



MEMORANDUM

COUNTY OF LAKE

COUNTY  
COUNSEL

TO: Carol J. Huchingson  
County Administrative Officer

FROM: Anita L. Grant  
County Counsel

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Response

DATE: August 11, 2017

The recently issued 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report requested responses from me in regard to two reports. I note that in regard to the report entitled, "200 + County Properties Need Management", you have responded on behalf of all County persons invited to respond. I have no comments or suggestions in regard to that response and thank you for drafting it on behalf of all of us.

In regard to the report entitled, "50,000+ Abatement Reimbursement Ignored", I offer the following responses:

Finding F.1: The BOS and the Water Resources Department neglected to try to collect a \$55,906.07 debt owed to the County for over five years.

Response: I recommend the County disagree with this Finding. There was no act of neglect in regard to the collection of this debt. The unique circumstances of the subject event precluded the successful use of standard collection practices. Until recently, there was no available means of collection reasonably likely to be successful. Once that means of collection was made possible, the County immediately acted upon it.

Finding F.2: The Code Enforcement Department has a well-oiled process for handling abatements that occur on land.

Response: I recommend the County agree with this Finding.

Finding F.3: The Department of Water Resources or Lakebed Management did not use

all available processes for handling abatements that occur on water.

Response: I recommend the County disagree with this Finding. There was and is no specific process addressing abatements that occur on water.

Finding F.4: The BOS has made no effort to determine how or why no one tried to collect the debt or provide any consequences to that person or entity.

Response: I recommend the County disagree with this Finding in light of my response to Finding F.1 hereinabove..

Finding F.5: The Grand Jury could find no reference to required insurance or bonds for contractors constructing docks, piers, etc. in the lake other than a State requirement for a \$15,000 bond to be licensed contractor.

Response: I recommend the County agree with this Finding to the extent it refers to the ability of the Grand Jury to find references to insurance. I recommend the County disagree with this Finding to the extent it implies the County has no such requirements at all.

Finding F.6: Due to the fluid situation with the lake it may not be sufficient to use only one method of contact to reach the proper party.

Response: I recommend the County disagree with this Finding because I am unable to understand what is intended by the phrase, "the fluid situation with the lake" and/or who is intended as the "proper party" or the type of contact envisioned by this Finding.

Recommendation R.1: The BOS, by the end of 2017, add requirements to the Chapter 13 and 23 ordinances that contractors working on the lake have in place bonds and insurance to cover the potential claims based of [sic] the size of the project.

Response: I recommend that this Recommendation not be implemented because insurance requirements for various type of agreements and processes already exist in County policy and/or County contracting requirements.

Recommendation R.2: Department of Water Resources officially adopt the Chapter 13 process for abatements in the lake within two months of the completion of Recommendation 1. Provide training in the process to enforcement officials within two months after adoption.

Response: I recommend that this Recommendation not be implemented because it is unnecessary. The Chapter 13 abatement process is already applicable to any and County enforcement officials.

Recommendation R.3: BOS determine who had the responsibility to initiate the

collection activity and discipline that person or entity.

Response: I recommend that this Recommendation not be implemented because the process had not reached a point where such collection activity was authorized or delegated to any person or entity.

Recommendation R.4: County Counsel determine, within two months, where in the ordinances the requirement for insurance needs to be added.

Response: I recommend that this Recommendation not be implemented in light of my response to Recommendation R1.

Recommendation R.5: BOS change the Chapter 13 ordinance to require the use of two methods of delivery of the Notice to Abate for lake-related abatements to ensure it is included in Recommendation 1.

Response: I recommend this Recommendation not be implemented because Chapter 13 already adequately addresses the methods of notice in abatement actions.



**COUNTY OF LAKE**

**Administrative Office**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street

Lakeport, California 95453

Telephone: (707) 263-2580

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E-mail: Carol.Huchingson@lakecountyca.gov

**CAROL J. HUCHINGSON**

County Administrative Officer

**DATE:** August 14, 2017

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Carol J. Huchingson, County Administrative Officer

**SUBJECT:** Response to 2016-17 Grand Jury Final Report: "Taxpayers potentially lose millions on real estate investments"

The County Administrative Office appreciates the time and energy invested by each member of the Grand Jury in preparation of your report. Please see our discussion of your findings, below.

**Findings**

F1 Disagree

The point of this finding is not clear.

F2 Disagree

Holiday Harbor is insured for replacement value. Docks are excluded from insurance coverage unless the County requests such coverage.

F3 Agree

No further comment.

F4 Disagree

The point of this finding is not clear.

F5 Disagree

Holiday Harbor was closed in 2016 for safety reasons. The remaining boats had current quagga mussel stickers at one time but were later abandoned there by owners, and have not moved since.

F1 #2 Disagree

Refer to response to F5.



## COUNTY OF LAKE

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**CAROL J. HUCHINGSON**

County Administrative Officer

F2 #2 Agree

No further comment.

F3 #2 Disagree

The point of this finding is not clear. There is no direct correlation between college enrollment and maintenance of the Castle property.

F4 #2 Disagree

The point of this finding is not clear.

F5 #2 Agree

The Castle property is only partially renovated.

F6 Agree

Parking at the castle is limited and would require expansion depending on future use.

F7 Disagree

The point of this finding is not clear. It is common practice for County staff to be involved in acquisition, management and development of commercial real estate.

F8 Disagree

While the vision for Holiday Harbor could not be realized before the Redevelopment Agency was eliminated by the state, the 4-year college program at the Castle has benefited the County and the community as a whole with a number of successful Bachelors and Masters level graduates.

### Recommendations

R1 Disagree

The point of this recommendation is not clear.



## **COUNTY OF LAKE**

### **Administrative Office**

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**CAROL J. HUCHINGSON**

County Administrative Officer

R2 Agree

Holiday Harbor is being relisted for sale, however, if successful, the process will take longer than sixty days.

R3 Agree

Refer to response to R2. In addition, County Administration is working with Water Resources to secure a contractor to remove the sunken boat.

R4 Disagree

Refer to response to F5.

R5 Disagree

The owners of the abandoned boats have been non-responsive to repeated efforts demanding that they take necessary action with respect to their boats.

R6 Disagree

As of this writing, the Castle property is still tied up through the lease agreement with Marymount. The Castle cannot be repurposed in any way until the parties come to terms. Nonetheless, there has been considerable interest in the Castle since it was announced that Marymount had departed.



**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 14, 2017  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Carol J. Huchingson, County Administrative Officer  
Lars Ewing, Public Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Response to 2016-17 Grand Jury Final Report: "200+ County Properties Need Management to Ensure Maximum Insurance coverage and Minimum Premium Cost"

The County Administrative Office and the Department of Public Services appreciate the time and energy invested by each member of the Grand Jury in preparation of your report. Our discussion of your findings is below.

**Findings**

F1 Disagree

The point of this finding is not clear.

F2 Disagree

All properties are appropriately insured. Properties are appraised by a licensed, professional appraiser and insurance coverage and premiums are based on replacement value.

F3 Disagree

The responsible departments balance numerous priorities including keeping track of properties.

F4 Disagree

The point of this finding is not clear.

F5 Disagree

Refer to response to F2.

F6 Disagree

Refer to response to F2.

F7 Agree

Docks, piers and gazebos are excluded from insurance unless the County requests such coverage.

F8 Disagree

Refer to response to F2.

F9 Disagree

Refer to F2. Full replacement value is automatically covered for County properties.

F10 Disagree

Refer to response to F7.

F11 Disagree

Refer to response to F2.

F12 Disagree

The County Administrative Office and Risk Management each provided a copy of the schedule of properties generated by Alliant. It is possible that these copies were different versions depending on the dates they were generated. The list provided by Public Services was not a schedule of properties. It was, in fact, a list used by the department for maintenance purposes.

## **Recommendations**

R1 Disagree

The County does not have the financial resources to establish and staff a centralized PMO.

R2 Disagree

Alliant audits properties and there is no need for the County to duplicate this effort.

R3 Disagree

The schedule of County properties is an accurate list of properties covered by insurance.

R4 Disagree

As noted in the response to F7 hereinabove, docks are excluded from insurance unless the County requests such coverage.

R5 Agree

The County will confirm the Clark's Island Pedestrian Bridge is on the schedule of properties.

R6 Agree

The County will confirm that large County and Park signs and clocks are on the schedule of properties.



