



August 23, 2024

Judge Michael Jurkovich
Madera County Supervising Judge
300 South G Street
Madera, CA 93637

Lou Martinez, Foreperson
Madera County Grand Jury
PO Box 534
Madera, CA 93639

Re: Response to the Findings of the Madera County Grand Jury Final Report 2324-04 titled "Fairmead: Waiting on Train", published on June 19, 2024

Pursuant to California Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b), the Madera County Public Works Department has compiled its responses to the findings and recommendations in the 2023/24 Madera County Grand Jury Final Report entitled "Fairmead: Waiting on a Train" published on June 19, 2024.

Madera County Public Works appreciates all the efforts that the Grand Jury Team has put into this report and please contact me if you have any additional questions about our responses.

Respectfully,

Matthew Treber
Chief of Development Services





RESPONSES TO FINDINGS IN REPORT:

F1. The Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) finds Fairmead is in dire need of assistance to mitigate the water challenges.

Response: *Madera County Public Works provides for the operation and maintenance of Maintenance District 33-Fairmead. The system has seen recent infrastructure upgrades with an additional production well and storage tank being constructed, along with installation of an emergency backup generator to operate the MD-33 water system in the case of power outages. These improvements were funded by grant funding secured by the County at no cost to the residents/customers of MD-33. The Department is also continuing to work with the State Water Board on securing additional grant funds to install water meters for the system. The system has not received any compliance orders from the State of California.*

F2. The MCGJ finds Fairmead is in dire need of assistance to mitigate the sewer challenges.

Response: *Madera County Public Works assisted in negotiating with the California High Speed Rail, City of Chowchilla and the Fairmead Community and Friends that has resulted in a commitment of all parties for the construction of the necessary sewer infrastructure from the City of Chowchilla to serve the community of Fairmead. That project is set to commence construction by the summer of 2025 and is being funded in part by the High-Speed Rail Authority and the State Water Board. It will also provide for operations and maintenance funding for a period of 10 years.*

F3. The MCGJ finds Fairmead is in dire need of assistance to mitigate the road challenges.

Response: *Madera County Public Works has conducted several road maintenance projects within the greater Community of Fairmead which has an average*





Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 50. The County average PCI is 44 for our entire 1,500-mile road network.

- F4. The MCGJ finds that the HSRA has entered into a MOU agreement with the FCF that fails to include any timelines or deadlines for performance.

Response: *Madera County is not a party to this agreement and therefore, is unable to provide any response.*

- F5. The MCGJ finds that it is uncertain how the HSRA route will impact Fairmead.

Response: *HSRA prepared and certified an Environmental Impact Report for the San Jose to Merced WYE segment of their alignment. This document provides the impact analysis of the project and the associated mitigation measures. It can be located at Merced to Fresno - Central Valley Wye - California High Speed Rail.*

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORT:

- R1. The MCGJ recommends that the Board of Supervisors create a work group with the HSRA and FCF to establish timelines, monitor the progress, and report to the Board of Supervisors annually regarding the water system conditions by October 1, 2024.

Response: *Madera County, HSRA, and FCF have regular meetings to discuss the numerous improvements that HSRA have committed to within the Fairmead Community. As previously stated, the water system now has redundancy and has no compliance order from the State of California for any water quality or quantity issues.*

- R2. The MCGJ recommends that the Board of Supervisors create a work group with the City of Chowchilla, FCF, and HSRA to establish timelines, monitor progress, and report to the Board of Supervisors annually regarding the implementation of the sewer system by October 1, 2024.



Response: *The City of Chowchilla is the lead agency for the sewer consolidation project. The County's understanding is the sewer main project is on schedule for construction by summer of 2025. Ongoing meetings are occurring between the responsible agencies.*

R3: The MCGJ recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct the County of Madera Road Department to submit a plan to the Board of Supervisors addressing the road repairs, including a timeline for completion, by October 1, 2024.

Response: *The 2019 Madera County Pavement Management Program Report identified a \$165 million funding need over a 10-year period (\$16.5 million/year) for road maintenance to maintain the nearly 1,500 miles of roadways in Madera County in their current condition. Revenues for road maintenance are well below this figure. The County will continue with road repairs throughout the County, including in Fairmead, and prioritize work based on greatest need and fiscal responsibility based on available funding. The recently adopted Measure T Expenditure Plan for the proposed measure renewal in 2024 includes a 10% set-aside for Disadvantaged Communities that may provide for dedicated funding, if approved by voters. The County will also continue to explore the formation of a Road Maintenance District establishing an assessment to generate dedicated road maintenance revenues for the roads within Fairmead, similar to other areas throughout the County.*

R4. The MCGJ recommends that the Madera County Board of Supervisors, the HSRA, and the FCF establish timelines and deadlines for each provision included in the MOU agreement by October 1, 2024.

Response: *Madera County is not a party to the MOU and therefore has no authority or jurisdiction on the requirements of an MOU entered into by the State of California and the Fairmead Community and Friends.*

R4. The MCGJ recommends that Madera County, FCF, and HSRA determine the exact Fairmead HSRA route and determine the affected properties by October 1, 2024.





Response: *This document is available at Merced to Fresno - Central Valley Wye - California High Speed Rail and was completed in 2020.*

