

August 5, 2002

Marin County Civil Grand Jury
Room 303
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Members of the Grand Jury,

Below, by item number, is Marinwood Community Service District's response to Grand Jury Report recommendations 1-4, 6 and 7, as required in the report

Implementation of recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are not warranted:

1. Marinwood CSD does not pay compensation to directors for attending meetings.
2. The Marinwood CSD Board holds only monthly meetings. Occasionally, special meetings are necessary. Recently, special meetings have been held to conduct a budget hearing and to consider the appointment of a new fire chief. Out of a desire to serve their community, the Board members willingly accept the imposition on their time that meetings represent. On the other hand, they have no desire to have their time wasted in unnecessary meetings.
3. Marinwood CSD does not grant medical or dental benefits to Board members.
4. Travel and conference expenses by Board members are very rarely incurred, and are always held at a reasonable amount. I can recall paying no such in my five years as District Manager.
6. District reserves are restricted for specific, identified purposes through the budget process. The CSD does not have excessive reserves upon which to debate policy. At times during the annual cycle of revenue imposed by the property tax calendar, the CSD must dip deeply into even the restricted portions of its reserves to fund operating expenses.

Regarding recommendation 7, Marinwood CSD will happily work with the Marin County Auditor and other Marin County special districts to develop a standardized format for the reporting of reserves. The CSD will accept any reasonable timetable set by the County Auditor.

Thomas D. Horne,
District Manager