



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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October 1, 2019

The Honorable Andrew S. Blum  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

**RE: Response to the 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury Final Report**

Dear Judge Blum:

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933, the Board of Supervisors submits this response to the FY 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury's Final Report.

Our Board's responses are presented in the same sequence as the Recommendations appear in the Grand Jury's Final Report. We have provided responses to all items for which the report indicated a response was required by the Board of Supervisors.

Detailed responses from County Department Heads are likewise attached.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors values the oversight role the Civil Grand Jury has historically played in the State of California, and appreciates the commitment made by each member of the FY 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury to dutifully execute their civic role in a manner consistent with State Law.

While our Board cannot agree with every Recommendation made by the Grand Jury, we nonetheless value the general intention of the participants to ensure Lake County residents are well served by their local government. Our Board shares that general intention, and likewise strives to ensure the County of Lake provides services and information in a manner that is efficient, effective and transparent.

**RESPONSE TO CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”**

R3. The [County Veterans' Services Office, CVSO] should remain open on Fridays.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board concurs with the Health Services Director, Public Health Officer and Veterans Services Officer, who collectively note staff have made considerations to appropriately accommodate Veterans requiring services on Fridays. Important actions that support the overall mission of the office are taken during the time the CVSO is closed to the public. These activities include outreach to Lake County Veterans via a radio program, and the Civil Grand Jury's own Recommendation 4 in "Serving Those Who Served" affirms the value and need of quality outreach. The Friday Closure pilot was extended September 10, 2019, and our Board will therefore next revisit the CVSO's Office Hours on or before Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

R6. The County should consider providing a venue for a permanent Veterans Hall and Museum.

AGREE, in part, has been implemented to the degree feasible.

Explanation: The Wall of Honor located in the Lake County Courthouse is presently used for this purpose. This was a considered decision, and reflective of our Board's intention to place our recognition of Veterans in a location that receives a great deal of foot traffic. Use of alternative and additional spaces has been considered in the recent past, and we appreciate that CVSO personnel have been diligent in providing for appropriate recognition of Lake County's Veterans.

R7. County facilities [i.e., Public Services Department, Buildings and Grounds Division] should install improved signage for the CVSO building.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board is unable to recommend proactively allocating additional General Fund dollars toward new signage at this time, in part because the Health Services Director has not indicated this is an immediate need. As noted by the Public Services Director, decision-making regarding signage at the CVSO is most appropriately led by the Health Services Director. Should replacing CVSO signage be determined a feasible and urgent priority in the future, the Public Services Department would be expected to assist with installation of any new signs, and they have indicated their willingness to help.

**"IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS"**

R3. The County should recognize and commend publically the non-profits that expend so much time, energy, and resources on behalf of Lake County's dogs and cats, perhaps with a special "Appreciation Day."

AGREE, will be implemented by June 30, 2020.

Explanation: Our Board is aware that many individuals and groups in our communities have made tremendous contributions in attending to the diverse needs of Lake County's animal populations. Lake County Animal Care and Control's award-winning LEAP program is among those largely volunteer-driven organizations, and LEAP volunteers' efforts have been indispensable to disaster response in our communities. The County Administrative Office informs our Board that local Animal organizations will be featured in an upcoming publication, to be released no later than June 30, 2020. Administration will likewise confer with the Animal Control Director regarding any appropriate additional recognition.

R4. The County shelter should make every effort to restore the services for feral cats and pitbulls [sic] that were once available.

AGREE, has been implemented, noting the Grand Jury's Recommendation is to make every effort to restore services.

Explanation: Animal Care and Control recently hired a full-time Veterinarian, and it is our Board's understanding and expectation services are being ramped up, as resources and capacity allow. As many are probably aware, the Community Cat Program was restored since the issuance of the Grand Jury's Final Report; this was the culmination of a multi-year effort on the part of Animal Care and Control and other County staff.

While the Grand Jury's Report does not specifically indicate, it is probable remarks regarding pit bull services refer to pit bull spay/neuter services provided without requiring income qualification. Our Board supports the Lake County Animal Care and Control Director's significant efforts to appropriately prioritize services based on need and available resources. We likewise value the role the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board has historically played, and expect, despite present vacancies, their body will once again offer invaluable support, should need be identified.

#### **"LAKE COUNTY ANIMALS"**

R3. The County should ensure that the LEAP office has adequate telephone lines and personnel to respond immediately to distressed callers during emergencies.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board affirms the Animal Care and Control Director's analysis that sufficient LEAP telephone lines are available.

R4. The County should encourage all LCACC employees to undergo the FEMA online training

AGREE, has been implemented.

#### **"NAVIGATING THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM"**

R1. Lake County DSS should continue its efforts to recruit resource families within Lake County. In addition to the county's current usage of social media, it is recommended that DSS explore the possibility of radio announcements and newspaper advertisements.

AGREE, has been implemented.

