August 18, 2019

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Sonoma County Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, California 95403


Dear Honorable Judge Nadler:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above stated Civil Grand Jury Report.

The following is the Department of Health Services’ response to the Report titled “Managing Public Properties in Sonoma County – Uncoordinated Decisions and Neglect”.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 707-565-4777.

Sincerely,

Barbie Robinson, MPP, JD, CHC
Director
Department of Health Services
707.565.4777
barbie.robinson@sonoma-county.org

cc: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Sheryl Bratton, Sonoma County Administrator
Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Roland Chestnut, Grand Jury Foreperson
Report Title: Managing Public Properties in Sonoma County-Uncoordinated Decisions and Neglect

Report Date: June 19, 2019

Response By: Barbie Robinson Title: Health Service Director

Agency: Sonoma County Department of Health Services

FINDINGS

F10. Public and employee safety are adversely affected by deteriorating building conditions brought about by deferred maintenance.

The Department of Health Services defers response to the General Services Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R5. The Director of Health Services reduce employee and public exposure to hazards, minimize risks of OSHA and liability exposure by enforcing a higher level of maintenance by December 31, 2019. [F10]

Response: Recommendation R5 has not been implemented and will not be implemented.

However, the Department of Health Services takes the health, welfare, and safety of its employees seriously. We currently provide training and resources to ensure that staff are well prepared to understand how to ensure safety in the work place. With respect to the systemic issues related to the maintenance of work facilities for health staff, the Department does not have the authority nor is it responsible for the maintenance of these facilities cited in the Grand Jury report.

Notwithstanding, the Department of Health Services has taken measures to improve the work conditions of its administration and behavioral health employees by moving to safe and appropriate facilities. The Department, in partnership with the General Services Department, is making improvements to its public health facilities.