



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY 2013-2014

APRIL 22, 2014

FINAL REPORT

**FORMING PARTNERS WITH THE
COMMUNITY THROUGH YOUTH SPORTS**

“PUTTING KIDS FIRST”

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I. SUMMARY

The topic under investigation in this report centers on the Joint Field Use Agreement between the Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD) and the Non-profit Youth Sports Organizations (NYSO) in the City of Napa. The Joint Field Use Agreement functions as an informal arrangement between the NVUSD and the NYSO to provide organized youth sports that are separate and independent from the extra-curricular athletic programs in the School District. The NYSO agree to complete a field use application showing proof of insurance and to pay a user fee of \$15 per player. The School District accepts the responsibility of providing the playing fields.

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury concentrated its investigation on three major areas of the Joint Field Use Agreement:

- The fee structure for the use of the fields, including an examination of the financial records of the NVUSD and the account (Napa Youth Sports League) reserved for the NYSO.
- The scheduling procedures for the use of the fields.
- The policies and regulations that impact the operations of field maintenance.

The Grand Jury also examined the structure and function of the Youth Sports Council as it relates to the Joint Field Use Agreement. The Youth Sports Council is a coalition of representatives from the NVUSD, the City of Napa and the NYSO. Each party of the coalition is a stakeholder in the overall operation and management of the Joint Use Agreement. The NVUSD has the lead role in the management of the policies and procedures that govern the Joint Field Use Agreement.

NYSO have been an integral part of the City of Napa’s recreational culture for many years. They have grown from a few hundred team players in the 1960s to more than 4,000 participants today, with soccer being the most popular sport. The NYSO operate under the direction of an all-volunteer organization independent from the City of Napa and the NVUSD. The only common denominator is that many of the NYSO use the School District’s playing fields for their sports programs.

The Grand Jury found that the NVUSD showed areas of inconsistency in the methods of collecting field use fees from the NYSO. The Grand Jury also found an absence of transparency in the recording and reporting of the revenues and expenditures of the NYSO. The Grand Jury found that the current scheduling system for field use is outdated and time consuming, given the high demand for field reservations. Furthermore, the Grand Jury discovered an on-going problem of gopher infestation at many of the natural grass playing fields. Lastly, the Grand Jury found that the Youth Sports Council lacked a cohesive mechanism for effective communication between the NYSO and the School District.

The overriding issue that emerged from the investigation, however, is the lack of available playing fields in the NVUSD to accommodate the growing number of NYSO. The School District is stretched to the limit given the number of fields that can be used for competitive sports, with the demand for the use of the fields increasing each year. The overuse of the fields creates additional problems that result in higher year-round maintenance costs for the NVUSD. There are simply too many teams competing for the limited number of fields that are currently available in the School District.

A possible long-term solution to the problem of overuse could be the creation of more joint partnerships among public and private agencies to share or build new sports facilities on city-owned land. The City of Napa is currently leading the way toward more joint partnership developments with its Master Plan for Kennedy Park with the possibility of additional soccer fields. The Grand Jury encourages the NVUSD and the NYSO to embrace the city's master plan for Kennedy Park as it brings together public and private agencies working toward a common goal of putting kids first by forming partners with the community.

II. FOCUS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The Grand Jury investigation assessed the accountability and transparency of the procedures and regulations within the NVUSD that govern the Joint Field Use Agreement. The investigation examines the following issues:

- A. The policies and regulations that regulate the on-going operations of field maintenance.
- B. The fee structure for field use and the accounting system of the NVUSD, including revenues and expenditures accrued by the NYSO.
- C. The procedures and processes by which playing fields are scheduled for use by the NYSO.
- D. The structure and function of the Youth Sports Council.

III. BACKGROUND

According to the California School Board Association's policy brief dated February 2010, a joint use agreement is a formal agreement between two or more agencies that sets the terms, conditions and responsibilities of each party sharing a facility or public grounds. Typically each party under a joint use agreement contributes resources to develop, operate and maintain the facility or facilities that will be shared.

