



Lou Ann Texeira
Executive Officer

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May 9, 2012

May 9, 2012
Agenda Item 12

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Contra Costa County 2011-12 Grand Jury Report No. 1206
“Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District: Who’s Minding the Store?”

Dear Members of the Commission:

This is an informational item; no action is required.

On April 30, 2012, Contra Costa LAFCO received Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1206, entitled “Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District: Who’s Minding the Store?” (attached). The report deals with management problems and deficiencies of the Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District and recommends that the District be dissolved.

Contra Costa LAFCO is required to respond to report No. 1206. The California Government Code requires that the responding entity reply to each finding and recommendation. The response to report No. 1206 is due no later than July 25, 2012.

LAFCO staff has reviewed Report No. 1206 and will draft a response for the Commission’s consideration prior to the July 25, 2012 deadline.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment - Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1206 - “Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District: Who’s Minding the Store?”



April 25, 2012

Lou Ann Texeira
Executive Officer, LAFCO
651 Pine Street, 6th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Ms. Texeira:

Attached is a copy of Grand Jury Report No. **1206, "Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District, Who's Minding The Store"** by the 2011-2012 Contra Costa Grand Jury.

In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933.05, this report is being provided to you at least two working days before it is released publicly.

Section 933.5(a) of the California Government Code requires that (the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions) in respect to each finding:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees with the finding.
- (3) The respondent partially disagrees with the finding.

In the cases of both (2) and (3) above, the respondent shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed, and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.

In addition, Section 933.05(b) requires that the respondent reply to each recommendation by stating one of the following actions:

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary describing the implemented action.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis. This response should explain the scope and parameters of the analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury Report.

Report No. 1206
Page 2

4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation thereof.

Please be reminded that Section 933.05 specifies that no officer, agency, department or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to its public release. Please insure that your response to the above noted Grand Jury report includes the mandated items. We will expect your response, using the form described by the quoted Government Code, no later than **JULY 25, 2012.**

It would be greatly appreciated if you could send this response in hard copy to the Grand Jury as well as by e-mail to clope2@contracosta.courts.ca.gov (Word document).

Sincerely,



LLOYD BELL, Foreperson
2011-2012 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury



**A REPORT BY
THE 2011-2012 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GRAND JURY**

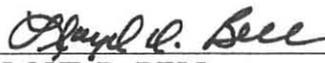
725 Court Street
Martinez, California 94553

Report 1206

**ROLLINGWOOD-WILART PARK
RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
Who's Minding the Store?**

APPROVED BY THE GRAND JURY:

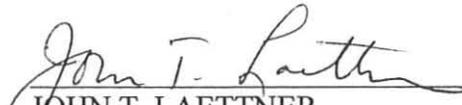
Date: April 5, 2012



LLOYD D. BELL
GRAND JURY FOREPERSON

ACCEPTED FOR FILING:

Date: 4/18/12



JOHN T. LAETTNER
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report 1206

**ROLLINGWOOD-WILART PARK RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
Who's Minding the Store?**

**TO: *ROLLINGWOOD-WILART PARK RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT BOARD
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)***

SUMMARY

Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District (District) is a small, independent special district with a service area of 109 acres. It was created in 1956 to manage a community facility and provide activities. In April 2010, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) issued a Municipal Service Review (MSR) in which serious management problems were identified. The District was given 12 months to significantly reduce the deficiencies. In November 2011, LAFCO revisited the issue, found the deficiencies continued and gave the District another 12 months to make corrections.

The Grand Jury confirmed the LAFCO findings and found the District has failed to perform basic management activities, generate facility rentals, or fill Board vacancies.

The Grand Jury recommends that the District be dissolved.

BACKGROUND

Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District (District) is a small, independent special district with a service area of 109 acres, created in 1956 to manage a community facility and provide recreation services to the residents of the District. It is a fully-developed, unincorporated area located between the cities of Richmond and San Pablo, and serves a community of approximately 2,400 persons.

The District operates and maintains a community facility for recreation programs and events. The District receives property tax money (averaging \$27,000 per year) and can charge rental fees for the facility.

The District has been operating with a three-member board since 1999 due to lack of public interest in serving on the Board; however, the District is required to have at least a five-member board.

It is a "working board" (members of the Board provide maintenance and minor repairs to the building). One member of the Board functions as the General Manager. The General Manager is in charge of building management, finances, arranging and conducting operations-related meetings, record keeping, compliance with state and local regulations, and responding to requests for rental information.

The Board pays the General Manager and a custodian \$300 a month each. There are no signed contracts for these positions. Board members get a \$50 per month stipend for Board meetings.

No agendas or minutes of any meetings of the Board as required by the Brown Act, or financial records of any kind (rentals, payments, budget, etc.), could be located, reportedly due to vandalism and accidental destruction of all records in the past few years. Financial audits have not been performed for over 10 years. The District's only computer is not working and no website has been created to provide information about facility rentals or activities offered by the District.

Decisions regarding the use of District revenues for the maintenance of the community facility have been, and continue to be, a cause for concern. In some cases, the justification for the scope and magnitude of expenditures cannot be confirmed. For example, to prevent the loss of insurance for the facility, a \$30,000 commercial range hood was installed. Without records, it is impossible to determine if such an oversized range hood was needed for a rarely used kitchen, or if a less costly model could have served as well.

Due to a lack of effective advertising, there has been little interest in either the District or neighboring communities to rent the facility for parties, celebrations or other activities. However, a community church is permitted to use the District's facility and equipment at no charge. The facility is also available at no charge for funerals of residents of the District. Policies for waiving required rental fees could not be found.

Due to governance issues raised in the MSR, LAFCO staff was directed, at the April 21, 2010 LAFCO meeting, to work with the County to either dissolve the District or consolidate it with another agency, and report back to LAFCO within 12 months.

At the November 9, 2011 LAFCO meeting, LAFCO Commissioners voted to extend the update for an additional 12 months.

FINDINGS

1. The District has not been able to generate community interest in filling Board vacancies.
2. The District has not been able to generate facility rentals.
3. The District has failed to adequately perform basic management activities, including safekeeping of records, such as Board agenda, Board minutes, and financial documents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. LAFCO should initiate proceedings to dissolve Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Findings

Rollingwood-Wilart Park Recreation and Park District Board
Local Agency Formation Commission

Recommendations

Local Agency Formation Commission