



**Marin Chapter
California Civil Grand Jurors' Association**

December 17, 2014

Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin
Attention: Mr. M. Grushayev
Corte Madera Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dear Mr. Grushayev,

Re: The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems, Part I, June 16, 2014

We are writing to you as members of the Implementation Review Committee of the Marin Chapter of the California Civil Grand Jurors' Association. Our Association's goals are to support the civil grand jury system and promote local government accountability. Our Chapter is composed of former Marin County Civil Grand Jurors. One of the tasks of the Implementation Review Committee is to follow-up on responses to prior Grand Jury recommendations to ascertain the status of their implementation.

Specifically, we are following up on recommendation responses presented in your August 27, 2014 letter concerning the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's June 16, 2014 report, titled "**The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems, Part I**". As six months has now passed since the report was published, we would like to know the status of the action detailed in your response to Recommendation R4 as stated below.

Recommendation R4: All agencies conduct an analysis to determine the feasibility of using treated wastewater for flushing pipes in routine maintenance work.

Response: *SASM has recently partnered with MMWD, Carollo Engineers and the State water Resource control board to produce a Recycled Water Feasibility Study. The use of treated water for flushing pipes was included in the study.*

I will call in the first week of January to answer any questions that you may have. Please send your reply by January 15, 2015, electronically, to the undersigned, Helene Marsh, at marsh.helene@gmail.com. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Helene Marsh
Member, Implementation Review Committee
Director, Marin Chapter of the California Grand Jurors' Association
Tel: 415-789-5454
marsh.helene@gmail.com

January 12, 2015

Ms. Helene Marsh
Member, Implementation Review Committee
Director, Marin Chapter of the California Grand Jurors' Association
marsh.helene@gmail.com

Re: The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems, Part I, June 16, 2014

Dear Ms. Marsh,

This letter is in response to your inquiry dated December 17, 2014. You requested information on the status of the action detailed in our response to Recommendation R4 of "The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems, Part I".

The SASM/MMWD Recycled Water Feasibility Study (Carollo, October 2014) recommended a project that includes a truck filling station that could be used by local cities/agencies to flush sewers with recycled water instead of using potable water. The Feasibility Study was accepted and approved by the SASM Board on November 20, 2014. Also at that Board meeting, SASM staff was given approval to move forward in beginning discussions with MMWD on project implementation, including cost sharing and timing for implementation. We expect these discussions to take approximately 6-12 months.

Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions or need for clarification. I can be reached at:

SASM Office: (415) 388-2402
Email: mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org

Sincerely,



Mark Grushayev
Wastewater Treatment Manager/SASM

Cc: SASM Board of Directors
Jill Barnes, Director Dept. of Public Works, City of Mill Valley

From: Mark Grushayev mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org 
Subject: RE: Follow up to the Grand Jury report "The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems Part I, June 16, 2014
Date: August 26, 2015 at 8:00 AM
To: Helene Marsh marsh.helene@gmail.com

MG

Hi Helene,

You asked some very good questions. I do believe, that there is always an opportunity for all agencies in the County to work together. In fact, we have a group meeting every month where the managers of county's sanitary agencies that have treatment plants exchange information and collaborate. We are aware of the efforts that CMSA is making towards advancing their reclaimed water projects.

I believe that I need to clarify that SASM already reclaims about 7M gallon of water per year for irrigation for many years now. This 7M gallons a year and it is not enough to satisfy the demand. At this point, adding the fill station will not increase the production capacity. I'll also add that the City of Mill Valley is evaluating this option anyway to make sure that the citizens' needs are addressed during this difficult drought period.

To evaluate a potential to increase the wastewater reclamation SASM and MMWD co-sponsored the Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study that we reported about to the Grand Jury last year. This project will require a funding mechanism that is currently under evaluation by MMWD.

