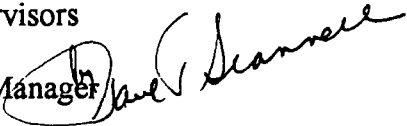


**C O U N T Y   O F   S A N   M A T E O**

**County Manager's Office**

Date: February 15, 2001

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: John L. Maltbie, County Manager 

SUBJECT: Quarterly Status Report – 1999 Grand Jury Responses

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report on the status of responses to the 1999 Grand Jury recommendations.

Discussion

On November 11, 2000 you approved the responses from County Departments to the 1999 Grand Jury Recommendations. I am pleased to present to you this update as of January 31, 2001. You will continue to receive quarterly updates on the progress of implementing any recommendations requiring ongoing or further action from the 1999 recommendations.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY**

**QUARTERLY STATUS**

**1999 GRAND JURY REPORT**

(January 31, 2001)

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT / PUBLIC WORKS

### Hall of Justice Seismic Retrofit

**RECOMMENDATION 33: The San Mateo County 1999 Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Works to prepare a comprehensive time-phased plan for completion of the seismic retrofit and lead/asbestos abatement of the County Hall of Justice. Urgency should be placed on the development and implementation of the plan, including a detailed time-phased series of actions and the designation of personnel responsible for each action and associated deadlines. The plan should include details on office and employee relocation. The County Board of Supervisors should give high priority to implementation and funding of this program.**

**RESPONSE: Concur. The Director of Public Works will work with the Court on developing a tentative phasing plan that allows for the work to go forward on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors. A similar approach will be undertaken with the Probation Department for the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. However, a key aspect of this plan will be to identify additional funding sources. An additional \$2.2 million will be required to complete the project. To date, the County has spent approximately \$1.6 million in the design of the seismic retrofit plan, the remediation work that was done immediately after the Loma Prieta Earthquake, and for the work completed or under construction on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors. Public Works estimates that it will take approximately two years to complete the work once funding is identified and agreement with the Court and Probation is obtained.**

Abatement work is generally done in conjunction with other work on the structure, as encapsulated lead and asbestos in the building will remain in place and does not present a threat to either the citizens visiting the Hall of Justice or employees.

Status of the County's response to this Grand Jury recommendation will be reported in the next quarterly report to the Board.

#### **STATUS:**

The Board of Supervisor appropriated \$2,550,000 in the FY 2000-01 adopted budget for seismic upgrade work on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors in the Hall of Justice. In addition, unspent appropriations of \$200,000 were carried over from FY 1999-2000 to complete work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

As of February 9, 2001 the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor panel upgrade is complete. Public Works and the engineering consultants have conducted design walk-throughs of the remaining sites and final plans and specifications for work on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors should be submitted to Public Works by mid-March 2001 with construction anticipated to begin in late June 2001 and last approximately 12-16 months. The approach to be used for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors is to complete the seismic upgrades work on one floor at a time. The Courts and

Public Works are coordinating to temporarily relocate the Courts and staff prior to construction. The Courts relocations may add significantly to the overall cost of the project.

Public Works and the engineering consultants have determined that the 5<sup>th</sup> floor work should not be bid until the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors are completed, as the nature of the work will be substantially different (the 5<sup>th</sup> floor is expected to remain occupied during the work and the architectural finishes will not be as complex as in the Courts). This approach should enable a broader field of contractors to bid on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor work than might qualify for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floor work.

Public Works will continue to report on the status of the project as the work progresses.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### Willow Clinic

**RECOMMENDATION 37:** The San Mateo County 1999 Grand Jury recommends that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors provide funding to Health Services Agency for Willow Clinic to upgrade their out-dated telephone system, to provide for additional space for their facilities and to arrange free evening transportation to better serve the patients.

**RESPONSE:** Concur. In FY 1999-2000, the Willow Clinic budget included funds to upgrade its telephone system. Willow Clinic staff has been working with the Information Services Department on the design and function of the telephone system. The new telephone system will increase the call capacity to the Willow clinic and will put the clinic on the same telephone network as the rest of the County. Wiring for the new telephone system was installed at the Willow Clinic in February 2000 and is anticipated to be operational by March 2000.

The areas requiring additional space are Medical Records and the AIDS Program. According to Veteran's Administration staff, additional space will be available in July 2000. The options for leasing this additional space will be evaluated as part of the Agency's budget process for FY 2000-01 and in light of the other financial constraints facing the Hospital and Clinics.

The Willow Clinic is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings until 6 00 p.m. and on Wednesday and Thursdays until 8.00 p.m. The Clinic has a contract with Emprex Ventures to provide a free shuttle service to patients between East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park, the Willow Clinic and Stanford University Hospital. The last shuttle leaves the Willow Clinic at 6 00 p.m. Clinic staff will evaluate operations for expanding the shuttle service to cover the evening hours as part of the FY 2000-01 budget process and in light of the other financial constraints facing the Hospital and Clinics.

Status of the County's response to this Grand Jury recommendation will be reported in the next quarterly report to the Board.

**STATUS:** As reported in the prior status report, the telephone system has been upgraded and no further reports are required for this portion of Recommendation 37.

The VA has begun to move their medical records from the basement to allow the Willow Clinic to store their medical records in order to free up clinic space for the AIDS Program. Health Services and the VA have negotiated the use of one of three rooms in the basement of Building 334 (location of Willow Clinic) for the purpose of storing Willow Clinic medical records. A lease agreement between the VA and Health Services has been executed, however, an amendment is being developed to lease additional space to store all the Willow Clinic medical records. This amendment should be brought before

the Board of Supervisors for approval within the next quarter. This movement will maximize all potential space in the area for patient care.

As reported in the last status update, the shuttle service has been expanded to include additional stops throughout East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven community. It should be noted that the shuttle is currently supported by grant revenues, specifically the federal 330 Community Health Center grant awarded to the county to help start a new health clinic in East Palo Alto. The shuttle services were initiated to ensure access to health care for East Palo Alto residents until services at the new clinic could begin. The new clinic is scheduled to begin operations in 2001. In addition, as required by the federal government, the grant will be transferred to a new non-profit organization by the end of 2001. Currently, given the financial demands of starting a new clinic, it is not anticipated that the grant can support expanded evening transportation services as well. However, it is possible that the need may diminish with the opening of the new clinic. A review will need to take place at that time.

The Willow Clinic budget has been reviewed and does not contain the funding necessary to support additional evening transportation hours.

There will be no further reports on Recommendation 37.