

READ AND CONSIDERED

DATE 8/25/2021 BY B

**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Broadband Access in Sonoma County

Report Date: June 20, 2021

Response by: Tennis Wick Title: Director

Agency/Department Name: Permit Sonoma

**FINDINGS: F13**

I (we) agree with the findings numbered F13

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS: R7**

Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: R7 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ require(s) further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.)

Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 29 JULY 2021 Signed: Tennis Wick

Number of pages attached: 1

**F13. “Dig-Once” is widely held to be a useful concept, but it is not a well-defined policy within Sonoma County: installation of broadband infrastructure is often not considered as part of a project, and no mechanism exists to inform potential broadband suppliers of a project or to mandate conduit installation.**

The Permit and Resource Management Department (Permit Sonoma) agrees with this finding.

Permit Sonoma serves as regulatory agent for the Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW), reviewing and permitting improvements proposed within the public right-of-way, including broadband facilities.

TPW provides direction to Permit Sonoma, usually through memoranda of understanding (MOU’s) and specifications – narrative and graphic – for permitting utilities such as broadband in the public right-of-way.

**R7. The Sonoma County Department of Transportation, Permit Sonoma and Access Sonoma Broadband develop procedures and standards that would ensure placement of broadband conduit in all appropriate situations by December 31, 2021. (F13)**

Permit Sonoma agrees with this recommendation.

By December 31, 2021, Permit Sonoma will begin working with TPW to start the development of formal public right-of-way construction standards that will facilitate the permitting and installation of broadband facilities. TPW and Permit Sonoma will work with other entities as needed, such as Access Sonoma Broadband, factoring in decisions by the Board of Supervisors regarding any governance structure for broadband.