



**COUNTY OF LAKE
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR**

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Lakeport, California 95453
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BARBARA C. RINGEN
Treasurer-Tax Collector

ELIZABETH MARTINEZ
Assistant Treasurer – Tax Collector

August 19, 2020

Honorable Michael S. Lunas
Presiding Judge
Lake County Superior Court
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Subject: 2019-20 Grand Jury Report, Tax Default Auctions

The 2019-20 Grand Jury required the Treasurer - Tax Collector to respond to its report, "Tax Default Auctions" section R2, and invited my office to respond to section R3. This response is submitted, pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05.

"Tax Default Auctions"

R2. Two dedicated and trained staff members should be added to the Treasurer/Tax Collector office to focus exclusively on the tax default auction process. This will stop expansion of those default quantities and - over time - reduce the backlog. This is in full recognition of current 'open' positions in the department but is in addition to those positions. (F1, F2, F3, F4)

NEUTRAL, requires further analysis to be completed by September 20, 2020.

Explanation: I agree the addition of two experienced/trained staff members dedicated solely to the tax defaulted land sale process would allow our office, over time, to eliminate the backlog of parcels subject to tax sale by increasing the number of parcels offered for sale. With additional dedicated staff, we would also be positioned to do more outreach with property owners prior to offering their properties at tax sale. Analysis of feasibility will be completed by September 20.

R3. All elected city and elected county officials should exercise extreme prudence in making disparaging claims (be they in public or to other governmental agencies) against the performance or motivations of any other elected official. If such claims are to be made, multiple/independent verifications of information/data supporting such claims should be fully explored. (F7)

AGREE, has been implemented.

Explanation: I agree that it is the duty of all elected officials to exercise extreme prudence in carrying out their respective official duties. If information is released

in the course of carrying out the official duties of the Treasurer - Tax Collector, professional due diligence would be taken with regards to the research and verification of the information prior to its release.

Thank you, Honorable Judge Lunas, and members of the Grand Jury, for considering this Response.

I am grateful for the efforts of the Grand Jury to encourage effective local governance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara C. Ringen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" being the most prominent part.

Barbara C. Ringen
Treasurer – Tax Collector
County of Lake