Board of Supervisors Response to “Your County Wants You” Grand Jury Report

FINDINGS

F3. The County provides limited recognition of the work done by the boards, commissions, committees, and task forces, and their members.

The Board agrees with this finding.

F1. Sonoma County’s online information on each board, commission, committee, and task force does not fully explain the qualifications necessary for appointment.

The Board disagrees partially with this finding. For the Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces that are managed by Sonoma County departments, the information that explains the qualifications necessary does appear on the website. Sonoma County provides information for many Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces that are not managed by County staff, and the information provided on the website is provided by the agency that manages each entity.

F2. The decentralized nature of individual Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces precludes a uniform evaluation of their work.

The Board disagrees with this finding. For the Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces that are managed by Sonoma County departments, the County can establish a process for annual reporting, providing an opportunity for a uniform evaluation of their work. Sonoma County provides information for many Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces that are not managed by County staff, and the County is not responsible for evaluating the work of these entities.

F4. Sonoma County’s outreach efforts to encourage participation on the Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces are insufficient.

The Board disagrees with this finding. For the Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces that are managed by Sonoma County departments, outreach efforts include not only the use of the website, but other outreach efforts based targeted to groups with an interest in the specific topic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R2. The Board of Supervisors direct that each board, commission, committee and task force post, on its website, an annual one-page report about its activities and accomplishments that will provide accountability and transparency.

Response: Recommendation R2 has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The Board of Supervisors will consider adopting a policy to implement this recommendation for the Boards and Commissions that are under County oversight. The Board will direct staff to contact
outside agencies who manage the other Boards to request annual reports by December 31, 2014. Staff will prepare an annual report of all submitted updates.

R3. The Board of Supervisors adopt a program to recognize the boards, commissions, committees and task forces and their members, to solicit greater public interest and participation

Response: Recommendation R3 has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The Board of Supervisors will direct staff to develop and bring back for approval a policy relating to recognition no later than December 31, 2014.