

HILLWOOD COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 381
Shingle Springs, CA 95682



Larry Booher
Chairman

August 25, 2008

Sam Axtell
Vice-Chairman

The Honorable James R. Wagoner
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
El Dorado County
495 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

Maria Cabiao
Director

Dear Judge Wagoner:

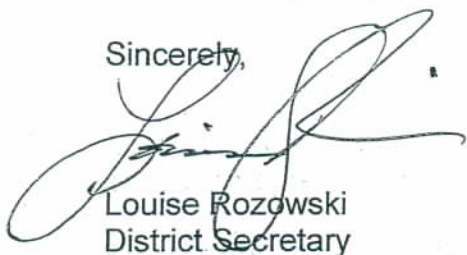
This year, the Grand Jury conducted an investigation of the Hillwood Community Services District (HCSD) Board of Directors because of a complaint filed by a resident regarding various actions taken by the Board, including allegations of violation of government codes and the collection of monies for the purpose of establishing a Road Improvement Group within the HCSD.

Enclosed please find the HCSD's responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations. On August 21, 2008, the Board of Directors met and unanimously approved these responses and directed that they be filed with the Court and the Grand Jury pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Grand Jury Community Services District Committee. We feel they did an excellent job assessing the issues which were brought to them for investigation and that their recommendations were fair and reasonable.

I would also like to provide you with a copy of the HCSD's first newsletter. As you can see, we are working to open the line of communication with district residents, hopefully avoiding any future problems that might arise.

Sincerely,


Louise Rozowski
District Secretary

Enclosure(s)

✓ cc: El Dorado County Grand Jury

Hillwood Community Services District

Grand Jury Final Report Part III

Findings Section

Finding 1: The Grand Jury found no intentional wrongdoing on the part of the Hillwood Community Services District (HCSD) Board of Directors.

Response to Finding 1: *The respondent agrees with the finding.*

Finding 2: The information gathered revealed that the monies generated by taxes for road repair in the HCSD are insufficient to meet the needs of the District.

Response to Finding 2: *The respondent agrees with the finding.*

Finding 3: The HCSD Board is within its discretion to allow Monarch-Woodside to become a "zone" or RIG under the HCSD. Their position is supported by California Government Code §61140 and LAFCO.

Response to Finding 3: *The respondent agrees with the finding.*

Finding 4: There is a prevailing lack of trust by some residents in the HCSD that was clearly demonstrated when residents were interviewed by the Grand Jury. Most residents are not involved in the operation of the HCSD and do not support any tax increases to pay for improving roads. Combined with insufficient funds to meet HCSD road needs, there exists a contentious environment that continues to create turmoil among residents. These conditions do not create an environment where good governance and involved citizens can resolve issues that arise in the normal course of a CSD.

Response to Finding 4: *The respondent agrees with the finding.*

Recommendations Section

Recommendation 1: The HCSD should create a newsletter, website or other form of communication to keep all residents informed of HCSD needs and proposed action(s) by the Board of Directors, to include activity by Monarch-Woodside RIG.

Response to Recommendation 1: *The recommendation has been implemented.* The current HCSD Board of Directors has approved distribution of a newsletter which will be sent to residents twice each year, the first to be distributed after the District's budget hearing in July (our first newsletter was

mailed July 31, 2008) and the second in February. The current Board has already implemented electronic distribution of agendas and minutes to interested residents. The Board would like to note that because of the voluntary nature of the District officers, that future Boards and administrative staff may not have the inclination or ability to provide these services to residents. The Board would also like to note that the Monarch-Woodside Road Improvement Group sent out periodic newsletters to residents in the proposed zone to keep them apprised of the group's progress .

Recommendation 2: The 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report Part-I released March 2008, "Assisting Road Repair Community Service District," made the following recommendations:

- a. The County Department of Transportation should invite road repair district directors to its annual training sessions for Zones of Benefit Advisory Committee members.
- b. The County should publish the "Zone of Benefit Advisory Committee Manual" and make it available, free of charge, to every road repair district directors. As soon as possible, this Manual should also be provided through the internet.