## COUNTY OF LAKE

Department of the Treasurer - Tax Collector

Courthouse - 255 N. Forbes Street  
Lakeport, California 95453  
Telephone 707/263-2234  
Fax 707/263-2254

**BARBARA C. RINGEN**  
Treasurer - Tax Collector

August 25, 2017

Honorable Judge Andrew S. Blum  
Lake County Superior Court  
255 North Forbes Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Lakeport, CA 95453

RE: 2016/17 Grand Jury Response – Treasurer Tax Collector

Dear Judge Blum,

The Treasurer-Tax Collector appreciates the considerable time and dedication that is required to serve as grand jurors.

Name of report: Has anybody seen a Tax Lien Sale recently?

Findings #: F 1. Since the County has not exercised its authority to hold a tax lien sale since 2013, it has hampered the ability of the municipalities to have all monies available for their operations.

AGREE, implementation has begun, will increase as staffing levels allow. Current Treasurer- Tax Collector's office staff vacancy rate is 40%.

Findings #: F 2. The proposed sale of 141 tax-defaulted properties is only three percent of the total available properties eligible for tax sale.

AGREE, implementation has begun. Current Treasurer-Tax Collector's office staff vacancy rate is 40%, will increase resources devoted commensurate with available staffing.

Recommendation #: R 1. The County conduct a tax lien sale on an annual basis including properties from the cities of Clearlake and Lakeport.

AGREE, has been implemented.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Ringen  
Treasurer -Tax Collector

cc: Board of Supervisors, County of Lake  
Carol J. Hutchingson, Chief Administrative Officer



**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 28, 2017

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Carol J. Huchingson, County Administrative Officer  
Todd Metcalf, Behavioral Health Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Response to 2016-17 Grand Jury Final Report: Inadequate Staffing of County Behavioral Health

**Findings**

**F1. DISAGREE**

The annual direct County General Fund contribution to BH is \$61,112.00. The total County Behavioral Health budget for 2016-17 was \$13,431,617, predominantly from State and Federal funds.

**F2. NEUTRAL**

Will explore potential positive and negative fiscal impacts to the Department. To be completed before end of fiscal year 2017-18.

**F3. AGREE**

Will explore suggested recruitment options during fiscal year 2017-18 as outlined by the Grand Jury.

**F4. AGREE**

No further comment.

**F5. AGREE**

Will look into utilizing other recruitment websites such as "Indeed.com" in addition to outreach at local universities/community colleges nursing programs. Protocol to be developed before end of fiscal year 2017-18.

**F6. DISAGREE**

The point of this finding is not clear. BH is focused on improved client care and financial efficiency.

F7. AGREE

No further comment.

F8. AGREE

No further comment.

F9. DISAGREE

To the extent that resources made it possible, the County explored implementing a Health and Human Services Agency during FY 2015-2016. At that time, it was determined that it was not feasible to implement such a structure despite the many positive reasons for doing so.

F10. DISAGREE

Refer to response to F9. There is no further movement with respect to implementation of the Health and Human Services Agency structure at this time.

F11. AGREE

No further comment.

F12. DISAGREE

The point of this finding is not clear. There is no further movement with respect to implementation of the Health and Human Services Agency at this time.

**Recommendations**

R1. AGREE

Will be implemented within fiscal year 2017-18.

R2. AGREE

Will be implemented by December 31, 2017.

R3. AGREE

As consistent with its process for all County Department Heads, the Board of Supervisors conducts periodic performance evaluations of the Behavioral Health Administrator.

R4. DISAGREE

Refer to responses to F9, F10 and F12.

R5. DISAGREE

Refer to responses to F9, F10, F12 and R4.

R6. DISAGREE

Refer to responses to F9, F10, F12, R4 and R5.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
**SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADMINISTRATION**  
230 N. Main Street  
Lakeport, California 95453  
Telephone (707) 263-0119  
Fax (707) 263-3836

**Jan Coppinger**  
Administrator

Date: July 17, 2017

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Coppinger, Administrator

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report 2016-2017

Lake County Special Districts has read the report and findings in the 2016-2017 Grand Jury report "Why Do We Pay Those #\*!@ Rates?" and we appreciate the opportunity to submit a response. Our response pertains only to the water and sewer systems managed by Special Districts.

