



CITY OF RIO VISTA

One Main Street, Rio Vista, California 94571
Phone (707) 374-6451 Fax: (707) 374-5531

June 16, 2020

Terry Riddle
Foreperson
2019-2020 Solano County Grand Jury
Hall of Justice
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, California 94533

Subject: City Response to the Solano County Grand Jury 2019-2020 Report, "Rio Vista—The Price of Growth"

Dear Mr. Riddle,

Please accept this letter as the City's response to the Grand Jury's Report on this subject.

FINDING 1 – The streets in downtown Rio Vista are too narrow to accommodate parking on both sides of the street and still allow for two-way traffic. This creates a situation where one vehicle must back up to the end of the street to allow safe passage for oncoming vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION 1a –Limit these streets to one-way traffic. or

RECOMMENDATION 1b – Restrict parking to only one side of the street.

City Response:

The City disagrees with this finding in whole. While some streets in the older part of the city may be narrow compared to existing street construction standards, the City could find no complaints that centered around narrow streets to include complaints that drivers needed to backup do to oncoming traffic. The Police and Fire Departments have no reports indicating there have been problems with the existing streets in the older parts of the City.

Absent verifiable problems or concerns on this issue, it would not be prudent to "fix" something that seems to be working as is. Therefore, these recommendations will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable at this time.

FINDING 2 - The alleys in downtown Rio Vista are used for both business and residential access. Many of these alleys are in poor condition and in need of maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION 2 – Conduct routine inspections of the downtown alleys and perform maintenance as needed.

City Response: The City agrees with the Finding. The alleys in town are in need of maintenance. The challenge here is funding. The amount of funds received from the State and/or through gas taxes is insufficient to repair the primary streets and roads in the City let alone the alleys. This forces the City Council to prioritize roadwork streets maintenance projects in a manner that best meets the needs of our citizens. Unfortunately, there is not enough money to both provide for major street repairs and alley maintenance.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable due to the funding limitations discussed. However, the City will continue to review the conditions of the City's alleys and make necessary repairs as funds permit.

FINDING 3 – The alleys in downtown Rio Vista are not identified by name or number creating difficulty for emergency services, such as fire, police, and ambulance, to respond to emergencies in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION 3 – Develop and implement a plan to identify by name or number all alleys.

City Response: The City agrees with this Finding and Recommendation. The citizens would be better served if the alleys were named and those homes that front to an alley should be better identified. Staff will work to implement this recommendation by establishing a working group comprised of public works, fire, and police personnel to develop and implementation plan. The working group implementation plan should be complete by November 17, 2020.

FINDING 4 – Rio Vista has put its firefighting equipment at risk by failing to repair the downtown alley that serves the fire department.

RECOMMENDATION 4 – Initiate and complete the funded alley maintenance project.

City Response: The City disagrees with regards to part of the finding; however, the City has moved forward as it concerns the recommendation. There is no risk to the firefighting equipment as the alley access two streets—one on each end of the alley. While there is an area on one end of the alley in need of repair, the city did develop and fund the repair in the current budget that was adopted by Council last year. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the execution of this project has been delayed but it is anticipated that this project will start this summer and be completed by November 2, 2020, weather permitting.

FINDING 5 – There is no established process for managing complaints regarding the condition of Rio Vista streets and alleys, making it difficult for the general public to know the status of repairs.

RECOMMENDATION 5 – Establish a functional complaint process to include acknowledgement of the receipt of the complaint and to communicate a schedule for correction of the issue.

City Response: The City disagrees with finding since the city does receive complaints in written form, by email, and often verbal (to include phone calls and messages) and promptly routes complaints to the appropriate department. However, while this process serves a city of approximately 10,000 well, staff believes there are software applications that may make it easier for citizens to report problems and is looking into these applications.

As it concerns the recommendation, it will require further analysis as to the different software applications available and a review of costs to implement. It should be possible to review and , with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. The review and analysis should be complete by October 23, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (707) 374-6451 Ext. 1101 or at rhickey@ci.rio-vista.ca.us .

Sincerely,



Ron Kott,
Mayor



Rob Hickey,
City Manager

933.05.

(a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

(b) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.