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EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2007-2008
June 2008

Mission Statement

The Grand Jury acts as the citizen-oversight for El Dorado County.

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GRAND JURY
El Dorado County

P.O. Box 472
Placerville, California 95667
(530) 621-7477 Fax: (530) 295-0763
E-mail address: grand.jury@co.el-dorado.ca.us



June 17, 2008

To the Citizens of El Dorado County:

The El Dorado County Grand Jury presents the comprehensive 2007-2008 Final Report.

- Part I (First released in March of 2008)
- Part II (First released in April 2008)
- Part III (Final)

This final report is the result of citizens who chose for one year to serve you, the people of El Dorado County. This is now your opportunity to participate in local government by notifying your Supervisor if you concur with the recommendations presented in this report. The production of a Grand Jury report is one method to ensure a long-continued honest approach to governmental activities. We encourage you to commit to change; it is within your power.

In the wise words of our forefathers:

“We think in America that it is necessary to introduce the people into every department of government as far as they are capable of exercising it, and that this is the only way to insure a long-continued and honest administration of its powers.”

--- Thomas Jefferson to Abbe Arnoux, 1789

“I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform.”

--- Thomas Jefferson

One may ask, “*Is the Grand Jury effective?*” The response is “*Yes*”. Although the responses to the Grand Jury’s 2008-2009 Final Report will not be available for a few months, the responses to the Final Grand Jury Report for 2006-2007 is an example of the grand jury effectiveness, with approximately 80% of the responses stating the recommendations *were implemented or would be implemented*.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to the members of the “Grand” Jury. I heard from several county officials, dignitaries, and citizens that this years’ jury was exceptional. Stated best by a County Board Supervisor, “This year’s jury put the “Grand” back into the Jury. I could not agree more!

Respectfully,

Rosemary Mulligan, Foreperson
2007-2008 El Dorado County Grand Jury



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

495 Main Street
Placerville, California 95667

Department 1 (530) 621-6451
Fax: (530) 622-5729

June 7, 2008

Dear Grand Jury Members:

As Supervising Judge of the 2007/2008 Grand Jury, and on behalf of the El Dorado County Superior Court, I want to express my thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to the Grand Jury. Your report shows the long hours you have put into making this a successful Grand Jury.

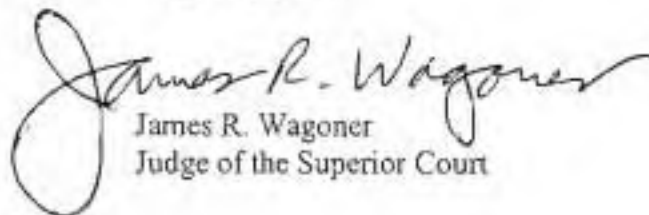
One of the primary functions of the Grand Jury is to help our county government and special districts operate more efficiently. This function is even more important now in our light of our current budget situation. In fulfilling this function, you have included suggestions and recommendations for better government in your report. Equally as important, your report also informs your fellow citizens of areas where our county government and special districts are already well organized and efficient. The addition of the commendations in the report as well as your presentations at Board meetings are, I am sure, most welcome to the recipients.

The Grand Jury functions only through citizens like you who are willing to devote time and energy to this important work. Your hard work has helped fulfill the Grand Jury's goal of better government for all of the citizens of El Dorado County.

Special thanks go to Ms. Rosemary Mulligan, the Foreperson of the 2007/2008 Grand Jury. Rosemary has been a hard-working and able leader in this difficult and time-consuming position. Her management and organizational skills have not only assisted in fulfilling the Grand Jury functions for this year, but in improving the Grand Jury process for future years.

Each of you has served El Dorado County and your fellow citizens well, and I congratulate you on your 2007/2008 Grand Jury service.

Very truly yours,


James R. Wagoner
Judge of the Superior Court



EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2007-2008

(Pictured from left to right)

Chuck MacLean, Pro Tem

Bill Jones

Judy Cook

Jeanne Harper, Secretary

Leigh Brilliant

Dick Dichiara, Sergeant At Arms

Steve Sedgwick, Parliamentarian

Ken Lavin

Bob Bartlett

Donna Bergmeister

Mel Harris

Kathy Walter

William (Gary) Miles Ettlinger

Dorothy Van Asten

Rosemary Mulligan, Foreperson

Absent - Deb Haas



PLEASE
DO NOT LEAVE
CHILDREN
UNATTENDED
IN THIS AREA



FOREWORD

The Grand Jury is not in agreement with some of the initial responses to Parts I and II of the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report released in March and April 2008 respectively. After reading the information provided below, the Grand Jury suggests that the respondents reconsider their position.

PART I

Assisting Road Repair Community Service Districts

Case No. GJ 07-26

The Grand Jury appreciates the timely response to Part I of the report but is disappointed with the reply. The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides training to Zones of Benefit (ZOB). However, citizens that belong to Road Repair Community Service Districts are tax-paying citizens and road engineering information that applies to ZOBs would be very useful to Road Repair Districts. Since the information is already available, the cost and time associated with the training is minimal.

While it is not the County's direct responsibility to assist Road Repair Districts, a modest effort by DOT would greatly benefit them and the County. The Grand Jury is recommending that DOT have an open and friendly attitude toward Road Repair Districts.

