

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

civilgrandjury.org is a project of UnGovr.org, a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to government transparency and public accountability.



Table of Contents	Page
Foreperson's Cover Letter	1
2005-2006 Grand Jury Committees	3
2005-2006 Grand Jury Members	3
Introduction	4
Note to Respondents	5
Distribution List	7
Plumas County Reviews	8
Feather River College	8
Auditor/Controller	8
Jail	9
Planning and Building	11
Veterans Service Office	12
Board of Supervisors	14
Animal Control	16
Sheriff's Department	19
Complaint Summaries: Nature, Findings and Recommendations	20
Complaint #05/06-1	20
Complaint #05/06-2	20
Complaint #05/06-3	20
Complaint #05/06-4	21
Complaint #05/06-5	21
Complaint #05/06-6	23
Complaint #05/06-7	23
Complaint #05/06-8	23
Complaint #05/06-9	23
Complaint #05/06-10	23
Complaint #05/06-11	24
Complaint #05/06-12	24
Complaint #05/06-13	25
Complaint #05/06-14	25
Complaint #05/06-15	25
Complaint #05/06-16	26
Complaint #05/06-17	26
Complaint #05/06-18	26
Complaint #05/06-19	27
Complaint #05/06-20	28
Complaint #05/06-21	28
Complaint #05/06-22	28
Complaint #05/06-23	29
Plumas County Grand Jury History of Investigations	30

**Plumas County Grand Jury Committees
2005-2006**

County Administration
County Services
Editorial Review
Health, Education, and Social Services
Law, Justice, and Public Safety
Oversight
Special Districts

**Plumas County Grand Jury Members
2005-2006**

Gregory Margason, Foreperson, Quincy
Max Benton, Foreperson pro tem, Canyon Dam
Dawn Schoyen, Recording Secretary, Chester
Sheila Grothe, Treasurer, Taylorsville
Bill Mainland, Corresponding Secretary, Portola
Cynthia Baker, Quincy
Paul Baker, Greenville
Dennis Durham, Lake Almanor
Robert Fink, Quincy
Mel Hovnanian, Graeagle
Marjorie Hacker, Twain
Larry Kellett, Meadow Valley
Gloria McDonald, Portola
Gary Partee, Chester
Lyn Sherrard, Clio
Dave Story, Graeagle
Theresa Warden, Portola
Pamela Weis, Quincy

Introduction

Your 2005-2006 Plumas County Grand Jury is a body of eighteen (originally nineteen) Plumas County citizens charged and sworn to respond to citizen complaints and to inquire into matters of civil concern within the boundaries of Plumas County and incorporated cities within these boundaries. Grand Jury duties, powers, responsibilities, qualifications and selection process are set forth in the California Penal Code section 888 et seq.

The Grand Jury reviews and evaluates procedures, methods, and systems used by governmental agencies to determine whether they comply with stated objectives of the agency and if their operation can be made more effective and efficient. It may inquire into any aspect of the county and city government, special districts, joint powers agencies and service districts funded in whole or part by public monies, to ascertain that the best interest of Plumas County residents are being served.

The Grand Jury reviews all citizen complaints and investigates when appropriate. All complaints are treated confidentially. This applies to both written documents as well as the testimony of witnesses and participants. The complainant may be asked to appear as a witness. A complaint form may be obtained by contacting the Jury Commissioner's Office, or:

Plumas County Grand Jury

P. O. Box 784

Quincy, CA 95971

The Grand Jury functions lawfully only as a body. No individual grand juror, acting alone, has any power or authority. Meetings of the Grand Jury are not open to the public. Law requires all matters discussed before the Grand Jury and votes taken to be kept private and confidential. The end result of inquiries into civil matters are released to the public in a final report which is reviewed, prior to release, by the supervising Judge of the Superior Court of the County.

The Penal Code requires the Grand Jury to:

- Inquire into the condition and management of jails within the county.
- Investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of county officers, departments, and functions.
- Inquire into the willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers.
- Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, no later than the end of its term, to the Supervising Judge of the Superior Court. Agencies to which these recommendations are directed are required to

respond to the Plumas County Grand Jury within 90 days after the final report is released.

Participation in Grand Jury investigation and discussion is an opportunity to get an intimate look at how government works and to make informed and valuable recommendations regarding possible improvements. It is also an opportunity to serve with fellow county residents and to discover how a body of nineteen citizens reaches consensus. Service on the Grand Jury is also a way to contribute and to make a positive difference. Jurors serve 12 months and may be requested to serve a second 12 months. The term of the Grand Jury runs from July 1 to June 30.

Note to Respondents

Effective January 1, 1997, there was an extensive change in the law affecting respondents and responses to Grand Jury findings and recommendations. The legal requirements are contained in the California Penal Code, Section 933.05.

For assistance of all respondents, Penal Code Sec. 933.05 is summarized as follows:

How to Respond to Findings

The responding person or entity must, within time frames specified in Penal Code Section 933 (c), respond in one of two ways:

1. That you agree with the finding.
2. That you disagree wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons for disagreement.

How to Report Action in Response to Recommendations

Recommendations by the Grand Jury require action (Penal Code 933.05). The responding person or entity must report action on all recommendations in one of four ways:

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with summary of the implemented action.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis. If the person or entity reports in this manner, the law requires an explanation of the analysis or studies in a time frame not to exceed six months.

4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation.

If either a finding or recommendation deals with budgetary or personnel matters of a county department headed by an elected officer, both the elected officer and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if the Grand Jury so requests, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority.

Requirement to Respond

No later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency (includes departments) shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elected county officer or agency head for which the Grand Jury has responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court, with an information copy sent to the Board of Supervisors, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. All of these comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the presiding judge of the Superior Court who impaneled the Grand Jury.

Distribution List

The final report of the 2005-2006 Plumas County Grand Jury will be distributed to the following individuals and agencies:

The Honorable Judge Ira Kaufman
The Honorable Judge Garrett W. Olney
Plumas County Grand Jury for 2005-2006
Plumas County Grand Jury for 2006-2007
Plumas County Board of Supervisors
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Plumas County Administrative Officer
Plumas County Auditor/Controller
Plumas County Building Department
Plumas County Clerk
Plumas County Counsel
Plumas County Department of Human Resources
Plumas County Development Commission
Plumas County District Attorney
Plumas County Facility Services Department
Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Plumas County Information and Technology Department (Website)
Plumas County Jail
Plumas County Libraries
Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES)
Plumas County Planning Department
Plumas County Probation Department
Plumas County Public Health Agency
Plumas County Sheriff
Plumas County Unified School District
California State Archivist
California Attorney General's Office
City of Portola
All Special Districts (47)
Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)
Fire Departments
Feather River College
California Grand Jurors Association
Plumas County Court Executive Officer