

COUNTY OF SONOMA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Court Judge  
Superior Court Judge

OCT 2 1 2013

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

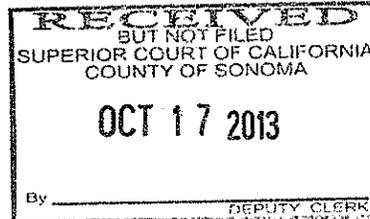
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September 17, 2013

The Honorable Rene Chouteau, Presiding Judge  
Sonoma County Superior Court  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

RE: Response to 2012-2013 Sonoma County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Chouteau:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Report. Attached are the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors' responses to reports titled:

- 1) Fluoridation; Where do you Stand?
- 2) PRMD: Is Change Permitted?
- 3) Weathering a Disaster

Sincerely,

David Rabbitt  
Chair and District 2 Supervisor

Attachments: Responses

cc: Members, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
Veronica Ferguson, Sonoma County Administrator  
Bruce Goldstein, County Counsel  
William Rousseau, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor  
Rita Scardaci, Director of Health Services  
DeWayne Starnes, Acting Director PRMD  
Mark Aston, Director Fire and Emergency Services

**FILED**

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY \_\_\_\_\_ DEPUTY CLERK

## **Board of Supervisors Response to “Fluoridation: Where do you Stand” Grand Jury Report**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS (R1-R3)**

**Recommendation R-1:** *The Board of Supervisors advise and inform all residents by multiple methods, e.g. utility bill inserts, bilingual notices through printed or social media, and radio, of its meetings, hearings, discussions, presentations, and votes relating to fluoridation.*

**Board of Supervisors’ Response: This recommendation has been implemented.**

The Board of Supervisors uses multiple technologies to communicate its meetings, hearings, discussions, presentations and votes. Additionally, the County through the Department of Health Services will continue to consider additional avenues to communicate about future public meetings, including utility bill inserts where appropriate, bilingual notices and social media which the Board wholly supports.

**Recommendation R-2:** *With respect to fluoridation, the Board of Supervisors make impartial decisions based on the best evidence available, allowing for both pro and con views to be heard.*

**Board of Supervisors’ Response: This recommendation has been implemented.**

The Board of Supervisors has to date on all items relating to fluoridation made impartial decisions using the best evidence available and has allowed for all viewpoints to be heard and will continue to do so in the future.

**Recommendation R-3:** *The Board of Supervisors communicate to the public how fluoridation would be funded prior to a final vote.*

**Board of Supervisors’ Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented when cost information has been evaluated and presented and options for funding have been vetted.**

The Board of Supervisors has every intention to communicate to the public how fluoridation will be funded prior to Board of Supervisors approval. In February 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with MWH Americas, Inc. to develop a Preliminary Engineering Design Report for fluoridation of Sonoma County Water Agency’s drinking water. This report will include cost estimates to implement a fluoridation system for Sonoma County Water Agency’s drinking water.

As presented to the Board on February 26, 2013, the Department of Health Services plans to return to the Board by March 2014 with a financial analysis and recommended next steps. This financial analysis will include analysis of funding options based on the cost data derived through the Engineering Design Report.

## Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Response To “PRMD: Is Change Permitted” Grand Jury Report

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Recommendation R-3:** *The Board of Supervisors and the PRMD Director support and advertise the Ombudsman role in assisting clients.*

**Board of Supervisors’ Response:** **The recommendation has been implemented.**

The Board of Supervisors frequently directs customers to the services of the Customer Service Ombudsman and has supported the addition and continuance of the position through the PRMD budget. PRMD also has and continues to promote the position to customers and the general public through press releases, distributed email campaigns, online via the PRMD website and other presentations to the public and interested parties.

**Recommendation R-4:** *The Board of Supervisors take the opportunity to hire a Director committed to making the culture of PRMD consistent with its mission to provide customer-focused services.*

**Board of Supervisors’ Response:** **This recommendation has been implemented.**

The Board supports customer-focused services and the Director in position at the time the report was released carried that mission forward. With the announced retirement of the Director, a nation-wide recruitment was conducted to find a successful replacement to fill this important position. The recruitment advertisement period has concluded and interviews will be held by the end of August 2013 with a new Director hired thereafter. Customer service has continued to be a focus throughout the recruitment and hiring process.

## **Board of Supervisors Response to “Weathering A Disaster” Grand Jury Report**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1. The Board of Supervisors provide a continuing protected source of revenue to improve and maintain the deteriorating County Road System.**

**Response: Recommendation has been implemented.**

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2001-2002, annually the Board of Supervisors has allocated an average of \$7.4 million in ongoing General Fund Revenues. The lowest allocation during that time period was in FY 2011-2012, when the General Fund contribution was reduced to \$5.3 million, as a result of extreme countywide budget reductions. In both FY 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 the Board allocated \$7.5 million in ongoing General Fund support, as well as contributing an additional \$8 million from other one-time sources to provide road maintenance and pavement preservation activities, and improve safety and pavement quality in the unincorporated County.

- R2. The Fire and Emergency Services Department monitor the progress of the Telephone Emergency Notification System and devote resources to inform the public of the activation and benefit of the system.**

**Response: Recommendation has been implemented.**

With the support of the Board of Supervisors, the Fire & Emergency Services Department, Sheriff's Office and Information Systems Department is working to install, test and implement a more robust and capable Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS). The Board recently approved a cost sharing and usage agreement with the City of Santa Rosa that allowed for a 33% increase in the TENS dialing capacity. Department staff monitor the system and dedicate a portion of their time to inform the public about the system.

- R3. The Fire and Emergency Services Department work with the Board of Supervisors to create and continually fund a position dedicated to outreach education and disaster preparation of residents.**

**Response: Recommendation has been implemented.**

The Board of Supervisors believes that the Fire and Emergency Services Department has sufficient staff to respond to requests for public outreach and education on disaster preparedness. There are three staff members who have outreach included in their job duties and the responsibilities are shared among the staff.

**R4. The Department of Health Services update the “Pocket Guide to Emergency Preparedness” and continue to maintain it with current information.**

**Response: The recommendation has been implemented.**

The paper version of the “Pocket Guide to Emergency Preparedness” is updated periodically with current information, as additional copies are printed. The Board of Supervisors encourages those who are not familiar with this useful guide to request a copy by calling 707-565-1152 or print an updated version from the Health Services website [http://www.sonoma-county.org/health/topics/pdf/ep\\_guide.pdf](http://www.sonoma-county.org/health/topics/pdf/ep_guide.pdf)

**R5. The Fire and Emergency Services Department develop a program to distribute the “Pocket Guide to Emergency Preparedness,” particularly to rural residents.**

**Response: Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.**

The Guide is widely available to the public as it is available at County offices, through the rural fire districts and volunteer fire companies, and on line. Also, Health Services and Fire and Emergency Services departments have made available the pocket guide by request to any individuals, community groups or organizations that wish to use or distribute them, regardless of their location within the County.