If these two recommendations are accepted by the Department of Transportation, we recommend that HCSD avail themselves to these resources.

Response to Recommendation 2: *The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.* The HCSD feels these would be wonderful resources to draw from and will readily take advantage of them if County Department of Transportation implements the recommendations made by the Grand Jury.

Recommendation 3: To address the prevailing lack of trust in the Hillwood CSD that dates back over thirty years, the Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Directors inform residents of the powers and duties of the Board, and advise residents that there is a remedy called direct democracy in the form of initiative, referendum and recall. This gives power to citizens to propose items directly to the Board through notice, petition and election. A referendum gives citizens a direct vote in District matters and recall powers allow residents to remove members from office before the next election.

Response to Recommendation 3: *The recommendation has been implemented.* The first newsletter, mailed on July 31, 2008, addressed the powers and duties of the Board, and also provided a list of the District Officer's contact numbers with an open invitation for residents to contact any Board member or officer regarding any road related ideas, concerns or questions they may have. Future issues of the newsletter will provide additional information which will help educate residents on Board policies and operation, as well as the remedies referenced in Recommendation 3.

HILLWOOD COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Newsletter
August 2008

*Our Mission Statement:
To maintain and improve the roads within the
Hillwood Community Services District,
striving to provide reasonable safety for public travel,
while fostering a spirit of community involvement.*



Newly Revived: The District Newsletter!

Welcome to the new edition of the Hillwood CSD newsletter. At this time our goal is to publish a newsletter twice each year to keep you updated on District news. That way everyone can be involved and informed. Your District Officer's names and phone numbers will be included on the back page of each newsletter so that you can contact them with any road related ideas, concerns or questions. 📧

CSD Board - General Information

CSD Directors are either elected or appointed. They are volunteers, therefore, receive no compensation for their time or work. They are charged with overseeing and administering tax monies that are designated for the upkeep of roads and drainage in the Hillwood CSD. The current Board Officers are dedicated to doing everything in their power to maintain a well run District.

Your Board of Directors hold regular meetings a minimum of four times each year. Regular meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday during the months of January, April, July and October, though a conflict in schedules may require this to change occasionally. Our goal is to hold the meetings at Shingle Springs Community Center since it is the facility which is

closest to the District. This may also change from time-to-time should the Community Center not be available. In that case, Ponderosa High School will be used as an alternate meeting location.

There is also sometimes a need to hold a special meeting. This type of meeting is called when issues arise that require Board attention prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

We make every attempt to post the time and place of regular meetings at least two weeks in advance on our two new District message boards which are located at the entrances to the District. Agendas are posted a minimum of 72 hours before a regularly scheduled meeting and 24 hours before a special meeting as prescribed by law.

The District's budget session is held during the July meeting of each year. At that time the Board discusses and sets forth its budgetary allocations for the new fiscal year. Generally, any road repair work is discussed at this meeting and bids from contractors are reviewed. This year, the contract for road repair and striping was awarded to California Pavement Maintenance (CPM). They will be out in the very near future filling potholes, painting signage and replacing stop signs.

You, as citizens, also have rights and responsibilities. Take every opportunity to keep yourselves

informed and up-to-date on District business and policies. 📧

Get Your District Information Via E-Mail

Did you know that many residents are receiving agendas and minutes via e-mail? If you would like to be included in this distribution list, contact the District Secretary with your e-mail address. Future copies of this newsletter will also be distributed electronically to these residents, which will help keep printing and postage costs down. 📧

District Message Boards

As mentioned earlier, there are two new HCSD message boards located at the entrances to the District. The first is located at the intersection of French Creek Road and Holly Drive and the second at the intersection of Monarch Lane and South Shingle Road. These are primarily used for posting District business, but residents are welcome to use the Boards to post notices such as lost or found pets, garage sale signs, etc. So feel free to use the boards for similar purposes.

Business postings or notices are the only use which the Board does not permit. 📧