

Response to Grand Jury Report

Approved: *Walter Ballinger*
Superior Court Judge
Date: 7.27.16

Report Title: Special District Report
Report Date: 2015-2016
Response by: William F. Rousseau Title: Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Department Name: Clerk-Recorder-Assessor

FILED
AUG - 1 2016
Clerk of Superior Court of California,
County of Sonoma
By *DB*
Deputy Clerk

FINDINGS:

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F4 See Attachment**

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the finds that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendations numbered: _____ have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: **R1 See Attachment**

Have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. (Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: _____ require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.)

Recommendations numbered: _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 7/25/2016 Signed: *William F. Rousseau*

Number of pages attached: 2

SONOMA COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-ASSESSOR
RESPONSE TO THE 2015-2016 GRAND JURY REPORT

Special Districts

Pages 32 – 35

FINDINGS

F4. The Sonoma County Clerk's Office does not maintain a formal Roster of Public Agencies, listing special districts within the County, as required by Government Code Section 53051.

Response: The respondent disagree wholly or partially with the findings.

Per Government Code 53051, the County Clerk does maintain the roster of public agencies. The index for the Statement of Facts / Roster of Public Agencies filed from 6/1995 to the present is searchable online. The index of Statement of Facts / Roster of Public Agencies filed from 1963 to 2000 is available on microfilm in the County Clerk's Office. The images of filings from 2002 to present are available on computer kiosks in the Clerk and Recorder Offices. The images of filings from 1963 to 2000 are available on microfilm. Copies of all filed Roster forms from 1963 to the present are available at the County Clerk's Office.

The rosters are filed by public agencies, including "public authority, public agency, and any other political subdivision or public corporation in the state, but does not include the state or a county, city and county, or city" (GC 53050), not just for special districts. The statements are filed by the agency within seventy (70) days of commencement of legal existence, and within 10 days of any changes. The form for the Statement of Facts / Roster of Public Agency is provided by the California Secretary of State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer- Tax Collector, LAFCO and the Sonoma County's Clerk- Recorder-Assessor cooperate to create and publish a listing of Sonoma County special districts on the County website. The list should include existing websites, names and terms of office of board members and special district contact information.

Response: This recommendation has partially been implemented.

The County Clerk does not have the information via the filed Statement of Facts / Roster of Public Agencies form to determine the legal status of a public agency, including if the agency is considered a special district. To make the County Clerk's index for the Roster of Public Agencies easier to locate, a special search tab specific to Roster of Public Agency filings was added to the County Clerk-Recorder online index search website. The County Clerk-Recorder is currently upgrading their division website, and a page specific to the Roster of Public Agencies with a link to the online index was added. The Clerk Recorder Assessor's Office will work with the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector and LAFCO to determine if this recommendation is feasible to implement.