



August 18, 2019

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

READ AND CONSIDERED  
DATE 8/21/19 BY [Signature]

RE: Response to the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury 2018-2019 Final Report

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,

Handwritten signature of Barbie L. Robinson in cursive.

Barbie Robinson, MPP, JD, CHC  
Director  
Department of Health Services  
707.565.4777  
[barbie.robinson@sonoma-county.org](mailto: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  
<http://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/sites/all/assets/pdfs/general-info/grand-jury/2018-2019/MPPiSCReport.pdf>

**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.