In 1948, a formal Joint Powers Agreement existed between the City of Napa, the NVUSD and Napa Community College. The result of that Joint Powers Agreement was the formation of the Napa Recreation Commission. The Recreation Commission was charged with the responsibility of providing recreational programs at no cost for all residents in the City of Napa.

The arrangement to manage the use of playing fields among the City of Napa, the NVUSD, and Napa Valley College remained in place through the 1970's. The demand for fields was low at that time, and the arrangement served as a model for the sharing of community resources to meet the needs of youth sports.

In 1985, the Napa Recreation Commission was dissolved and replaced with the City of Napa's newly formed Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation Department continued to manage the use agreement with the private youth groups. As the number of youth sports organizations began to increase, the Youth Sports Council was formed to support the needs of the youth groups. The Youth Sports Council consisted of representatives of the NYSO who worked with the School District and the Recreation Department to coordinate the maintenance and use of the fields.

In 2000, the Napa City Council developed a Youth Sports Fields Strategic Plan for meeting the short and long-term needs of the youth sports groups for playing fields, including a plan to develop one new Citywide Park in south Napa dedicated primarily to youth sports. Another objective of the Strategic Plan was to improve the level of maintenance at all school fields. The plan also called for the City of Napa and the NVUSD to enter into a ten-year formal "Joint Use Agreement for the Maintenance of School Sports Fields for School and Community Use."

The Joint Use Agreement stipulated that the City of Napa would contribute \$130,000 annually to the School District for the addition of three new district groundskeepers. During this time, the City of Napa's Parks and Recreation Department managed the collection and recording of field use fees, while the NVUSD continued to manage the scheduling and maintenance of the fields.

In 2007, the NVUSD acquired from the City of Napa's Parks and Recreation Department the responsibility for managing the collection of fees. When the City of Napa relinquished this responsibility, the NVUSD assumed the full obligation of managing the Joint Field Use Agreement with the NYSO. Funding from the City of Napa for the three groundskeepers was also reduced by fifty percent at this time due to severe budget cuts in the Parks and Recreation Department. In 2009, all funding from the City of Napa was eliminated which resulted in the NVUSD incurring all costs for the maintenance of the fields.

The Joint Use Agreement for Maintenance of School Sports Fields expired in 2010, but since that time the City of Napa and the School District have worked cooperatively in sharing the use of the fields. Negotiations are currently under way between the City of Napa and the NVUSD to reinstate the Joint Use Agreement.

In April 2013, the City of Napa launched an ambitious master plan for the future development of Kennedy Park with a joint meeting of the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. The master plan calls for additional sports fields that will help ease the problem of overuse at many of the NVUSD's playing fields.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Interviews Conducted With:

- Eight current employees of the NVUSD
- One School Board member
- Two current employees of the City of Napa

- Seven non-profit youth sports organizations’ directors
- One former Youth Sports Council president
- One former NVUSD employee
- One former Parks and Recreation supervisor

Observations:

- Inspected 22 school district’s playing fields
- Attended field scheduling meeting
- Attended Youth Sports Council meeting
- Attended girls’ soccer matches
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Documents Reviewed:

- NVUSD Maintenance Budget
- Napa Youth Sports League financial records
- Joint Powers Agreement – NVUSD / City of Napa / Napa Community College
- Youth Sports Fields Strategic Plan, City of Napa, January 2000
- Joint Use Field Maintenance Agreement – NVUSD / City of Napa, 2000
- Youth Sports Council Minutes -2010-2013
- *Hartzell v. Connell*, 35 Cal. 3rd 889, California Supreme Court, 1984
- Civic Center Act SB (1404) California Department of Education
- California School Board Association Policy Brief, February 2010
- Historical Review Of Parks and Recreation, City of Napa, September 2006
- Partnerships for Joint Use, Center for Cities & Schools at the University of California, September 2010
- Application For Use or Rental of School Facilities – NVUSD
- Application For Volunteer NVUSD Site-Initiated Improvements
- Field Use Certificate of Payment – NVUSD

V. DISCUSSION

A. Non-profit Youth Sports Organizations (NYSO)

The City of Napa has seen a steady rise in the number of the NYSO using the School District’s fields that offer competitive sports programs for boys and girls ages four to eighteen. The NYSO include Little League Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball, Napa “T” Ball, Tackle Football, Soccer, Girls Softball, Lacrosse, and Rugby.

Approximately 4,000 students within the Napa Valley Unified School District boundaries are currently participating in one of the NYSO. The competitive sports programs offered by the NYSO serve as a supplement to the existing extra-curricula athletic programs offered in the NVUSD.

NYSO do not qualify as school sponsored extra-curricula programs because they are *not* under the direct supervision of the school district. They are not considered an extension of the regular school instructional program even though they offer competitive athletic programs.

The NYSO operate as independent, private organizations staffed by adult volunteers. They retain their own league name, purchase their own equipment and select their own coaches. Each individual youth sports organization is required to maintain its own certificate of insurance listing the NVUSD as an additional insured.

Each of the NYSO collect a participation fee from individual team players, which ranges from \$100 to \$300 each season, depending upon the level of competition. The fee is managed by the NYSO through their individual league treasurers. The participation fee covers insurance, officials, equipment and the purchase of uniforms. Many of the NYSO have private sector sponsors that help offset the cost of operating their programs. All of the NYSO offer scholarships to players who are unable to pay the full participation fee.

B. The Playing Fields

The Grand Jury conducted a thorough and comprehensive inspection of every school playing field in the NVUSD used by the NYSO. The Grand Jury focused on the safety aspects of the playing surfaces and on the overall conditions of the equipment on the fields. The Grand Jury also examined the location and visibility of the signage at each of the schools to see if it complied with School District guidelines indicating that a Use Permit is required to use the field.

The NVUSD maintains more than 800 acres of playing fields. They include twenty-seven natural grass fields and seven all-weather, synthetic turf athletic fields. Memorial Stadium, a state-of-the-art multi-use high school facility for Napa and Vintage High Schools, is also maintained by the NVUSD. Memorial Stadium is available to the NYSO for use under a separate use agreement.

The synthetic turf fields at the high schools and middle schools are all well marked and well maintained, with adequate signage listing the rules and regulations for use of the fields. The natural grass fields at many of the elementary school sites were also found to be in good condition, with safe playing surfaces and useable equipment. However, several of the elementary school playing fields were found to have portions of their fields in poor, unplayable conditions, with inadequate signage and a notable presence of gopher infestation. The natural grass fields at the middle schools and high schools also showed signs of gopher infestation, but to a lesser degree.

Redwood Middle School has a natural grass combination soccer/football field that is known as "Raider Field." The Oakland Raiders Football Organization use this field for their summer training camp from May until September each year. During the school year, Raider Field is maintained by the NVUSD and is used by the students at Redwood Middle School. Raider Field is also used by the NYSO for their soccer and rugby teams from September through April. The Oakland Raider organization pays an annual use fee to the NVUSD.

There are three joint use partnership sports complexes in the City of Napa that are used by the some of the NYSO for league games. These joint use partnership sports complexes were built over the years by a combination of volunteer labor, private sector funding and donations with the use of public land from the NVUSD and the City of Napa. They serve as models for joint use partnerships among public and private entities.

The joint use partnership sports complexes include:

Garfield Park: Garfield Park is not part of School District property, and is not part of this investigation. Garfield Park is managed under a separate use agreement with the City of Napa. It is used exclusively for Little League Baseball.

