

NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 1978-1979

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

The Napa County Mosquito Abatement District was formed on July 14, 1925. It is governed by a board of directors consisting of five members representative of the different communities of the Napa Valley. The manager of the district is Mr. Lewis Risley. We would like to note that Mr. Risley was very courteous and helpful during our examination.

The main purpose of the district, according to the manager, is to maintain an environment, which is free of nuisance mosquitoes as well as those capable of transmitting harmful human disease. This is accomplished through such techniques as water management, source reduction, biological control, and educational approaches.

Proposition 13 has taken its toll on many county agencies, and the Mosquito Abatement District is no exception. The projected income for the fiscal year 1978/79 is approximately \$67,000.00. This figure is a 57% reduction from the previous year. Mr. Risley has already had to reduce his staff by 25%, which has left him with only 4 inspectors and one half-time secretary. This year the district will be forced to go into the General Reserve to continue operation; and in the years to come will need at least 50% aid from the state.

Upon inspection of the audit report it is the opinion of this committee that Mr. Risley does an excellent job of managing the Mosquito Abatement District under somewhat less than ideal financial conditions, and should be applauded for his organization.

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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WILLIAM B. BRENNER, Chairperson

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NORMAN J. RICHART

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ALAMEDA RAMSEY

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The District facilities are located on land owned by the Napa Sanitation District under a 50 year lease which commenced in 1954. We found these facilities small but adequate, with equipment and quarters clean, neat and orderly. Mr. Lewis Risley, Manager of the District, informed us that they do need larger quarters and more equipment; but in an honest effort to keep costs down, they will be submitting a "bare bone budget" this year with no requests for these things.

The primary function of the District is to maintain an environment which is free of nuisance mosquitoes as well as those capable of transmitting harmful human disease.

One of our committee members, personally, has had to call the district on numerous occasions to report mosquito infestations and has always found them prompt to respond. They are courteous and efficient in dispatching their duties; however, the sprays they are now allowed to use, which protect the environment, are not as effective on the mosquitoes as the banned residual sprays.

Based on our discussion with Mr. Risley and our review of the audit report for the year ended June 30, 1977, management is commended for the efficient operation of the district.

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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DAVE ZUMWALT, Chairperson

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ROBERT MARTINEZ

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ELEANOR MEYER