and compliance with CEQA for all construction projects at their schools.</p> <p>a. While the SRSD has a general protocol in place for Community Relations, it does not fully address community notification avenues or the means for community response or input. SRSD <i>is</i> in the process of modifying Board Policy 1100 - Community Relations, to include a Comprehensive Communications Plan for establishing community outreach priorities.</p>	<p>The District agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.</p>
F-2 (a)	<p>a. The SRSD and SRALL jointly installed chip seal on the access road and dirt parking areas, but this proved to be inadequate. As many as 100 cars per hour use the access road during scheduled games, contributing greatly to the high dust levels.</p>	<p>(a)The District agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.</p>
F-2 (b)	<p>b. The SRSD has put out for bid a paving plan for the access road and parking area. The SRSD's Director of Maintenance and Operations is working with the complainant on the paving plan, primarily the location of speed bumps and fence line setbacks. The plan calls for widening the buffer zone between neighbor's fences and the road, 68 parking spaces, and will include a series of the newest type of speed bump. As this project is for improving an existing feature it is exempt from CEQA or local permitting.</p>	<p>(b)The paving project at Monroe was completed on June 16, 2010. It included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of a 310' asphalt berm along the southern fence line • Grading work to correct drainage problems • Striping for 68 parking spaces • Removal of one speed bump and, at the request of a neighbor, relocation of the other speed bump.

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F-2 (c)	c. SRALL installed a gate at the entrance to the access road, which they lock each day upon completion of activities. Since installation of the gate the S.R.P.D. has seen a substantial drop in the number of complaints.	(c) The District agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.
F-2 (d)	d. The SRALL now requires parents to sign, and adhere to, a Parking Lot Agreement designed to control hours of use, speed, parking along the fence line and noise. It includes being courteous to and respectful of neighbors and their property. Enforcement of this agreement is the responsibility of the SRALL.	(d) The District agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.
F-5	The License Agreement for Land Use between the SRSD and SRALL for 2010 has addressed many of the concerns of both the complainant and neighbors. The term of the Agreement is now set at one calendar year and the SRSD will hold an open public hearing prior to renewal of the Agreement for 2011. It sets forth SRALL responsibilities, including use of the public address system, parking, respecting the privacy and property of neighbors, traffic control, refraining from honking horns and using car alarms, and the installation of access barriers to keep vehicles a reasonable distance from neighbors property. Hours of use are specified during the Agreement period as from 4:30 p.m. until dark on weekdays and 8:30 a.m. until dark on weekends and holidays. It does not address penalties for failure to comply with or violation of the SRALL's Responsibilities and Duties.	The District agrees with the Grand Jury's finding, but notes that while specific penalties are not included, the agreement does contain the clause that "The District shall diligently oversee the League's use of property for compliance with the provisions of this agreement. Should the use of the property by League be declared a public nuisance by the Board of Education the right of the League to use District property may be suspended or revoked."

ITEM #	GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION	DISTRICT RESPONSE
R-1 (a)	a. That all future Use Agreements between the SRSD and SRALL include penalties or recourse in the event the SRALL does not fully comply with each of the provisions contained in Section I. A. "League's Responsibilities and Duties." Specific penalties or fines, up to suspension of use for repeated violations of the same provision, should be adopted based on the type and severity of violation.	The Board will consider this recommendation when the proposed 2011 agreement is presented.

R-1 (b)	b. Amend the License Agreement for Land Use for the period January 30, 2010 through November 7, 2010 to include the penalties or fines for noncompliance, and revising Section II. Property and Equipment, D. changing the first sentence to read: "LEAGUE will be permitted use of the property on weekdays from 4:30 p.m. until dark, Saturdays/Holidays from 8:30 a.m. until dark, Sundays from 12:00 noon until dark, with no inning starting after 7:30 p.m. on any day, with the exception of the following days (Back to School Night, Open House, Memorial Day, Mothers Day, and Fathers Day) during the term of the Use Agreement.	The current language reads: LEAGUE will be permitted use of the property on weekdays from 4:30 p.m. until dark and weekends/holidays from 8:30 a.m. until dark with the exception of the following days (Back to School Night, Open House, Memorial Day, Mothers Day, and Fathers Day) from January 30, 2010 through November 7, 2010. The Board will consider this recommendation when the proposed 2011 agreement is presented.
R-1 (c)	c. No later than 60 days prior to the SRSD's Board of Education Meeting to renew the SRALL's Use Agreement the SRSD should schedule and invite all neighbors adjacent to Monroe School and SRALL officials to an open meeting to discuss possible Agreement changes as well as being a forum designed to improve all aspects of the SRALL's Monroe School activities. The meeting notification and agenda should include procedures for filing complaints alleging violations of the Agreement.	Past renewals have involved extensive communication with neighbors and League officials, including public comment opportunities. This practice will continue for future renewals.
R-2	The SRSD and SRALL jointly investigate, to reduce SRALL activity at Monroe School, the availability of other playing fields. In addition to fields at other SRSD schools, Santa Rosa Recreation, Parks and Community Services should be contacted about availability of A Place to Play or their other ball parks. The former playing field at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds should be among the other venues considered.	The Board will require a report on such options as part of the 2011 renewal process, with the understanding that Biella Elementary School, Doyle Park Elementary School, Steele Lane Elementary School, Santa Rosa Middle School and Montgomery High School are already frequently used by SRALL.
R-3	That the Director of Maintenance and Operations coordinate with Monroe's neighbors and institute a preventative maintenance program designed to control weeds, landscaping, irrigation and drainage adjacent to their property.	The Board will ask the Business Services' division for a feasibility report on establishing such a program, including cost considerations.

<p>R-4</p>	<p>That the SRSD and SRALL each month during the term of the agreement jointly measure and record the crowd noise level to ensure it falls within the City of Santa Rosa's ambient noise level criteria. In the event there are concerns over excessive noise or vehicle related activities, SRSD and SRALL should jointly review the camera system's audio and visual for the period of the concerns. It will be the SRALL's responsibility to take necessary corrective action if the concern was the result of SRALL related actions.</p>	<p>The Board will ask the Business Services' division for a feasibility report on establishing such a program, including cost considerations.</p>
<p>R-5</p>	<p>Although the Agreement for 2010 specifies when the public address system may be operated, the SRSD and SRALL shall ensure that the speakers are located and directed in such a manner as to minimize the noise levels reaching the neighbors adjacent to the playing fields.</p>	<p>The Board will ask the Business Services' division to review the speaker situation to ensure that sound noise is minimized.</p>
<p>R-6</p>	<p>The amendments to SRSD Board Policy 1100 Community Relations include specific protocols for public notification. These protocols should also be included in Board Policy relating to their Comprehensive Communications Plan. The specific media to be used, dependent upon the notification's purpose, must be identified. Each notification shall contain pertinent District contact information relative to the purpose of said notification, along with specific protocols for the filing of complaints or providing feedback.</p>	<p>The Board will consider these recommendations when the proposed Comprehensive Communication Plan is presented.</p>
<p>R-7</p>	<p>That SRSD develop a Board Policy specifying protocols to ensure that all SRSD construction related projects are in full compliance with applicable portions of Local Zoning Regulations, the California Government Code, California Civil Code, California Code & Regulations, California Education Code and the California Public Resources Code (CEQA). The protocol, in addition to ensuring compliance, should address procedures for both coordination with the Santa Rosa Community Development Department and community notification when requested.</p>	<p>The Board will consider this recommendation, with the understanding that school construction projects are governed by state law.</p>