January 18, 2022

The Honorable Michael Fagalde
Presiding Judge
Mariposa County Superior Court
5088 Bullion Street
Post Office Box 28
Mariposa, CA 95338

Re: Response to the December 8, 2021, inquiry of the Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury

Dear Judge Fagalde:

On December 14, 2021, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors received a request from the Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury, dated December 8, to “review and correct or provide the proper responses” for specific findings and a recommendation from the 2020-2021 Final Report. Findings included those related to the Merced Irrigation District (MID) settlement and a finding that public works had not supplied complaint records relative to the Mykleoaks subdivision roads. The grand jury further sought to know whether the recommendation to implement a complaint log was, in fact, implemented. This letter is the Board’s response to that request.

In the second paragraph of the Board’s original response to the 2020-2021 Final Report, it states that “the Board acknowledges and agrees with findings in the report unless specified otherwise in the comments below”. This comment applies to each of the findings related to the MID settlement. The Board agrees that the MID settlement represents a significant opportunity, particularly in the context of frequent droughts, and has a limited timeframe. The board further agrees that any project related to the MID settlement will take considerable time, that minimal progress has been achieved on a project to date, and that the county will need sustainable water supplies to sustain the current population and future growth.

The Board’s original response advised that $250,000 was allocated in December 2019 for the initial feasibility studies leading to a water project related to the MID settlement. That response further advised that, while the Water Agency Advisory Board was unable to meet for a considerable amount of time due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, meetings had resumed in 2021. This response is still valid. The Board understands that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the first study is in final reviews and is looking forward to hearing the recommendations of the Water Agency Advisory Board in an upcoming Board meeting.
The Board likewise agrees with findings that public works had not supplied the requested complaint records relative to the Mykleoaks subdivision roads. The director responsible for providing these records is no longer employed by the County and the interim director has since advised that road complaint records have been kept via a work order system for more than a decade. The Board expects all future requests for available records to be fulfilled in a timely manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to clarify the Board’s responses to the 2020-2021 Final Report. Grand jury guidance for future response clarity and compliance has also been noted.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Smallcombe
Board Chair

REVIEWED:

Michael A. Fagalde
Honorable Michael A. Fagalde
Per PC 933