



**EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY
2013-2014**

FINAL REPORT

June 2014



EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2013-2014 FINAL REPORTS

Mission Statement

The Grand Jury acts as the citizen oversight for the government of 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
Grand.jury@edcgov.us

June 20, 2014

To: The Citizens of El Dorado County

Re: 2013-2014 Final Report

I am pleased to present this final report for the 2013-2014 Grand Jury year. This report includes our midyear report published in April 2014. The hard work of this year's Grand Jury resulted in 20 reports from inquiries submitted from citizens and Grand Jury required inspections.

The midyear report has already elicited some response and corrective action. We expect this final report will also bring about positive results to the benefit of the El Dorado County citizens. The reports contained in this publication are diverse and include a range of investigations affecting a number of governmental agencies in El Dorado County.

Although a one year term for the Grand jury sounds like a long time, considering the required depth of investigations and providing comprehensive reports, one year goes by very quickly. As most know, we did not have the benefit of continuity or insight from the previous Grand Jury. We found there are many more issues that could be investigated if time allowed. To that end, our plan is to generate a bridge with next year's Grand Jury in an effort to provide continuity going forward.

Over the course of the first 8 to 9 months of our term as interviews and investigations progressed, we began to see a common theme in a number of our investigations. This became the catalyst for the final report in this publication. The Jury feels the recommendations in all of the reports should be followed. However, we feel if the recommendations contained in report 20 are accepted and followed, El Dorado County will follow the lead of many other California counties and step in to the 21st century.

The jury would like to recognize and thank all of the entities within the county including the various county officers, directors and staff for their help and cooperation in completing this report.

Respectfully,

Neil P. Cunningham

Neil P. Cunningham
Foreperson, 2013-2014
El Dorado County Grand Jury



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF EL DORADO

2850 Fairlane Court Suite 110
Placerville, California 95667

Hon. Douglas C. Phimister

June 17, 2014

Dear Grand Jury Members

As Supervising Judge of the 2013/2014 Grand Jury, and on behalf of the Superior Court of California, El Dorado, I want to thank you for your hard work, commitment, and dedication to making this year's grand jury successful. During your tenure, you have performed your duties with diligence, impartiality and distinction. Your commitment to examine all aspects of county government and investigate special districts and projects contributes to a better government overall for the citizens of El Dorado County.

One of the primary functions of the Grand Jury is to assist our county government in operating more efficiently. Exceeding this duty, you have included suggestions and recommendations for better government in your report, completing a number of reports on different areas of government and releasing them throughout the year.

Many of you began your service as rookie jurors, never before having served on a Grand Jury, and unsure of what to expect. You came in to an unprecedented situation, the previous Grand Jury having been disbanded. Your commitment to your obligation to see the year through is commendable and deeply appreciated.

Finally, special honors must be given to your foreperson, Neil Cunningham. His leadership abilities undoubtedly contributed to the success of this year's Grand Jury. His management and organizational skills not only assisted in making this year's Grand Jury productive, but also in improving the Grand Jury process for years to come.

Each of you has served your fellow El Dorado County citizens well, and I congratulate you on your 2013/2014 Grand Jury service.

Very truly yours,

Douglas C. Phimister
Judge of the Superior Court



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El Dorado County

P.O. Box 472
Placerville, California 95667
(530) 621-7477 Fax: (530) 295-0763
gjone@edcgov.us

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

California Penal Code Section 933.05 mandates specific requirements for responding to grand jury reports. You are advised to carefully read the pertinent provisions below and prepare your official response accordingly. Please pay particular attention to required explanations and time frames. Incomplete or inadequate responses are likely to prompt further investigative inquiries by the grand jury and/or the court.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

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

The respondent agrees with the finding.

The respondent disagrees 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 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. It is the expectation of the grand jury that the timeframe be specific and reasonable.
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 the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. 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.

RESPONSES

There are two different response times set forth in the Penal Code essentially depending upon whether the respondent is elected or not elected.

Public Agencies

The governing body of any public agency (also referring to a department) must respond within 90 days from the release of the report to the public. The response must be addressed to the Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court as indicated in the Response Section of each report.

Elective Officers or Agency Head

All elected officers or heads of agencies/departments are required to respond within 60 days of the release of the report to the public. Responses must be sent to the Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court, as specified in the Response Section of each report, with a copy to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

FAILURE TO RESPOND

Failure to respond as required to a grand jury report is in violation of California Penal Code Section 933.05 and is subject to further action. Such action is likely to include further investigation on the subject matter of the report by the grand jury.

The current Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court:

Presiding Judge
Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Department 3
1354 Johnson Blvd, Suite 2
South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

The Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court additionally requests that your responses be sent in an original “word” file, or “PDF” file to facilitate the economical and timely distribution of such responses. Please e-mail to the Grand jury at: courtadmin@eldoradocourt.org.

Thank you.