

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Attention: Foreman
1100 Anacapa St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

July 24, 2006

Findings and Recommendations: Oak Hill Cemetery District responses to 05-06 Grand Jury report

Finding 1—The Board agrees with the finding. The Board is looking into Special District training seminars for its members.

Finding 2-- The Board has no opinion. Oak Hill Cemetery District follows established business practices commonplace in the cemetery business.

Finding 3-- The Board disagrees with the finding. The District is audited annually by the Santa Barbara County Auditor Controller. The Board will review the implementation of written procedures.

Finding 4-- The Board disagrees with the finding. The Board decisions are arrived at based on reasonable and logical analysis of the problems addressed, not on whim.

Finding 5— The Board disagrees with the finding. The District maintains open in its accessibility to the public. Insistence upon one currently fashionable means of communication (email) is inappropriate. The District does not have the funds to keep up to the minute with today's quickly advanced forms of communication (text messaging, IM, video blog, snap mail, email, etc...). Oak Hill Cemetery District can be reached through traditional forms of communication such as telephone, letters, personal visits and even by fax. The District telephone is forwarded to the District manager during the hours the cemetery is closed.

Finding 6-- The Board disagrees with the finding. The Board Members invite oversight. All meetings are posted and open to the public.

Finding 7-- The Board disagrees with the finding. The Board is looking at ways to improve oversight. Specific suggestions are welcome at the Board meetings and implemented whenever possible.

Finding 8— The Board disagrees with the finding. The District does not consider the major expenditure to study consolidation to be a fiscally prudent use of funds and manpower at this time.

Finding 9— The Board disagrees with the finding. The Board understands that participation in Special District training seminars will improve the Board's oversight ability.

Recommendation 1—The recommendation will be implemented. The Board members are ready and willing to attend training seminars.

Recommendation 2-- The recommendation will be implemented. District Manager training is also recognized by the Board as desirable.

Recommendation 3—Not Applicable

Recommendation 4— The recommendation has been implemented. Board meeting agendas are always written and posted, it will henceforth include the time and place of the posting.

Recommendation 5-- The recommendation will be not be implemented. The District encourages telephone calls, letters, and personal visits. Maintaining other new forms of communication technologies is limited due to District fiscal constraints.

Recommendation 6-- The recommendation will be reviewed for possible implementation. The Board recognizes the desirability of written policies and procedures but also recognizes the cost of such written policies.

Recommendation 7-- The District has been keeping minutes since 1883. The District appreciates the Grand Jury recommendations on the content of Board meeting minutes.

Recommendation 8-- The District has a CPA under contract. The District seeks legal counsel as needed.

Recommendation 9-- The recommendation will be implemented as necessary. General Manager requests are already processed at Board meetings. Minutes of these meeting include the written facts on which to reasonable conclusions were based.

Recommendation 10-- The recommendation will be considered. The District is willing to assess the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation, provided the cost of such assessment is not prohibitive.

Recommendation 11—Not Applicable

Lee Bettencourt, Chairman
Oak Hill Cemetery District Board

