

EXHIBIT A

Statement of Written Determinations Marin Resource Conservation District Service Review

1. Regarding government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers, the Commission determines:

The unique role and expansive boundaries of Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) indicate that no additional government structure alternatives other than consolidation with another resource conservation district in Sonoma County. Since the purpose of resource conservation districts is to connect local conditions and land characteristics to federal and state funding opportunities, enlargement of MRCD through such a consolidation would be likely to diminish rather than improve the focus of MRCD on agricultural conditions in west Marin County.

2. Regarding infrastructure needs or deficiencies, the Commission determines:

The MRCD operates in an office in the community of Point Reyes Station. The MRCD owns specialized farm implements, a no-till drill and soil aerator which are rented out to the farmers and ranchers who farm watersheds in the district or have parcels which drain into Marin County watersheds. The MRCD may purchase additional farm equipment and expand staff/office equipment in the future. The District has not identified any specific equipment needs for the implementation of its current programs.

3. Regarding growth and population projections for the affected area, the Commission determines:

Marin County encompasses 333,000 acres and had an estimated population of 247,289 people in 2000. An estimated 178,554 people, or 72% of the population, live in the incorporated cities. The remaining 28% of residents, or 68,735 people, live in unincorporated communities and rural areas. The western portion of the county, the area served by the MRCD, has a number of established communities, including Inverness, Bolinas, Stinson Beach, Pt. Reyes Station, and Tomales.

Services provided by MRCD are generally applied to land and water resources rather than to population within its boundaries.

LAFCO actions will not significantly affect population growth or service availability in the study area.

4. Regarding financing constraints and opportunities, the Commission determines:

The MRCD receives a small amount of annual funding from a County General Fund appropriation by the Marin County Board of Supervisors. MRCD's other funding comes from competitively sought government grants from local, state, and federal agencies. The District also receives funds from local foundations and other private sources.

Grant funding, which the district actively pursues, offers the greatest opportunity for the MRCD to increase its revenue. Such funding strengthens the District's ability to leverage its resources and to provide meaningful programs that directly relate to resource conservation issues.

The MRCD has a Strategic Long Range Plan that includes goals, watershed issues, and an action plan for implementation over an eight year period (2000-2008).

5. Regarding cost avoidance opportunities, the Commission determines:

MRCD maintains a strong collaborative relationship with numerous local, state and federal agencies that are working toward a common goal of resource conservation within Marin County. By collectively pooling the distinctive resources and staff expertise of each agency, all agencies are able to accomplish more than they would working solely as autonomous entities.

MRCD works closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service which provides technical services and construction funding through Farm Bill programs. The University of California Cooperative Extension Service provides outreach/educational services.

6. Regarding opportunities for rate restructuring, the Commission determines:

MRCD does not have an established fee schedule. It provides services and informational materials to the public at no charge. The District charges for the use of its farm equipment and will soon consider a fee-for-service program.

7. Regarding opportunities for shared facilities, the Commission determines:

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the MRCD with other districts or agencies due to its unique role and lack of proximity to similar special districts.

8. Regarding evaluation of management efficiencies, the Commission determines:

The district has the staff resources and management capability to provide conservation services to the study area in both the short and long term given the contributions of state and federal conservation grant programs.

9. Regarding local accountability and governance, the Commission determines:

Board meetings are conducted on the second Wednesday of each month at the Marin County Farm Bureau Conference Room and are open to the public. MRCD provides an annual summary of past and projected projects for each fiscal year in accordance to their long-term plan.

The district maintains a website that is currently under construction. The District's website has the potential of being a resource for a broad range of service information and publications.