Kiwanis Park: Kiwanis Park is also not part of school property and is not part of this investigation. Kiwanis Park is managed by a separate use agreement with the City of Napa. It is used exclusively for girls' fast pitch softball.

Napa Valley Girls' Jr. Softball Complex: the Napa Valley Girls' Jr. Softball Complex is located on School District property and managed by a use agreement with the School District. This sports complex is part of this investigation. The NVUSD and the Napa Girls' Junior Softball Association jointly maintain this playing field. It is used exclusively for girls' junior softball.

C. Field Maintenance

Maintaining the fields at all of the schools is the responsibility of the School District's Maintenance Department. The natural grass fields are watered and mowed on a regular basis with attention given to periodic aeration, weed control, and annual fertilizing. Gopher infestation at many of the fields is an on-going problem. An aggressive mechanical trapping program has recently been implemented to help reduce the gopher infestation.

The Grand Jury found there were inequities in field maintenance and appearance, primarily at the elementary school fields. The high school natural grass fields were found to have well-maintained, excellent playing surfaces, with only a limited amount of gopher infestation. The middle school natural grass fields were also maintained reasonably well, except for an on-going gopher infestation problem. The elementary schools' natural grass fields suffered the most from the lack of routine maintenance, with major gopher infestation and rough, uneven playing surfaces observed at many of the fields. The synthetic turf fields were all found to be in excellent condition.

Beginning in the spring of 2014, the NVUSD maintenance department plans to launch a five-year field restoration project for the purpose of repairing the playing surfaces at many of the school sites. The restoration project will initially target fields that receive the most use. The project will require portions of the affected fields to be completely shut down during restoration.

The Grand Jury also looked into the procedures for tracking field maintenance work orders from the initial request to job completion. Emergency work orders are handled immediately through a verbal request, but sometimes lack follow-up paper work. Tracking of non-urgent work requests is done electronically through a district-wide system called "School Dude."

The Maintenance Department makes every effort to stay on top of all work requests, but on occasion there has been a backlog of work orders due to a shortage of personnel. For example, the records show that a set of bleachers that was donated to the NYSO took two years to be installed.

The Grand Jury found that, on occasion, volunteers from the NYSO perform maintenance work on some of the fields. Most of the work is time-sensitive, such as marking a field before a game, or spreading dirt over the infield of a baseball diamond. Performing skilled work, such as electrical or plumbing maintenance that is normally the job of school personnel, has often caused friction between the School District's union employees and the NYSO.

The School District has a site-initiated volunteer work program that allows volunteers to perform projects that do not conflict with union guidelines. An example of this kind of volunteer work would be a group of parents painting the markings on the playground. The school principal approves each project in advance before the work is performed. However, the guidelines that govern the kind of volunteer work that can or cannot be done by the NYSO on the playing fields are unclear and do not appear to be enforced consistently.

The issue of field overuse continues to be the major problem facing the Maintenance Department. The demand for use of the existing fields exceeds the current budget of time and money allocated to the Maintenance Department to maintain them properly. Many of the NYSO are operate year-round programs that make it difficult for the Maintenance Department to allocate and schedule time and resources that will not conflict with seasonal playing time.

D. Fee Structure and Financial Regulations

The leaders of the NYSO that the Grand Jury interviewed expressed concern about the lack of transparency from within the NVUSD accounting office regarding the fees the Napa Youth Sports League had paid for field use. The Napa Youth Sports League is the name of the account holding the funds for the NYSO. There were occasional spreadsheets distributed to the NYSO at the Youth Sports Council meetings, but the entries were not clear or easy to understand.

The Grand Jury reviewed the concerns about the accounting procedures with the NVUSD accounting department. School District personnel clarified the process of accounting and explained the systems used by the school district as required by the state of California. The current software used by the school district is outdated, and does not readily report a spreadsheet showing revenues and expenditures charged to the Napa Youth Sports League funds. The timing for presenting financial reports to the NYSO was irregular, and often times the reports lacked clarity. Upgraded software would facilitate the timely preparation of financial reports to the Napa Youth Sports League.