Under the section titled FINDINGS, (page 71) we concur with the findings that pertain to Special Districts.

Special District's response to the section titled RECOMMENDATIONS, (page 72) are as follows:

**R 1. Lake County should pursue every available resource to rebuild the damaged and destroyed water systems as quickly as possible.**

Special Districts has pursued every possible resource and has been quite successful in rebuilding the damaged systems we manage. We have secured insurance proceeds as well as FEMA Mitigation funds in excess of \$2 million to repair and replace Starview Water System (CSA #18), Bonanza Springs Water System (CSA #7), and Middletown Sewer System.

Repairs for Middletown Sewer are complete. The repairs on the damaged water systems are in progress and near completion. Delays were encountered while seeking and securing the funding and clearing the many environmental hurdles that we encountered. When the upgrades are completed, the water systems will not only be fully repaired, they will be more modern and robust than before the fire. They will be able to meet all current and future building codes, as well as contain fire hydrants every 500 feet and have capacity and pressure to sustain the hydrants.

**R 2. The public needs to be informed about the factors that determine water rates in the different water systems so that they will not feel that these are arbitrary or unfair.**

Special Districts strives to educate and inform the public on a variety of issues concerning water and sewer infrastructure. Every rate ordinance that we adopt is preceded by numerous public meetings, discussions and letters explaining the rates and fees being proposed and the reason and justification for each.

Lake County has diverse demographics and geological aspects that affect the water resources. Rates cannot be uniform across the County due to the varying water sources and supplies, treatment methods, capacity issues and economies of scale that are unique to each system.

**R 3. Lake County should streamline the rebuilding process for those affected by fire so the property tax base can be increased.**

Customers that lost homes in the Valley Fire are able to have water or sewer services restored at any time they request. Special Districts has made it a policy to go “above and beyond” in accommodating fire victims. Our theory is that they have many challenges ahead of them, we want to see rebuilding as soon as possible, and we will facilitate their efforts to navigate through the process as easily as possible. Some areas do not have adequate infrastructure to facilitate rebuilding but that is not something that can be streamlined easily or quickly. Special Districts is working diligently on getting a public sewer system in Anderson Springs to help facilitate rebuilding in that community.

**R 4. Lake County shall continue to consolidate water systems in order to provide better water quality and possibly lower rates to customers.**

We realize that considering economies of scale, many would benefit from consolidating service areas. Although we favor consolidation of water systems where feasible, we also realize that Lake County is a large county with mostly unincorporated communities that have diverse demographics and geological aspects that affect the water resources. The existing service areas, as established, enable a community to have a water system and rate structure that specifically meets the needs of that community and allows the residents to have some authority and control over the resources available to them.

Due to the varied geological area, physical inter-connections are not feasible in most cases. Physical connections would be extremely costly and those costs would result in increased rates and fees for the customers.

**R 5. Lake County needs to have a grant writer knowledgeable in the process of applying for State and Federal grants.**

Special Districts submits grant applications on behalf of our systems. Although a “Grant Writer” would be helpful, the grants that Special Districts receives are typically funded based on technical and managerial information that is only known to existing staff with access to current records and data. A grant writer that is not knowledgeable about the industry would not be able to understand and answer the questions required for a funding application. Special Districts is working on developing existing staff to submit funding applications and accounting staff to help manage and maintain the grants. This continues to be a struggle due to the low wages we are able to pay accounting staff which makes it difficult to attract and retain staff with strong grant management skills. Our Human Resources Department does not allow questions about grant management and accounting to be asked during the oral screening process for Accountants. They do not consider it as a part of the job description or duties for the position. This makes proper recruitment difficult. When an employee does get trained and competent, they leave the district for employment elsewhere that pays better.