R2. Lake County DSS should explore options for establishing a therapeutic group home in Lake County (e.g., a contract with a private firm/agency).

AGREE, has been implemented.

Our Board additionally refers any readers to the more detailed response provided by the Social Services Director, attached to this response.

R3. Lake County DSS should actively utilize resources within the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program's Executive Advisory Council to address the issues related to the overall needs of foster children and their parents.

AGREE, the Social Services Director indicates this will be implemented by 10/31/2019.

Our Board is aware that efforts are ongoing to coordinate the work of DSS' Child Welfare Services Division and the Foster Youth Services Program's Executive Council.

**“INSPECTION OF THE LAKE COUNTY DETENTION AND HOLDING FACILITIES”**

No response was required by the Grand Jury.

**“PUBLIC SAFETY – THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT”**

Our Board greatly appreciates the dedication of our law enforcement officers and other staff that support public safety functions, and the County is committed to negotiating future Agreements through the proper channels, in good faith.

Therefore, prior to responding to the Grand Jury's specific recommendations, it is important that we state, for the record, the County and the labor groups representing Law Enforcement staff are currently operating under agreed upon Memoranda of Understanding, and the County is not at impasse in Labor Negotiations with any group.

Some of the Recommendations proposed by this particular report venture into territory that is subject to Labor Negotiations. No aspect of these answers should be interpreted to constitute an offer on behalf of the County, as neither the Grand Jury's Report nor this Board's Response constitutes an appropriate forum for Labor Negotiations.

Our Vision 2028 long-term planning document places a premium on the well-being of our citizens, and specifically cites Public Safety as a matter of high priority. We are also facing an environment of limited resources, and need to make decisions that are in the best interest of all County residents.

With that said, here are informational responses, as appropriate, to the Grand Jury's Recommendations:

R1. The Board should prioritize adequate staffing levels in the Sheriff's Office as a California Constitutional mandate by making changes requested by the Sheriff that will assist in retention and recruitment.

AGREE, has been implemented.

Explanation: Our Board has long and consistently prioritized Public Safety. In the past three Fiscal Years, an average of 44.5% of discretionary General Fund revenues have been allocated to Lake County Sheriff's Office Budget Units (BUs) 2201, 2202 and 2301. The percentage of total General Fund salary allocations to those BUs over the same period has been similar, 45.6%.

R2. The Board should fund the Sheriff's requested restructuring of management staff in Dispatch and the Jail.

AGREE, has been implemented.

Explanation: Our Board finds sufficient General Fund dollars have been made available to support restructuring of the Sheriff's management staff in Dispatch and the Jail. On February 12, 2019, our Board approved the Sheriff's proposed restructuring, in concept, but denied requested immediate salary increases at the recommendation of the Classification, Compensation, Recruitment and Retention Committee (CCRR). Sheriff Martin ultimately elected to withdraw his request to restructure.

R3. The Board should consider instituting a relocation allowance for sworn officers as it has for other hard-to-fill positions.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: The existing relocation reimbursement policy can be applied to any hard-to-fill position, where appropriate. Such requests are typically initiated by the relevant Department Head.

R4. The Board should continue the negotiated MOU terms for the Sheriff's deputies after the current MOU expires.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board is not able to comment on matters that will be subject to negotiation in the coming months.

R5. The Board should consider front-loading the 12-step salary increases for deputies while retaining the cap.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: See R4, above.

**“DELIVERING A DIFFERENCE”**

R6. Governmental officials should ensure that numbers are correct before issuing proclamations and postings.

AGREE, has been implemented.

Explanation: Our Board concurs with the Governing Board of the Area Agency on Aging that the number of Home Delivered Meals served listed in the Proclamation in question is correct, and appropriately reflects the combined numbers for Lake and Mendocino Counties. County staff that prepare Proclamations and other public documents strive to produce accurate work products, and our Board commends their general dedication to this task, despite the clerical error cited by the Grand Jury.

**“LAKE COUNTY'S FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS”**

R9. The Lake County Board of Supervisors should consider incorporating Lake Pillsbury [Fire Protection District, FPD] into its Risk Reduction Authority [Joint Powers Authority] along with the other five FPDs.

NEUTRAL.

Explanation: Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District is an independent entity and not under the authority of our Board. Our Board would be happy to support amending the JPA to add Lake Pillsbury FPD, and the Authority's membership has likewise indicated their support.

As some will be aware, the Lake County Community Risk Reduction Authority was created as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) on October 16, 2018, with membership comprised of the Lake County Board of Supervisors, the Board of Directors of the Lake County Watershed Protection District, the Lakeport Fire Protection District, the Northshore Fire Protection District and the South Lake Fire Protection District.

On December 18, 2018, the Authority welcomed the membership of Kelseyville Fire Protection District, and on February 26, 2019, the Authority welcomed Lake County Fire Protection District.

This concludes the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury Final Report.

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Tina Scott  
Chair of the Board

cc: 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson  
2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson