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Approved:   
Superior Court Judge  
DEC 18 2012  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

November 21, 2012

The Honorable Rene Auguste Chouteau  
Presiding Superior Court Judge  
Foreperson Steve Larsen  
Sonoma County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 5109  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Re: The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District – Under the  
Microscope

2011/12 Grand Jury Report Date: June 27, 2012: Second Response

Dear Judge Chouteau & Foreperson Larsen:

The District sent a letter to you dated August 14, 2012, in which the District Manager (Manager) and Board of Trustees (Board) separately provided responses to the above named Grand Jury report.

In this letter, the Manager advised the Grand Jury that further study was required of Recommendation R3: "Expand the Educational Staff."

The Manager and staff examined the feasibility of various options for increasing the scope of its education and outreach programs. An analysis of the alternatives proposed by staff was presented to the Board at its regular, noticed public meeting on November 14, 2012.

As this meeting the Board directed the Manager to exercise two of the options, which are described below.

Firstly, the Board recognized the substantially increased outreach and education efforts that the District staff has made, particularly in the field of tick-borne disease awareness and prevention since the Grand Jury conducted its investigation of the District's activities. This increased level of effort will continue, and include new signage at Regional Parks, a new information packet for leaders of school and adult field trips, and enhanced school curricula. The District's newly updated web site offers much more information on these topics than the original site and also contains links to other resources and agencies. Displays and brochures have been enhanced and additional outreach is provided during the District's participation in fairs, festivals and other public events.

Further, as stated in the District's original response to the Grand Jury, very few mosquito & vector control districts employ a full-time education specialist and/or achieve the widespread level of education and outreach accomplished by this district.

Secondly, the Board directed the Manager to draft a three-year cooperative agreement with Sonoma County Regional Parks to increase education regarding vector issues. This contract will provide educational exhibits and staff interpretation at the Environmental Education Center, tick borne disease avoidance advice on hikes led by Parks staff, and other services. Parks staff anticipates a visitorship of approximately 20,000 children at the Environmental Education Center and another 16,800 would be reached on the hikes and other activities.

With respect to adding staff, the Manager presented an analysis of the likely costs of adding a full-time or part-time staff member. The Board agreed with the staff recommendation that the District's present income and expenditure forecasts do not support the anticipated financial, structural and administrative costs of adding a staff member.

Therefore the District will implement Recommendation R3 by the means described above, but does not plan to add staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Philip D. Smith  
District Manager