## COUNTY OF LAKE

Public Health Services Department - Administration

922 Bevins Court

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Telephone 707/263-1090 FAX 707/263-4395

*Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County*

### MEMORANDUM

Denise Pomeroy  
Health Services Director  
(707) 263-1090

Karen M. Tait, M.D.  
Health Officer  
(707) 263-1090

**DATE:** August 1, 2017

**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**FROM:** Denise Pomeroy, Health Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Response to FY 2016-2017 Grand Jury Final Report

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933, I am submitting this response to the FY 2016-2017 Final Grand Jury Report via the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

#### **Findings (Page 88)**

- F1. It is possible that the mosquitoes that transmit Zika virus will become established in the County in the future. When this happens, Zika virus could become a serious problem in the County.
- F2. LCVC is effectively fighting WNV in the County.
- F3. LCVC is effectively communicating with the public with regard to WNV.
- F4. LCVC public information about the Zika virus is insufficient.
- F5. Pesticides used in vector control can harm honeybees, beneficial insects and other wildlife unless care is taken to avoid collateral damage. Alternative methods are available including mosquito fish that are being used by LCVC.

#### **Response to Recommendations (Page 89)**

- R1 County and LCVC should draft a plan, within one year, to fight the Zika-infected mosquito. The plan should include measures to protect beneficial insects and wildlife. (F1, F5)

Lake County Health Services Department agrees that anticipatory plan development is essential for a strategic response when the potential for local transmission of Zika virus becomes a reality. It will also serve to estimate resource needs, since the arrival of the *Aedes* mosquito will most likely require expansion of vector control capacity. The Vector Control District serves an important public health role and its plans for vector borne disease control will need to be integrated with Public Health Division plans. Zika virus is not only a vector-borne disease, but it is also transmitted person-to-person through sexual contact. Individuals, who become infected with Zika virus may transmit the infection through sexual contact for up to six months. Travel from Lake County to Mexico and other destinations where Zika virus is endemic is common. Returning travelers may be unaware of an infection and serve as unwitting human vectors of the disease. Therefore, vector control activities will need to be guided, in

part, by public health surveillance findings in the human population. There is already good precedent for this type of partnership between Lake County Vector Control District and Lake County Public Health in the case of other vector borne diseases.

- R2 County and LCVC should develop an effective public education campaign to fight the Zika mosquito and the virus that involves all available media, including internet, newspaper, TV and radio within 18 months. (F1,F3,F4)

Public education is an essential tool in disease prevention. A vigorous public and professional community education campaign is critical and goes far beyond the important role of mosquito control. Education of the medical community in the use of clinical guidelines and specialized laboratory support for diagnosis of Zika virus infections is ongoing in Public Health and must be updated whenever new knowledge and changes in recommendations occur. In addition, outreach to the public, through the travel industry and any other available means is needed to convey information about the risks to individuals and/or the general community that result from travel to and from Zika-endemic locations. Development and maintenance of this level of public information is resource-intensive and will require designation of trained personnel prepared to effectively and consistently communicate to all segments of the community via multiple modalities.

- R3 LCVC should work closely with the County Public Health Department to fight Zika-infected mosquito and the virus. (F1, F3, F4)

Lake County Vector Control District is a strong partner with Lake County Public Health. Success in the control of West Nile Virus (WNV) is attributable, in part, to close communication between the Vector Control District Manager/Research Director and the local Health Officer throughout the entire WNV season every year. In addition to joint monitoring of WNV surveillance data (mosquito, dead birds, sentinel chickens, etc.) and strategically issued joint news releases, additional collaboration between the two agencies regularly occurs. Examples include advance notification of planned outdoor events for additional mosquito suppression and/or provision of mosquito repellent stations, Vector Control District participation in educational health fairs, and targeted mosquito abatement in neighborhoods of human cases of vector borne diseases when they occur. In Lake County, this partnership has been in place for nearly a decade, in contrast to many other jurisdictions in California where this type of coordination is in the early stages of development.

These collaborative practices have already carried over to Zika virus prevention. Focused neighborhood mosquito abatement was carried out soon after detection of the one Lake County case of imported Zika virus infection that has been identified to date.

- R4 LCVC website should have more information on the Zika-infected mosquito and the virus. (F4)

Lake County Health Services Department agrees that making information readily available to the public through multiple modalities is an important part of a comprehensive public education campaign. The Vector Control District website would be one component of such a campaign, but a focus on the vector control component should not convey the impression that the disease can be controlled through vector management alone. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California

Department of Public Health maintain web pages that are continuously updated to reflect current surveillance data and guidelines. They address Zika virus control in a comprehensive way, including specific information about travel recommendations, prevention of sexual transmission and special considerations for pregnancy. As an emerging disease, the status of Zika virus transmission and the guidelines for surveillance and management are sufficiently dynamic that it is advisable to utilize these authoritative sources. These could be accessed via links from local web pages. Examples include <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html> and <https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx>.

