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State of California
PLACER COUNTY



**2008 - 2009 GRAND JURY
FINAL REPORT**



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

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June 24, 2009

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge, Superior Court
County of Placer
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

The Honorable Charles D. Wachob
Advising Grand Jury Judge
County of Placer
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

and Citizens of Placer County

Dear Judge Pineschi, Judge Wachob and Citizens of Placer County:

I take great pride in presenting the Final Report of the 2008-2009 Placer County Grand Jury. On behalf of all 19 members of the Grand Jury, I would like to acknowledge the advice and guidance of our Advising Judge, Charles Wachob, and County Counsel Attorneys Anthony La Bouff and Gerald Carden. I would also like to thank the Grand Jury Coordinator, Rosalinda Cruz, for her assistance throughout the year.

In July of last year, 19 Placer County residents volunteered and were sworn in to serve on the Grand Jury. In a very short time we learned to be a cohesive investigative team. We often vigorously debated points of view on topics we thought important and critical to insure fair, unbiased reporting. The members of this Grand Jury dedicated hundreds of hours of hard work to bring this Final Report to you. I would like to recognize one particular Juror, Jeannie Lera, for her countless additional hours of work as Chair of the Editorial Committee.

This report contains the result of investigations required by law, requested by the District Attorney, requested by citizens, or internally generated. With few exceptions, County staff were cooperative and helpful to assist us in our duty. The Jury was impressed with the resilience demonstrated by County employees

observed during our investigations during these difficult budgetary times. Budgetary constraints are creating stress at all levels of County Government. Service cutbacks and hiring freezes at many agencies are taking their toll on employees and public services.

Of special interest to this Grand Jury in the month of October was a Criminal hearing conducted at the request of the County District Attorney's Office. This hearing resulted in a True Bill. Based upon this True Bill, the District Attorney filed a murder indictment.

The Jury believes we have accomplished our required tasks and reported on issues of substance affecting citizens of Placer County. This report will also provide greater knowledge and insight into the functions of our County Government. It has been my honor to serve with the other Grand Jurors and be their foreman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Morgan". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the end.

Rick Morgan, Foreman

2008-2009 Placer County Grand Jury

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PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURORS 2008–2009

Foreman:	Rick Morgan	Lincoln
Pro Tempore:	Roy Hamlin	Roseville
Office Manager:	Hal Kalkwarf	Lincoln
Secretary:	Jeannie Lera	Roseville
	Joseph Bales	Roseville
	Larry Birch	Auburn
	Kevin Brady	Auburn
	Winfield Gredvig	Roseville
	Ken Hession	Lincoln
	Rae James	Loomis
	Hazel Johnson	Loomis
	Richard Kaiser	Lincoln
	Bud Knudtson	Granite Bay
	Ed Lehman	Granite Bay
	Nancy Rawlinson	Rocklin
	Bob Robinson	Rocklin
	Earl Walker	Auburn
	Al Wharton	Penryn
	John Wilhelm	Rocklin

2008–2009 PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Photo by Win Gredvig



Back Row (L to R): Rick Morgan, Winfield Gredvig, Ed Lehman, Al Wharton, Richard Kaiser, Joseph Bales, Bud Knutson, Earl Walker, Kevin Brady, Larry Birch, Hal Kalkwarf. Front Row: Bob Robinson, Nancy Rawlinson, Hazel Johnson, John Wilhelm, Ken Hession. Seated: Jeannie Lera, Rae James.

Not shown: Roy Hamlin

FINAL REPORT SUMMARIES

Blue Bag Recycling Program Assessment

Four jurisdictions in Placer County utilize a voluntary Blue Bag Recycling Program. These are the cities of Auburn and Lincoln, the Town of Loomis, and unincorporated areas of Placer County. Residents and businesses place clean and dry recyclables in blue bags that are commingled with regular trash and transported to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's Materials Recovery Facility for processing at a later date. The 2008–2009 Grand Jury agrees with last year's Jury in its recommendation that all Blue Bag Programs be eliminated. Because of the responses received from the cities of Lincoln and Auburn, this Grand Jury reinvestigated the program and determined the residents' time, effort and expense were of marginal value to any of the jurisdictions' recycling programs while additional costs were incurred in processing intact bags.

Child Abuse Reporting Procedures within Placer Co. School Districts

Teachers are often the first to witness symptoms of child abuse. The Grand Jury investigated child abuse reporting procedures at three schools in Placer County. The school staff interviewed during the investigation were found to be knowledgeable and well trained in matters involving reporting suspected child abuse. They were aware of their responsibilities as mandated child abuse reporters which are required by the State of California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act.

Placer County Emergency Call Centers

Emergency call centers are typically accessed in the United States by dialing 9-1-1. These centers serve as the first point of contact between a pending emergency and local police, fire fighters, or health services. Advanced technology and human resource practices greatly impact the responsiveness and effectiveness of a 9-1-1 system—a system that often determines the outcome of life or death situations.