The practice of charging the NYSO a field use fee for each player dates back to 1980. The original per player fee was \$10. Today that fee is \$15 per player. The purpose of the fee is to help offset the cost of maintaining the fields. However, the actual cost of maintaining the fields at today's labor costs is close to \$50 per player. The School District absorbs the difference through its maintenance budget.

The practice of charging a fee to the NYSO for the use of the fields on public school property during non-school hours is based on the guidelines stated in the California State Education Code section 38130, pursuant to the Civic Center Act (SB 1404). The Civic Center Act authorizes school districts to charge for the "operational direct costs" for the use of school facilities and grounds. The

term “school grounds” includes, but is not limited to, playing fields, athletic fields, tennis courts, and outdoor basketball courts.

The payment of fees is currently arranged on the honor system. In the past, the NYSO members have not been required to supply team rosters to verify the number of team players. Some NYSO members pay their fees at the time they reserve the fields, while other NYSO members are billed at a later date. In some cases, the records show that a few NYSO members failed to pay any fees, but were still allowed access to the fields. The NVUSD is considering introducing a policy that will require the leagues to pay their field use fee at the time they reserve the fields.

In December of 2013, the NVUSD drafted a Field Use Certificate of Payment Form that will be used beginning with the 2014 spring season. The new form identifies the teams using the fields, along with the season of play and the number of players on the teams. The new form also requires the leagues to provide rosters of all their teams using the fields for that season.

Currently, there are several ways for teams to pay the field use fee: they can pay at the field-scheduling meeting or they can take a check or cash directly to the NVUSD accounting office. Also, they can ask to be billed at a later date. The Joint Field Use Agreement also requires the NYSO members to show proof of insurance.

E. Scheduling Procedures

The field scheduling process for the NYSO begins with the completion of an Application for Use or Rental of School Facilities form listing the dates and times for use at each school site where the fields are located. The current use application covers all facilities in the NVUSD including swimming pools, gymnasiums and classrooms.

Separate applications have to be filled out for each school the NYSO reserve. The Facilities Application form was last updated in 1996. Completion of the Use Application form also serves as proof of insurance by the NYSO. A valid application for use of school facilities and payment of fees guarantees the NYSO the use of the fields they request.

Two field-scheduling meetings are held each year: one in January at the beginning of the spring season, and the other in July at the beginning of the fall season. Representatives from each of the NYSO members attend these meetings and participate in a “bidding” process for the fields they wish to use for the upcoming season. Historically, the leagues that have been established the longest in the City of Napa get priority scheduling. Adult leagues are always scheduled after all of the youth teams have made their selections.

The demand for field use by NYSO is high. It is estimated that more than 300 individual teams, representing eleven different sports leagues, will compete for field use in 2014. Because the scheduling process is done manually, the chance for duplicate field reservations where two teams are scheduled at the same field at the same time is not uncommon. When this occurs, an on-call school district supervisor can be reached via an emergency phone number to help resolve the conflict.

Currently, one NVUSD staff member is assigned the job of scheduling fields. The scheduling process is labor intensive and time consuming. Computer software that could modernize and expedite the process is not being used. Even when there are conflicts for the reservations of fields, the NYSO were found to work extremely well with one another to ensure that every team was satisfied with the field reservations they requested.

Once all of the fields' selections have been entered onto a master scheduling spreadsheet, a NVUSD staff person is responsible for transferring this information onto a color-coded, scheduling matrix. The scheduling matrix is given to league representatives who distribute this information to all coaches.

Using a web-based software program to schedule fields would allow teams to view field assignments on-line or by smartphone. With this kind of software, every coach in the league would have access to the master scheduling spreadsheet through his or her cell phone. This would help eliminate any conflicts in scheduling.

Field selections by the NYSO members are coordinated with the principals of each affected school in the district well in advance of the playing seasons. Schools have priority use of the fields from seven a.m. until five p.m. on every day when the school is in session. They also have priority use of the fields on any weekend that the school wishes to schedule a special event.

F. Youth Sports Council

The Youth Sports Council was first formed in the 1990's by a group of dedicated adult volunteers from the NYSO. During the early start up years, the Youth Sports Council worked cooperatively with the NVUSD and the City of Napa to upgrade and maintain the playing fields. As the number of NYSO grew, the Youth Sport Council evolved to represent the broader interests of the youth sports organizations.

In previous years the Youth Sports Council had an organizational structure with an elected president who represented the interests of all the NYSO members. At the present time, the Youth Sports Council does not have a spokesperson. However, at the initiative of the NVUSD's Director of General Services and Facilities, a plan is underway to elect a president for a one-year term. Broader representation from NYSO members should strengthen the level of communication between the school district and the youth sports groups.

Youth Sports Council meetings are generally held bi-monthly, but attendance is difficult to determine, as there are no attendance records of who attended prior meetings. The members of the NYSO are given advanced notice of the meetings, but the meeting dates, agendas and prior minutes are not currently made available for public view on the school district website.

VI. CONCLUSION

The topic under investigation in this Report centers on the management of the Joint Field Use Agreement between the NVUSD and the NYSO in the City of Napa. The issue of transparency and

accountability in dealing with the financial operations of the Napa Youth Sports League must continue to be addressed.

Scheduling of playing fields should be managed with the latest online technology, and field maintenance should continue to emphasize the need to provide the safest playing conditions at all fields. Finding additional playing fields within the City of Napa should also be a high priority with the Parks and Recreation Department to help offset the overuse of fields at most of the NVUSD schools.

The NVUSD and the NYSO are major stakeholders in the future development of youth sports in the City of Napa. The School District functions as the management and organizational team. The NYSO provide the volunteer framework in which school-aged boys and girls have the opportunity to compete in organized sports. Together they unify communities as joint partners in pursuit of a common goal of promoting youth sports by “Putting Kids First.”

When public and private agencies work together sharing resources it becomes a win-win situation for all parties. The growth of youth sports in the City of Napa has a promising future thanks to the efforts over the past years of the NVUSD, the City of Napa and the NYSO.

VII. FINDINGS

- F1. The ten-year Joint Use Agreement for Maintenance of School Sports Fields between the City of Napa and the NVSUD expired in 2010. The Joint Use Agreement provided funding to the School District for field maintenance.
- F2. Inequities in field maintenance and appearance were noted in all of the fields observed; some of the fields were in excellent condition while others were found to be lacking in maintenance.
- F3. Team rosters are not checked for billing purposes; an estimated number of players serve as a basis for payment.
- F4. Collection of field use fees is not centralized or submitted on a regular basis.
- F5. The financial reports from the NVUSD distributed at the Youth Sports Council meetings to the NYSO are inconsistent, often incomplete and lack transparency.
- F6. Fields are scheduled manually at two scheduling meetings during the year.
- F7. Fields are currently scheduled on a “historic’ basis with preference to those leagues that have been established the longest.
- F8. Payment of fees is restricted to either cash or check.

- F9. Some non-profit sports organizations fail to pay their field use fees, but still have access to the fields.
- F10. Safety and use requirement signage at many of the elementary school fields is often lacking, outdated or misplaced.
- F11. Emergency work requests are processed verbally, but not always followed up and recorded through the electronically controlled system known as “School Dude.”
- F12. The current field use application is outdated (1996) and consolidated within the application for rental or use of all school facilities. Users are required to complete separate applications for every field they request.
- F13. There is a gopher infestation problem at many of the natural grass fields.
- F14. Youth Sports Council meetings, agendas, and minutes are not published in advance for public view.
- F15. The existing playing fields within the NVUSD have reached their maximum capacity to accommodate the growing number of non-profit youth sports organizations.
- F16. The NVUSD accounting department is currently using outdated software to prepare financial reports for the Napa Youth Sports League account.
- F17. Some volunteer work performed on the School District’s playing fields by adults from the NYSO often conflicts with the union rules of the California School Employees Association.
- F18. The NVUSD assumed the responsibility of collecting field use fees from the NYSO in 2007.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grand Jury Recommends:

- R1. That the Superintendent of the NVUSD and the City of Napa Parks and Recreation Department re-establish within the next six months a new Joint Use Agreement for Maintenance of School Sports Fields for School and Community Use.
- R2. That the Director of Maintenance and Construction develop a more consistent maintenance program to ensure that the playing fields at all schools are maintained in a safe, playable condition.
- R3. That the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services develop written procedures for the enrollment of all non-profit youth sports leagues to ensure consistent tracking of applications, payments, billing and usage.

- R4. That the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services prepare quarterly financial reports for the Youth Sports Council meetings detailing current revenues and expenditures in the Napa Youth Sports League account.
- R5. That the Director of General Services and Facilities implement within the next six months, a computerized system for the reservations of playing fields.
- R6. That the Director of General Services and Facilities adopt a lottery or similar system to assign playing fields that would replace the current “historical” system.
- R7. That the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services immediately allow the use of credit cards for the payment of field use fees to ensure more efficient tracking of funds and team payments.
- R8. That the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services establish in the next six months stricter enforcement policies for the non-payment of field use fees.
- R9. That the Director of Maintenance and Construction, in conjunction with the principals at each elementary school site, place at the entrance of each playing field updated, highly visible signage stating that a use permit for organized sports groups is required to use the field.
- R10. That the Director of Maintenance and Construction establish procedures that expedite and track emergency work order requests within the web-based, electronic “School Dude” system to ensure proper transparency of the completed work.
- R11. That the Director of General Services and Facilities within the next three months create a computerized, online Facilities Use Application form designed for the exclusive reservations of playing fields.
- R12. That the Director of Maintenance and Construction continue to research and apply the most effective method of controlling the gopher infestation observed at many fields.
- R13. That the Superintendent of Schools and the Director of General Services and Facilities establish written guidelines immediately for the public posting of Youth Sports Council meetings, agendas and minutes.
- R14. That the City of Napa and the NVUSD continue to work in collaboration in the development of more playing fields on city-owned land for community use such as Kennedy Park.
- R15. That the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services implement and maintain a new financial software system for accounting services within the NVUSD to include the Napa Youth Sports League account.

- R16. That the NVUSD establish within the next six months written policies defining the type of work that can be performed on the fields by volunteers from the non-profit sports organizations.
- R17. That the Parks and Recreation Department resume the responsibility for collecting field use fees from the NVUSD as it did prior to 2007.

IX. REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, the 2013-2014 Grand Jury requests responses from the following governmental agencies:

- Napa City Council: R1, R14, R17
- NVUSD: R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14, R15, R16

It is requested that each person responding to the foregoing recommendations certify above his or her signature that the response conforms to the requirements of section 933.05 of the Penal Code.

X. COMMENDATION

The Grand Jury commends the Napa Valley Unified School District, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Non-profit Youth Sports Organizations for their combined efforts in promoting youth sports in the City of Napa by “Putting Kids First.”

The foregoing report was duly approved by the 2013-2014 Napa County Grand Jury in regular session on April 15, 2014. No member of the Grand Jury involved with a youth sports league participated in the preparation or approval of this report.

/s/

Alan Galbraith
Foreperson, 2013-2014 Grand Jury

Gopher Infestation at Redwood Middle School



Raider Field at Redwood Middle School



Field Damage at El Centro Elementary School



Field Use Permit Signage at Memorial Stadium



Girls Jr. Softball Sports Complex



NVUSD Synthetic Turf Field