R5 LCVC should educate property owners about predators that prey on mosquitos. For example, providing mosquito eating fish and encouraging homeowners to put up bat boxes. (F4,F5).

Lake County Health Services Department believes that the issue of encouraging bats into populated areas needs careful consideration. Bats are often infected with rabies virus at low, but detectable rates. In California, most cases of rabies occur in bats. While bats have a highly beneficial role in the ecosystem, a substantial increase in opportunities for exposure of bats to dogs, cats and people would likely contribute to a different, but serious public health concern.



**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
255 N. Forbes Street  
Lakeport, California 95453  
Telephone 707-263-2344  
Fax 707-263-1965

**Philip B. Moy, PhD**  
Water Resources Director

### Memorandum

**Date:** 2 August, 2017  
**To:** Board of Supervisors  
**From:** Philip B. Moy, Water Resources Department Director  
**Subject:** Water Resources Response to Grand Jury Report

Name of report: \_How high will the water rise?  
Finding or Recommendation #: \_F3, R3 \_\_\_\_\_

- AGREE, has been implemented
- AGREE, will be implemented within: \_3 months\_\_\_\_\_
- NEUTRAL, requires further analysis to be completed within \_\_\_\_\_
- DISAGREE, will not be implemented. Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of report: \_How high will the water rise?  
Finding or Recommendation #: \_F4, R4 \_\_\_\_\_

- AGREE, has been implemented
- AGREE, will be implemented within: \_\_\_\_\_
- NEUTRAL, requires further analysis to be completed within \_\_\_\_\_
- DISAGREE, will not be implemented. Explanation: A Rumsey to NGVD conversion table is available on the Water Resources webpage at the bottom:  
<http://www.co.lake.ca.us/Government/Directory/WaterResources/ClearLake.htm>



# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**ROB HOWE**

Chief Probation Officer

To: The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
From: Rob Howe, Chief Probation Officer  
Date: July 19, 2017  
Subject: Response to the 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report



The following is my response to the Grand Jury's final report for 2016-2017. The portion of the report pertaining to the Probation Department can be found on pages 107 through 109, "Juvenile Hall".

The Grand Jury's recommendations and my responses, In the Grand Jury's requested format, are as follows:

**Name of Report: Probation**

**Finding or Recommendation #: R1**

- AGREE, has been implemented.
- AGREE, will be implemented within 90 days.
- NEUTRAL, Requires further analysis to be completed within:
- DISAGREE, will not be implementing. Explanation:

**Name of Report: Probation**

**Finding or Recommendation #: R2**

- AGREE, has been implemented.
- AGREE, will be implemented within 90 days.
- NEUTRAL, Requires further analysis to be completed within:
- DISAGREE, will not be implementing. Explanation:

**LAKE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

201 South Smith Street ♦ Lakeport, California 95453  
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# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**ROB HOWE**

Chief Probation Officer

## **Further details regarding Recommendation 1 (R1):**

R 1. When the contract is re-negotiated, particular attention must be given to all commitments and details. (F1, F3).

*Finding 1 (F1) states, "Due to the urgency of maintaining a proper facility for the youths, the contract was not given a thorough review and scrutiny before it was implemented."*

*Finding 3 (F3) states, "Coordination between the two county's probation departments and Lake County Behavioral Health was not occurring and needs to be defined in the contract."*

### **Response:**

The Probation Department will give particular attention to all commitments and details (F1, F3) when the contract is re-negotiated.

Although I agree with R1, I believe the following Grand Jury Findings need clarification:

### **Finding 1 (F1):**

I believe the statement, "Due to the urgency of maintaining a proper facility for the youths, the contract was not given a thorough review and scrutiny before it was implemented", is not completely accurate. The contract was reviewed and scrutinized; however, contracting out juvenile detention was a completely new procedure for Lake County. Regardless of the amount of review or scrutiny, we knew we were going to encounter issues that needed to be worked out. We have a cooperative relationship with all parties involved and I believe we have, and will continue to, work together to solve any problems that might arise.

## **Further details regarding Recommendation 2 (R2):**

### **Response:**

The Probation Department has, and will continue to, insure quarterly meeting/reports in a timely manner.

Although I agree with R2, I believe a Grand Jury Finding in this area also needs the

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**LAKE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**ROB HOWE**

Chief Probation Officer

following clarification:

Finding 2 (F2):

The statement, "Formal quarterly meetings/reports were not held/issued for the first year of the contract", is somewhat misleading. Since the beginning of the contract the Lake County Probation Department has been in contact and held meetings with Mendocino County far more frequently than quarterly. It is accurate, however, that a formal reporting procedure for quarterly meetings was not initially established. That procedure has been put into place and quarterly meetings are held and reported.

I also believe the following statements found in "Background" on the Grand Jury's Report are inaccurate:

The Grand Jury states:

*When the youths were housed in Lake County it was noted that:*

- *The facility did not meet Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) requirements. The cost to update the facility would have been prohibitive.*
- *Mandatory educational requirements were not consistently enforced.*
- *Standards of conduct were not well established or maintained.*

For several years prior to closing Lake County's Juvenile Hall, the average population had declined to nine (9) detainees. This was due primarily to local and national juvenile realignment initiatives where one of the focal points was reducing juvenile exposure to institutional custody settings.

In the first bullet point, it is accurate to say, "The cost to update the facility would have been prohibitive". Maintaining BSCC standards for such a small population would have been cost prohibitive, however, we were not out of compliance with BSCC standards. During my time as the Chief Probation Officer, I am not aware of the facility ever failing to comply with BSCC Standards.

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**LAKE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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**ROB HOWE**

Chief Probation Officer

The second bullet point is also incorrect. Not only were educational requirements enforced and BSCC standards met, but I believe the Lake County Office of Education supplied an exceptional educational program for our incarcerated youth.

As for the final bullet point, I am not sure what "Standards of conduct" the Grand Jury is referring to as having not been "well established or maintained". Our Juvenile Hall, when in operations, as well as the entire Probation Department has always established and maintained very high standards of conduct.

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**LAKE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

201 South Smith Street ♦ Lakeport, California 95453  
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## LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1220 Martin Street • P.O. Box 489 • Lakeport, California 95453

**Administration**  
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**Central Dispatch**  
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**Coroner**  
(707) 262-4215

**Corrections**  
(707) 262-4240

**Patrol/Investigation**  
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**Substation**  
(707) 994-6433

**Brian L. Martin**  
Sheriff / Coroner

July 31, 2017

Honorable Andrew Blum  
Presiding Judge  
Lake County Superior Courts  
255 N. Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

To the Honorable Judge Andrew W. Blum,

I am writing this letter in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05 as response to the June 30, 2017 final report from the Lake County Civil Grand Jury. I first want to thank the Court and express my gratitude and appreciation for the volunteers who dedicated many hours by providing this important service to our community. I welcome the opportunity to have oversight and feedback regarding the Sheriff's Office operations, and I constantly strive to improve the professional services provided by this agency to the people in Lake County. In response to the 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report, the Lake County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following responses:

### **Taxpayers Potentially Lose \$Millions\$ on Real Estate Investments (pages 21-26).**

#### **Findings**

**F5 The Sheriff and County officials are allowing two boats with registrations at least two years out of date and no Quagga Muscle stickers to remain in Holiday Harbor. This is a clear violation of County and State laws.**

Response: The Sheriff's Office disagrees partially with the finding. The Sheriff's Office agrees that the registration stickers are out of date and there are no Quagga Muscle stickers. The Sheriff's Office disagrees with the statement that the Sheriff is "allowing" the boats in question to remain in Holiday Harbor. The Marina is County owned property which is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**R4 Sheriff enforce maritime law and County regulations at Holiday Harbor immediately (F5).**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office enforces maritime law and County regulations at Holiday Harbor. The Marina is County owned property not under the control of the Sheriff. Representatives from the Sheriff's Office have been in contact with the County. The County and the Water Resources Department are working on a contract to provide for vessel abatements around the lake and within Holiday Harbor. The County is working to identify resources to address the problem.

### **Hill Street Blues (pages 105-106)**

#### **Findings:**

**F1 The staffing of the Hill Road Facility Control/Monitoring room is inadequate.**

Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding.

