



# FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT

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GREGORY G. BAATRUP, GENERAL MANAGER

August 26, 2014

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Solano Superior Court  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

SUBJECT: 2013-14 SOLANO COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE  
GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

Judge Beeman:

We respect and appreciate the Solano County Grand Jury's Interest in Solano County Regional GIS (ReGIS) and encouraging agencies to move the program forward. From the Grand Jury's report, we conclude the Grand Jury is a proponent of this regional program for the value it will provide as it develops. The Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District has been an active member of ReGIS and was an early adopter of the MOU to move Pictometry work forward.

It is our assessment that there are many challenges in implementing a regional program made up of 14 local public agencies and the federal government. The most significant is making financial commitment to the program during the financial crisis experienced by these agencies during the most recent Great Recession. Rather than criticizing the group for a delay in the Pictometry work, we believe program members should be complimented for staying together and continuing to build ReGIS data for the county, cities, and special districts.

As required by the report, the District is responding to three report items.

## Item 1

*Grand Jury Finding 2 which reads "Some upper levels of public agency management are not actively supporting and participating in the implementation of ReGIS."*

Response: The District partially disagrees with the finding.

The District is actively supporting and participating in the implementation of ReGIS. We disagree with the portion of the finding that "*Some upper levels of public agency management are not actively supporting ... the implementation of ReGIS.*" District management fully supports ReGIS through our funding and staff commitment.

We agree with the portion of the finding that "*Some upper levels of public agency management are not ... participating in the implementation of ReGIS.*" The District is a regular attendee of ReGIS meetings and is helping to steer the program. Our representative regularly reports back to District management on ReGIS progress. District management believes the District's representative is more than capable of representing the District's priorities and does not believe upper level management needs to participate for

the program to progress. As with all District programs, management strives to push authority to the lowest appropriate level and will engage when it believes it is necessary to do so.

*Grand Jury Recommendation 2 which reads "Upper levels of public agency management actively support and participate in the implementation of ReGIS."*

Response: For the reasons summarized above, the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

**Item 2**

*Grand Jury Finding 3 which reads "Management attendance at ReGIS meetings has been poor."*

Response: With regard to the District's management attendance, we agree with the finding. District representative and management monitor the ReGIS meeting agendas. The agenda items are more technical and less strategic. When agenda topics require management input, our representative knows to engage District management. When agenda topics require management attendance, our representative also knows to encourage District management attendance.

*Grand Jury Recommendation 3 which reads "Management attend and encourage attendance by representatives from their agency at ReGIS meetings."*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

**Item 3**

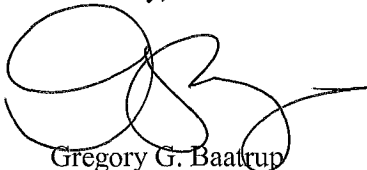
*Grand Jury Finding 4 which reads "Representation of agencies at ReGIS meetings has been mostly by non-management employees who have limited or no commitment authority."*

Response: With regard to the District's representation, we partially agree with the finding. The District has assigned staff to represent the District at ReGIS meetings. Staff is assigned to represent the District based on technical expertise, understanding of District needs and priorities, and confidence that management level decisions are brought back to management for resolution. When, or if, issues require management input, our representative knows to engage District management.

*Grand Jury Recommendation 4 which reads "In the absence of management attendance, management appoint and authorize an employee to commit and support ReGIS activities."*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Sincerely,



Gregory G. Baatrup  
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors