



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

January 6, 2015

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District  
Attention: Mr. M. Williams, General Manager  
300 Smith Ranch Road,  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Mr. Williams

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

I am writing to you as a member 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 28, 2014 letter concerning the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's June 16, 2014 report, titled "**The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems, Part I**". On the Grand Jury Report Form, you stated that Recommendation R3 required further analysis. As six months has now passed since the report was published, we would appreciate knowing the outcome of your analysis.

**Recommendation R3: All agencies adopt an ordinance that will require private laterals to be inspected routinely and repaired as necessary.**

I will call in the middle of January to answer any questions that you may have. Please send your reply by January 31, 2015, electronically, to the undersigned, Helene Marsh, at [marsh.helene@gmail.com](mailto:marsh.helene@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for 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](mailto:marsh.helene@gmail.com)

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February 17, 2015

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, Recommendation R3**

Dear Ms. Marsh,

The District is responding to your organization's request to update it on the status of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's Report - The Scoop on Marin County Sewer Systems Part I, Recommendation R3

**R3. All agencies adopt an ordinance that will require private laterals to be inspected routinely and repaired as necessary.**

The District Board will likely consider a lateral inspection ordinance this year.

In July 2005, the District sought to pass an ordinance requiring lateral inspection and, if needed, replacement prior to the point of sale of the property. The District received considerable resistance from both the Marin Association of Realtors and its customers, and as a result the ordinance was not passed. The District has worked with other sewage agencies and the Marin Association of Realtors to develop a lateral disclosure document for property purchases. In addition, the District began a voluntary lateral assistance program where it will advance property owners funds towards the cost of replacing their laterals. The funds can be repaid over 10 years at 2% interest. Since the program was established in March 2012, 48 property owners have been advanced \$302,890 under the program. The District produces several newsletters per year and maintains a website to educate our customers about critical issues. Both have promoted the lateral assistance program, the importance of maintaining the lateral, and the negative impacts on the treatment plant of disposing of personal wipes, medications, noxious chemicals or other items down the drain. The District continues to maintain its excellent low sewer overflow record which is among the lowest in the Bay area.

If you require additional clarification, please contact me 415-472-1734.

Helene Marsh  
February 13, 2015

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark R. Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark R. Williams  
General Manager

Ecc:

Rabi Ellias, Board President  
LGVSD Board members  
Dave Byers, District Counsel

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