**Recommendations:**

**R1 Two people should staff the Hill Road Facility Control/Monitoring room at all times (F1).**  
The recommendations has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. No timeframe can be identified for implementation at this time as there are multiple unfilled vacancies. Recruitment efforts for the position of Correctional Aide are repetitive, ongoing, and largely unsuccessful at attracting candidates who are qualified for, and willing to accept employment. Recruitment efforts for Correctional Aides will continue.

In 2016, there were three recruitments to fill these vacancies. As of the writing of this response in 2017, we have had one completed recruitment, and are in the process of a second. In 2016 two Correctional Aides were hired as transfers. One transferred from Lake County Probation when his position was eliminated due to the closure of Juvenile Hall. The second transferred within the Sheriff's Office when her position was eliminated due to the implementation of a contract to provide meal services at the jail.

In 2017, one person was hired as a new Correctional Aide from the eligibility list. When the Sheriff's Office is able to hire enough people to fill the vacant positions, we will staff the Control and Monitoring rooms at all times with two people.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Brian L. Martin*

Brian L. Martin  
Sheriff-Coroner  
Emergency Services Director  
County of Lake



**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
Department of Animal Care & Control

4949 Helbush Drive  
Lakeport, California 95453  
Phone: (707) 263-0278  
Fax: (707) 263-5067

**William Davidson**  
Animal Care & Control Director

**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** 7-10-2017  
**To:** Lake County Board of Supervisors  
**From:** William Davidson  
Director, Lake County Animal Care & Control  
**RE:** 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report

Dear Lake County Board of Supervisors,

First off I would like to thank the Grand Jury for the invitation to speak before them on the subject of the County Animal Care & Control Facility.

In response to the Grand Jury's findings I completely agree that public spay neuter services are in high demand. Unfortunately, the county cannot be the only facility to provide these services. We are not setup to be the ONLY low cost facility in the county. The demand we have been experiencing lately is way beyond our capacity and seriously affects our ability to deal with all the stray animals that come into the shelter, which are our priority. Our services are designed to supplement existing programs, and are only offered to those people who are 'income qualified'. Unfortunately, Lake County currently has no other low cost programs in effect?

I would also like to share that although our contract vet is only here 3 days a week, he is most certainly functioning in a full time capacity. He is typically here between 7am and 9pm on surgery days, and an additional 4-5 hours on the weekends. He is also available by phone for consultation 24/7.

With regard to the Grand Jury's recommendations, I suggested they support a full time veterinarian for our facility. However my suggestion was meant to be interpreted as the development of a full time county position for Veterinarian, one that would be a permanent county employee and in place 5 days a week. The thought being that medical services beyond spay and neuter are needed all the time, not just on certain days. Given the county's current financial situation, I understand that this may not be possible.

Collaboration with Clearlake for vet services is a thought. However, this idea was discussed with the SPCA in Kelseyville before they shut down many years ago, and the details of working out two separate contracts for two different requirements and needs, proved to be too

difficult. Additionally, finding veterinarians to work in Lake County is a difficult task. Even local veterinary offices have stated this. Asking them to work in two different locations just compounds the problem even more.

As to training veterinary technicians, our vet has frequently been in touch with Yuba College, which has a credentialed RVT program (Registered Veterinary Technician). Unfortunately, interest in the Animal Care Program from within Lake County isn't enough to keep our facility staffed with trainees. Originally, we also looked to UC Davis for vet students to assist at our facility. However, the director of the Koret Shelter Medical Program, Kate Hurley DVM, indicated that Lake County was too far away to combine both field experience with classroom time.

With regard to our public outreach, we believe it's good, certainly better than it used to be. A couple years ago we opened a Facebook account, which almost immediately brought us a much bigger audience and attention for all our animals. Local news and media runs stories and animal adoption issues from time to time, and we do frequent elementary schools several times a year. This year alone we visited three different schools/events where our targeted audience was elementary school age children: Eastlake Elementary School for career day, Riviera Elementary School for 'Read Across America', and the Tribal Olympics at the Lakeport Fairgrounds.

Is there room for improvement? Absolutely! Again, I appreciate the Grand Jury's time and interest in our department and will do what we can to further implement their suggestions and ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Davidson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William Davidson

CC: Lake County Grand Jury