
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: AMY S. NILSEN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO 2016-17 GRAND JURY REPORT *THE AUTHORITY TO MANAGE OUR WASTE*
DATE: AUGUST 17, 2017

The 2016-17 Grand Jury has issued a report titled “The Authority to Manage Our Waste,” and the Board of Supervisors is required to respond. I recommend that the Board respond as follows.

Recommendation No. R5: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the HWMA carefully analyze whether operating as a regional authority that includes all of Humboldt County would be more cost-effective for ratepayers, while decreasing the environmental impact of current inefficient hauling. Our County Board of Supervisors should take an active leadership role in promoting HWMA as a regional authority by encouraging the membership of Fortuna and Trinidad.*

Response: This recommendation will be partially implemented. The City of Fortuna for many years has been served by Eel River Disposal. The City of Trinidad is served by Humboldt Sanitation for waste management services. When there are more cities who partner with HWMA it would likely benefit not only ratepayers but also our environment. While Humboldt County, likely through its Public Works Department, will encourage further partnerships, it should be noted that there is nothing preventing all agencies who partner with HWMA to do the same.

Recommendation No. R2: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the HWMA obtain the support of the Board of Supervisors to conduct a feasibility study for the use of modern incineration methods to deal with solid waste.*

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented as it is not warranted. HWMA is a joint powers authority and not solely beholden to the Board of Supervisors. It has the authority to conduct a study of this nature without this step.