Clean Tahoe Program

Case No. GJ 07-011

The Grand Jury believes it has a responsibility to make recommendations that will save the taxpayers money, **if implemented**. The Clean Tahoe Program, funded primarily by the City of Lake Tahoe and the County, was investigated along with alternatives for accomplishing its mission with overhead cost savings. Merging Clean Tahoe into a larger organization and outsourcing were reviewed using financial data that was validated as accurate and applicable. The Grand Jury found potential savings of more than \$90,000

per year on a recurring basis through outsourcing. The City of South Lake Tahoe and the County should jointly seek to implement this change.

PART II

Consolidation of Fire Protection Districts

Case No. 07-025

The Grand Jury is impressed with the seamless response to fire and medical emergencies from the Emergency Communications Center located in Camino. The Grand Jury is aware of the controversy surrounding Fire Protection District consolidation. Nevertheless, the Grand Jury found that consolidation followed by elimination of **redundant administrative positions** would amount to cost savings approximately equal to the County's Supplemental Fund provided to selected Fire Protection Districts. This County subsidy, amounting to more than \$1,200,000, is unfair to County citizens outside these subsidized districts. Therefore, the Grand Jury urges the BOS to eliminate this unfair and unnecessary subsidy.

CONCLUSION

The Grand Jury of 2007-2008 was honored to work for the citizens of El Dorado County. We believe that constructively addressing controversial issues is necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of governmental operations. The Grand Jury strongly encourages the implementation of the recommendations found in this report.

**EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY
2007-2008**

**FINAL REPORT
Part I**



March 2008

**Grand Jury
P.O. Box 472
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-7477**

El Dorado County Grand Jury 2007-2008
March 2008

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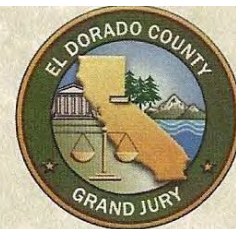
Preface

Letter to the Honorable Judge

Letter from the Honorable Judge

Notice to Respondents

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El Dorado County

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February 12, 2008

El Dorado County Superior Court
Honorable Judge James R. Wagoner
Presiding Judge of the Grand Jury 2007-2008
495 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

Honorable Judge James R. Wagoner:

The El Dorado County Grand Jury of 2007-2008, representatives for the citizens of El Dorado County, is proud to present the first in a series of final reports for your review and approval.

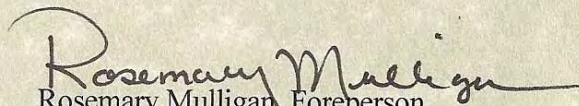
The report communicates important information to the citizens of El Dorado County, born from our investigations, reviews, experiences, wisdom and our belief in the principles that have guided El Dorado County and this country since its inception.

We believe this report to be factual and pertinent to the residents of El Dorado County. The commendations and recommendations given to departments, publicly financed institutions, facilities, schools and the Growlersburg Correctional Fire Camp are sincere and well intended.

With the Superior Court's acceptance and the implementation of the recommendations by the leaders of El Dorado County this report will make a difference. It will make our County stronger and an even more desirable place for our citizens to live, work and raise our families.

Thank you for your continued confidence in us.

Respectfully submitted,


Rosemary Mulligan, Foreperson
El Dorado County Grand Jury 2007-2008



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

3321 Cameron Park Drive
Cameron Park, California 95682

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March 12, 2008

Rosemary Mulligan, Foreperson
El Dorado County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 472
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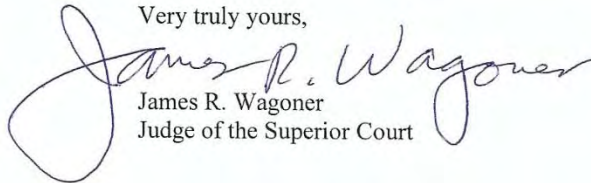
Re: Mid-term release of Final Report

Dear Ms. Mulligan:

I have reviewed the draft of the portion of the Final Report that the Jury has requested to release mid-term. I see no issues that would prevent this release. You may release it at yours and the Jury's discretion.

Thanks again for all of yours and the Jury's hard work this year.

Very truly yours,


James R. Wagoner
Judge of the Superior Court



NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

California Penal Code § 933.05 mandates specific requirements for responding to grand jury reports. This information is intended to help you in your responses to avoid unnecessary and time consuming repetitive actions. Those responses which do not fully comply with Penal Code requirements, including explanations and time frames where required, will not be accepted and will be returned to respondents for corrections.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

The responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- 1. The respondent agrees with the finding.*
- 2. The respondent disagrees wholly or in part 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 reason therefore.*

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- 1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.*
- 2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.**
- 3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of an agency of department being investigated or reviewed. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report. ***
- 4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.*

* The time frame needs to be specific and reasonable.

** At the conclusion of this analysis, the recommendation must be responded to as required by items 1, 2, or 4.

RESPONSE: TIME, WHERE AND TO WHOM

The Penal Code identifies two different response times, depending upon the classification of the respondent (see below), and includes where and to whom the response is directed. Day one begins with the date of the Final Report.

1. Public Agency:

The governing body of any public agency (also refers to department) must respond within ninety (90) days. The response must be addressed to the Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court.

Examples: Governing body of a public agency, Board of Supervisors, Directors of Districts.

2. Elective Officer or Agency Head:

All elected officers or heads of agencies/departments are required to respond within sixty (60) days to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with a copy provided to the Board of Supervisors.

Examples: Sheriff, Auditor/Controller, Recorder, Surveyor, Tax/Treasurer, County Superintendent of Schools, Boards of Trustees of school districts.

FAILURE TO RESPONSE:

Failure to respond to a grand jury report is in violation of California Penal Code §933.05 and is subject to further action.