In summary:

- SASM already reclaims a portion of its effluent;
- The 2014 RW Feasibility Study identified a potential for additional project to replace the existing reclamation facilities with a larger one at the cost estimated at about \$3M;
- MMWD is evaluating its CIP plans for a possibility of incorporating this project, but it is not a high priority at this point due to the cost/benefit considerations;
- City of Mill Valley owns the reclamation facilities at SASM's plant and is evaluating an option of diverting part of the reclaimed water effluent for the fill station;
- Construction of the fill station will require engineering report and a different permit with MMWD but it will not increase the volume of the reclaimed water currently produced;

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mark

Mark Grushayev
WWT Manager
Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin/
City of Mill Valley
Office (415) 388-2402
Fax (415) 381-8128
mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Helene Marsh [mailto:marsh.helene@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 2:40 PM
To: Mark Grushayev
Subject: Re: Follow up to the Grand Jury report "The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems Part I, June 16, 2014

Hello Mark-

I'm not quite sure how MMWD is working in terms of its cooperation with you and CMSA on the same topic of use of recycled wastewater, but I have recently heard that SWRCB approved the MMWD/CMSA fill station design and CMSA delivering recycled water for off-site uses. Are you working with MMWD on a truck fill station design/report? Is there some way that you could leverage the progress that CMSA has made? Is this a case where agencies could work more closely together?

Sincerely,
Helene

On Aug 20, 2015, at 4:05 PM, Mark Grushayev <mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org> wrote:

Hi Helene,

We still are in exploration stage. Actually, the leading agency on this project in MMWD. SASM was leading the study but the project recommended by this study is way outside of SASM's core business and funding potential. We had an informal inquiry with MMWD recently. Apparently they are working on a comprehensive CIP and, as I understand, this small project is not on a high priority level yet.

Let's stay in touch and I'll let you know if there are any updates.

Also, please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Also, please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mark

Mark Grushayev
WWT Manager
Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin/
City of Mill Valley
Office (415) 388-2402
Fax (415) 381-8128
mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Helene Marsh [mailto:marsh.helene@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Mark Grushayev
Subject: Re: Follow up to the Grand Jury report "The Scoop on Marin
County Sewer Systems Part I, June 16, 2014

Hello Mark,

I'm following up on our email communications below to find out if there has been any progress with the recycled water facility, both in terms of State approval and potential funding.

Thank you in advance for any information that you can share.

Sincerely,

Helene Marsh

Chair, Implementation Review Committee Director, Marin Chapter of the
California Civil Grand Jurors' Association

On May 7, 2015, at 8:33 PM, Mark Grushayev <mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Marsh,

I agree that it is very desirable to get this project moving forward , especially during the drought conditions that our State is in currently experiencing. It is very challenging to find \$3M for design and construction of this facility. SASM is working with MMWD to find an adequate funding source for this project.

We are planning to apply for Prop 1 grant funding as soon it will be released in July of this year.

On a subject of SASM and Mill Valley relations: while the City is a contract operator of the Agency, the business affairs are totally separate as well as budgeting and the information that you are referencing is specific to the City's CIP.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
mark

Mark Grushayev
WWT Manager
Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin/
City of Mill Valley
Office (415) 388-2402
Fax (415) 381-8128
mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Helene Marsh [mailto:marsh.helene@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 4:10 PM
To: Mark Grushayev
Subject: Re: Follow up to the Grand Jury report "The Scoop on Marin
County Sewer Systems Part I, June 16, 2014

Dear Mr. Grushayev,

I'm circling back to ask if there has been any progress with the recycled water feasibility study - in this time of drought it would be nice to see recycled water being used for pipe flushing.

On a different, but related note, I wanted to make sure that I have understood the structure of SASM in relation to Mill Valley. Could you please confirm that SASM is not involved in the capital improvement plan of the City of Mill Valley's collection system. I am referring to

please confirm that there is no reference in the Capital Improvement Plan of the City of Mill Valley's collection system. I am referring to the Capital Improvement Plan that is posted on Mill Valley's website in the Department of Public Works section.

Thank you for your attention to my queries.

Sincerely

Helene Marsh

On Jan 12, 2015, at 9:40 AM, Mark Grushayev <mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Marsh,

Attached is the response to your request from December 17, 2014.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
mark

Mark Grushayev
WWT Manager
Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin/
City of Mill Valley
Office (415) 388-2402
Fax (415) 381-8128
mgrushayev@cityofmillvalley.org

-----Original Message-----

From: helenemarsh [mailto:marsh.helene@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 3:48 PM
To: Mark Grushayev
Subject: Follow up to the Grand Jury report "The Scoop on Marin
County Sewer Systems Part I, June 16, 2014

Dear Mr. Grushayev,

I am writing to follow up on your response to the above report. Please see the attached letter.

Kind regards,

Helene Marsh
Director, Marin Chapter
of the California Grand Jurors' Association

<Grand Jury Scoop... Response 1-12-15.pdf>