



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Moke Simon
District 1

Bruno Sabatier
District 2

Eddie Crandell
District 3

Tina Scott
District 4

Rob Brown
District 5

June 11, 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 Grand Jury Special Report on Lampson Field Airport

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 Special Report, "How Can We Safely Land?"

As is our custom, our Board's response is presented in the same sequence as the recommendations appear in the Special Report. We have provided a response to all items for which the report indicated a response was required by the Board of Supervisors.

A detailed response from County Director of Public Works, Scott De Leon, which addresses each Finding and Recommendation put forth in the Special Report, is likewise attached. Our Board finds Director De Leon's assessment of each matter posed to be appropriate, and we applaud DPW for using the right planning instruments at the right times, as discussed in their departmental response.

Our Board, further, recognizes the significant investment made by Director De Leon and Department of Public Works staff to provide a timely and professional response, despite the sensational nature of some of the content.

OVERALL COMMENTS ON THIS REPORT

The Lake County Board of Supervisors appreciates the important oversight function that the Civil Grand Jury has historically played in the State of California, and the great need for the public to be able to trust that their elected and appointed officials are dutifully and effectively executing the responsibilities of our offices. Further, we value the commitment made by each member of the FY 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury to execute their important civic role in a manner consistent with State Law.

In our response to the 2017/2018 Civil Grand Jury's Final Report, we expressed disappointment with a seeming trend toward sensational report titles, which were disconnected from and inappropriate to the subject matter they represented. Unfortunately, that trend continues here. "How Can We Safely Land?" could prompt the public to question whether use of Lampson Field carries inordinate risk.

The Grand Jury's investigation and Special Report documented no safety concerns, and this title therefore demonstrates a lack of regard for the distorted public perception that may follow from such language. Grand Jury members provide an important public service, and the statutory intent is to provide oversight toward improvement of the government's capacity to serve the citizenry. Therefore, our Board must reiterate that sensational and inaccurate titles fall short of serving the public interest.

The County of Lake's Department of Public Works (DPW) appropriately maintains and continually seeks to improve Lampson Field, to support its maximal possible utility for County residents and visitors, alike. Valuable upgrades are anticipated in the coming months. Given the import of our airport to all Lake County residents, with roles ranging from facilitating lifesaving care for some of our most vulnerable individuals to promoting tourism, we all have an interest in promoting accurate public perception.

Our Board encourages the public to fully review Director De Leon's remarks.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's Special Report:

R2. Seat the ALUC commission for Lampson Field prior to June 15th of 2019 in order to apply for funds and grants prior to December 31, 2019.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board concurs with the Public Works Director that there is no significant hindrance to acquisition of grant funds presented by failing to reestablish the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) prior to June 15. We will support the ALUC reconvening as compelling needs arise.

R3. Lampson Field's Master Plan should be updated and current under Public Utility Codes prior to December 31, 2019.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board concurs with the Public Works Director that an update to Lampson Field's Master Plan is neither statutorily required nor otherwise necessary at this time.

R4. Lampson Field's compatibility study regarding noise and safety, should be updated prior to December 31, 2019.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board concurs with the Public Works Director that an update is neither statutorily required nor necessary at this time.

R5. Lampson Field should be in compliance with statutory requirements within the ALUC prior to December 31, 2019.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board finds that Lampson Field is already in compliance with statutory requirements. Therefore, no action is required.

R6. The county Board of Supervisors should work more closely with management staff of the Public Works Department to promote the much-needed repairs and upgrades of Lampson Field.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: As mentioned above and discussed by the Public Works Director in his response, our Board and DPW have long collaborated to ensure repairs and upgrades to Lampson Field Airport are made, in consideration of available resources.

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

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tina Scott
Chair of the Board

cc: 2017-2018 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson
2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson