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SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

The 2001 – 2002 Napa Grand Jury appointed fourteen committees. The fourteen committees issued eleven reports. The committees on the Napa County Jail/Juvenile Hall, Response and Complaint committees elected, with approval from the full Grand Jury, not to make reports. Complaints were looked into by the Complaint committee and, if that committee found it appropriate, a committee was appointed to look into the subject matter of the complaint, or the complaint was referred to an existing committee. There were 23 complaints looked into by the Complaint committee. The full Grand Jury acted on each complaint. Some were deemed unworthy of any investigation and dropped. Others were looked into and dropped and others were assigned to existing committees. The City Building Department committee was appointed to look into several citizen complaints.

This years Grand Jury elected to look mostly into matters of concern to the community rather than the agencies selected for review by the matrix found in the Napa County Grand Jury Procedures Manual 2001-2002. The Special Needs Housing committee looked into the community's response to the homeless problem, the Sullivan Shelter, the Winter Shelter, Samaritan Shelter and the Hope Center. The review of Napa – Vallejo Waste Management Authority was conducted by a joint committee of the Napa and Solano County Grand Juries, a first for Napa County. Agricultural Pesticides, the Napa River Flood Control Project, County Planning, and the litigation over the Airport Specific Plan were all subjects posing problems for the community that have been reported in the media. The Napa County Fire Department was selected from the matrix. The committee on the City of Napa Building Department was appointed as a result of a citizen's complaint and the same committee looked at City of Napa Code Enforcement as the two seemed intertwined at the time the committee was appointed. It is required that the Grand Jury look at the Napa County Jail and Juvenile Hall and the Auditor each year. A committee was appointed to look into the manner in which the funds raised by Measure Y and Proposition 1A were spent by the Napa Valley Unified School District. It also looked at maintenance and deterioration of some of the physical facilities of some of the schools in the District.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL EMPHASIS

1. The Sullivan Shelter must be replaced. Fulfillment of Napa's Master Plan will require moving the downtown single adult shelter which is presently using a condemned county building. The replacement of this shelter with a larger permanent shelter is priority #1.
2. The Family Shelter (Samaritan House) on Old Sonoma Road will accommodate seven (7) families at a time. Many families with children on the waiting list for Samaritan House are housed in local motels at taxpayers' expense. The expansion of Samaritan Shelter, or the development of additional family shelters, is priority #2.
3. Napa County's Board of Supervisors and its responsible agencies need to urgently address the issues raised by the invalidity of the Housing Element and the General Plan. The County has hard choices to make regarding growth, development and housing and it is up to the elected officials to take stands and make policy rather than maintain their current "wait and see" attitude.
4. The County Board of Supervisors and its Planning Commission and Planning Staff, and the various City Councils, and their Planning Commissions and staff should make every effort to accommodate applications for relocation of businesses closed by the Flood Control Project, including but not limited to giving priority to such applications over other applications.
5. Napa County Fire Department has administrative and budgetary issues which need to be addressed by the Board of Supervisors.