

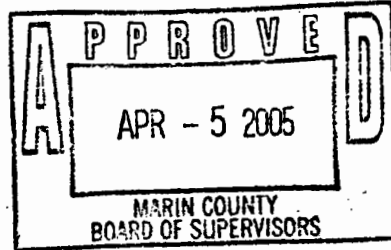
COUNTY OF MARIN
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 325, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
415/499-6358 - FAX 415/507-4104

Mark J. Riesenfeld
County Administrator

April 5, 2005

Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903



SUBJECT: Response to 2004 - 2005 Grand Jury Report "What's the Alternative? A Review of Marin County Department of Public Works Garage Vehicle Acquisition Policy" (January 12, 2005)

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Concur in and adopt the attached proposed response to the 2004-2005 Grand Jury report on the Department of Public Works Garage vehicle acquisition policy, and authorize the Board President to forward the response to the Presiding Judge of the Marin County Superior Court.

SUMMARY: The 2004-2005 Civil Grand Jury published a report on January 12, 2005, entitled "What's the Alternative? A Review of Marin County Department of Public Works Garage Vehicle Acquisition Policy." The report included a request for a response from the Department of Public Works. County policy, in accordance with State law, is for the Board of Supervisors to respond on behalf of all appointed department heads. The County Administrator has consulted with the Public Works Director in preparing the proposed response from your Board. Although the Grand Jury report did not specify to which specific Findings or Recommendations it required a response, the proposed response addresses all Findings (1 - 3) and all Recommendations (1 - 5). Attached for your consideration, in accordance with §933 of the California Penal Code, is a proposed response. A copy of the Grand Jury report is also attached for your information.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ALTERNATIVE: The Board may amend any suggested response.

REVIEWED BY:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auditor-Controller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Riesenfeld".

Mark J. Riesenfeld,
County Administrator

cc: Director, Department of Public Works
County Counsel



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN COUNTY

April 5, 2005

Honorable Terrence R. Boren
 Presiding Judge
 Marin County Superior Court
 3501 Civic Center Drive
 San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Boren:

Forwarded herewith is the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2004-05 Grand Jury Report "*What's the Alternative? A Review of Marin County Department of Public Works Garage Vehicle Acquisition Policy.*" Although the Grand Jury report did not specify the Findings or Recommendations to which it required a response, the Board of Supervisors' response addresses all Findings and Recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,


 Hal Brown
 President, Board of Supervisors

cc: Civil Grand Jury

VICE-PRESIDENT
 SUSAN L. ADAMS
 SAN RAFAEL
 1ST DISTRICT

PRESIDENT
 HAROLD C. BROWN, JR.
 SAN ANSELMO
 2ND DISTRICT

CHARLES MCGLASHAN
 MILL VALLEY
 3RD DISTRICT

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
 STEVE KINSEY
 SAN GERONIMO
 4TH DISTRICT

CYNTHIA L. MURRAY
 NOVATO
 5TH DISTRICT

CLERK
 MARK J. RIESENFELD

Report Title: "What's the Alternative? A Review of Marin County Department of Public Works Garage Vehicle Acquisition Policy"

Report Date: January 12, 2005

Response by: Marin County Board of Supervisors

FINDINGS

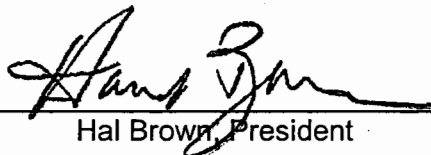
- We agree with the findings numbered: 1 and 2.
- We disagree partially with the finding numbered: 3.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1 - 3 have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered 4 and 5 have not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Date: 04/05/05

Signed: _____



Hal Brown, President

Number of pages attached: 2

**Marin County Board of Supervisors
Response to Civil Grand Jury Report:
"What's the Alternative? A Review of Marin County Department of Public Works Garage
Vehicle Acquisition Policy" (January 12, 2005)**

FINDINGS

Finding 1:

The DPW has an ongoing program of testing alternative fueled vehicles and fuels. The DPW has instituted an effective initiative that reduces operating costs and environmental impact of the County's vehicle use.

Agree.

Finding 2:

The production of alternative fuels would not be economical for the DPW.

Agree.

Finding 3

The DPW tends to operate independently without significant participation in trade associations with operators of comparable vehicle fleets.

Disagree wholly or partially. We agree that Garage staff does not participate in trade associations with operators of comparable vehicle fleets. Regarding the tendency "to operate independently", it should be noted that Garage staff does engage in substantial, though informal, communication and networking in regard to fleet operation and maintenance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1:

Continue its vehicle acquisition policy and program.

Has been implemented. The Department is continuing its current vehicle acquisition policy and program.

Recommendation 2:

Develop documentation of life-cycle cost studies that measures the anticipated benefits of any new vehicle in order to determine whether investing in experimentation is justified. Measurements should be used during experimentation and afterwards to determine whether anticipated benefits have been realized. This capability would also facilitate explaining the cost/benefit trade-offs of alternative fuel vehicles to the Board of Supervisors and the public.

Has been implemented. Staff has begun investigating and evaluating methodology for documentation as recommended.

Recommendation 3:

Not undertake production of its own alternative fuels.

Has been implemented. The department is continuing its current policy of not undertaking production of its own alternative fuels.

Recommendation 4:

Consider active participation in trade associations, such as the American Public Works Association (APWA), the Public Fleet Supervisors Association (PFSA), and the National Association of Fleet Administrators. Participation in other organizations with similar fleet management challenges should be beneficial, particularly during a period of technological change. With regard to these trade associations, the DPW should not only consider what it might gain by participating but what it might contribute as a leader in innovation.

Has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The department will pursue participation in trade associations. This will be accomplished by August 1, 2005.

Recommendation 5:

Publicize its vehicle management program through its Website, local newspapers, public presentations, etc., so the Marin County public can appreciate their program and its accomplishments.

Has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The department will seek ways to publicize its vehicle management program. This initiative will commence by August 1, 2005 and will continue thereafter.