

September 11, 2014

Presiding Judge Nelson
Hall of Justice
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533



RE: 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report Entitled: Geographic Information System (GIS)

To the Honorable Presiding Judge Nelson:

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is required to respond to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report entitled: Geographic Information System (GIS) report pursuant to Penal Code §933.05. The Report provided a basic understanding of GIS software, the Solano County Regional GIS (ReGIS) Consortium and the aerial photography supplier Pictometry.

The three findings and recommendations that the STA is responsible for responding to are:

1. Finding #2: Some upper levels of public agency management are not actively supporting and participating in the implementation of ReGIS.

Response to Finding #2:

As this Finding pertains to the STA, STA disagrees with this finding. STA management has been an active participant in the ReGIS since its inception with the STA Project Manager primarily assigned to represent the agency.

Recommendation #2:

Upper levels of public agency management actively support and participate in the implementation of ReGIS.

STA Response to Recommendation #2:

This recommendation has been implemented. The designated STA Project Manager is responsible for participating in discussions at ReGIS and reporting directly to the STA Deputy Executive Director/Director of Projects. Any recommendations that result from the ReGIS are analyzed for the benefit of the STA and subsequently approved by the STA Board regarding policy and financial commitments. The STA Project Manager has authority to provide technical comments and technical recommendations as a participant of the ReGIS.

2. Finding #3: Management attendance at ReGIS meetings has been poor.

Response to Finding #3:

As this Finding pertains to the STA, STA disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation #3:

Management attend and encourage attendance by representatives from their agency at ReGIS meetings.

STA Response to Recommendation #3:

This recommendation has been implemented. STA management has been an active participant in the ReGIS since its inception with the STA Project Manager primarily assigned to represent the agency attends scheduled ReGIS meetings on a regular basis.

3. Finding # 4: Representation of agencies at ReGIS meetings has been mostly by non-management employees who have limited or no commitment authority.

Response to Finding #4:

The STA disagrees partially with this finding. The ReGIS was originally conceived as a staff level, peer-to-peer technical forum to share GIS data and industry information. The ReGIS continue to pursue an overarching goal of having a centralized location for countywide GIS data. There was no formal participation commitment assigned in terms of staff representation. Participants that were familiar with their agency's GIS files and information technology programs were generally encouraged to attend. This was due to the technical nature of the discussions related to the GIS software.

While the STA's staff representative to ReGIS is part of STA's management staff, discussions at the ReGIS does not warrant each agency to commit management resources to implement the ReGIS work plan. The information and data sharing discussions are more efficient with appropriately skilled technical staff participating. When the need arises, any management or policy discussions can be brought to Solano County Planning Directors Group or Solano County City Managers Group which includes participation from all seven cities, the County and STA.

Recommendation #4: In the absence of management attendance, management appoint and authorize an employee to commit and support ReGIS activities.

STA Response to Recommendation #4: This recommendation has been implemented. STA management has been an active participant in the ReGIS since its inception with the STA Project Manager primarily assigned to represent the agency. The STA Project Assistant or Associate Planner participates in the absence of the STA Project Manager.

Please contact me at 707.424.6075 if you have any questions or need any clarification regarding the STA's response to 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report Entitled: GIS.

Regards,



Daryl K. Halls
Executive Director

Cc: Grand Jury
STA Board Members
Jake Armstrong, Solano County IT Department