

**ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT**

P.O. BOX 163, MILL VALLEY, CA 94942; PHONE: (415) 388-3696

**DIRECTORS**

Janis Bosenko, President  
Tania Kennedy, Secretary Treasurer  
Roger Gainer  
Todd Gates  
Marc Nash

**DISTRICT MANAGER**

Bill Hansell

27 June 2018

Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
Attn: Hon. Judge Paul Haake  
3501 Civic Center Dr, Rm 275  
San Rafael CA 94903

Re: Grand Jury Report - Consolidation of Sanitation Districts

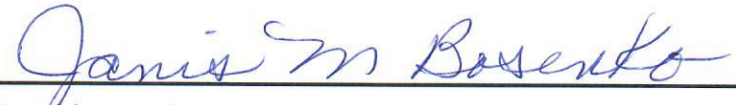
**FINDINGS**

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: NA
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: NA
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: NA

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommendations numbered NA have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered NA have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered NA require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered R3 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Please see the attached Explanation.)

Date: 27 June 2018      Signed:   
President Janis Bosenko, Alto Sanitary District Board of Directors

Number of pages attached 1

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## **EXPLANATION**

The Board of Directors of the Alto Sanitary District does not agree with the assumption that a larger organization would necessarily provide better customer service or be more cost effective. At the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin (SASM) board meeting on May 17, 2018, Alto joined the other agencies in voting unanimous opposition to the consolidation, reflecting the wishes of their constituents as evidenced by a special vote in 2013.

The Alto Board believes that the associated SASM agencies have already achieved an excellent and efficient form of collaboration. A good example is the adoption of the Model Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance in 2014. This ordinance provided a model for each of the six SASM member agencies who, in turn, all adopted a similar ordinance. As a result of this collaboration, over 800 private sewer laterals have been repaired or replaced within the SASM jurisdiction since 2014.

Routinely, the district managers of SASM's Member Agencies meet to review, discuss and coordinate common issues and to develop and execute collaborative actions leading to greater efficiency for each agency. Some examples include: 1) development of a public education and outreach brochure on fats, oil and grease (FOG), 2) collaboration on the Marin County Zero Waste program to support its implementation, 3) implementation of a Flow Monitoring Study in 2015 to evaluate the impact of the Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) on the SASM WWTP, and 4) discussions leading to the 2016 \$38M Bond issue, providing funding for the WWTP rehabilitation and improvements to SASM pump stations and sewer lines. Additionally, the SASM Board directed staff to develop and present for adoption in 2018 the Sewer Design and Construction Standards for SASM and its member agencies.

As one of the smallest SASM agencies, Alto operates with only one part-time manager and no other staff nor offices. Thus, it has no employee benefits, retirement burdens, or real-estate costs. For fiscal year 2018-19, only 18.8% of revenue will be used for operations while 30% will go directly to SASM for treatment plant costs and the remaining 51.2% will be used for necessary capital improvement projects.

Based on the above, the Alto Sanitary District Board does not believe there is enough evidence demonstrating that consolidation into a single sanitary agency would provide better service or would be more cost-effective for the rate payers.