

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 25, 2013

Honorable Paul Beeman  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Solano Superior Court  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

RECEIVED  
JUN 28 2013

SOLANO COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

The Honorable Judge Beeman,

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report of April 12, 2013 – Suisun Fire Protection District

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Solano County Administrator responds to Findings 1 and 5 and Recommendations 1 and 5 contained in the 2012/2013 Grand Jury Report of April 18, 2013 regarding the Suisun Fire Protection District.

**Finding 1** - The Directors of the Suisun Fire Protection Board consists of five members. At the present time, there are only three active members whose terms have expired and two vacant positions. The most recent board members date of expiration was April 15, 2009.

**Response to Finding 1:** The Solano Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding that there are two vacancies on the Suisun Fire Protection Board and that the remaining three serving members' terms have expired. According to the Grand Jury report (page 3), the Suisun Fire Protection District was organized in 1935 and is therefore governed by Chapter 4 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 13840 to 13857. Pursuant to Section 13843 the term of office for each member of a district board is four years or until his or her successor qualifies and takes office. Notwithstanding this provision, the three serving members remain lawfully appointed to the Suisun Fire Protection District and the responsible Supervisorial districts are in the process of seeking the reappointment of the three incumbents.

**Recommendation 1** - The Solano County Board of Supervisors take prompt action to appoint a full board.

**Response to Recommendation 1:** This recommendation has been implemented. Solano County is actively recruiting for the two vacant positions and welcomes any referrals by the Grand Jury for qualified candidates.

**Finding 5** – The Suisun Fire Protection District will continue to lose taxpayer funding in the event their District boundaries shrink due to city annexations with no foreseeable alternative funding.

**Response to Finding 5:** The Solano Board of Supervisors agrees that if annexations continue, fire districts could lose future taxpayer funding, however the Solano Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) with whom the authority to approve city annexation proposals lies, has attempted to mitigate this by allowing taxpayer dollars to continue to flow to the fire districts in the form of pass-thru property taxes for specified time frames.

**Recommendation 5** – The Board of Supervisors consider consolidating the western part of the District with the Cordelia Fire Protection District and the eastern part of the District with the Montezuma Fire Protection District.

**Response to Recommendation 5:** This matter is not under the control of either the County Administrator or the Board of Supervisors. LAFCo considers and approves city annexations proposals. On June 10, 2013 LAFCo approved its 2013/2014 Work Plan to continue discussions on consolidating fire districts in addition to looking at alternative options to assist fire districts to remain fiscally stable.

Respectfully,



Linda J. Seifert, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Clerk of the Board, Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Suisun Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners  
Fire Chief, Suisun Fire Protection District  
Grand Jury Office