

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINT#12-04-01 MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

After initial review and preliminary investigation of the complaint the Grand Jury declined to take further action.

COMPLAINT #12-04-02 MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

The Grand Jury does not take action on matters pending before the Court. Therefore, no action was taken in this matter.

COMPLAINT #12-04-03 CITY OF MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the City of Merced Police Department.

After an initial review and preliminary investigation the Grand Jury declined to take further action.

COMPLAINT #12-04-04 MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, CHANNEL 30 NEWS, MERCED SUN STAR

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

The Grand Jury does not take action on matters pending before the Court. The Grand Jury also does not have jurisdiction to investigate Channel 30 News or the Merced Sun Star. Therefore, no action was taken in this matter.

COMPLAINT #12-05-05
MERCED COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Child Welfare Services.

The Grand Jury does not take action on matters pending before the courts. Therefore, no action was taken.

COMPLAINT #12-05-06
ATWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEES

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Atwater Elementary School District Trustees.

The issue addressed in the complaint was resolved prior to any investigation by the Grand Jury. Therefore, no further action was taken.

COMPLAINT #12-07-07
MERCED COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate Merced County Community College.

This was an anonymous complaint and the Grand Jury needed additional information to proceed. Therefore, the complaint was declined.

COMPLAINT #12-07-08
MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

After initial review, this matter was referred to the District Attorney's Office.

COMPLAINT #12-07-09
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LIVINGSTON COMMUNITY
HEALTH

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Board of Directors of Livingston Community Health.

After an initial review and preliminary investigation the Grand Jury declined to further investigate the complaint.

COMPLAINT #12-07-10
MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

The Grand Jury does not take action on matters pending before the courts. Therefore, no action was taken in this matter.

COMPLAINT #12-07-11
HEALTHY HOUSE

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate Healthy House.

After a preliminary investigation the Grand Jury declined to proceed on the complaint.

COMPLAINT #12-08-12
CITY OF GUSTINE/GUSTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the City of Gustine/Gustine Police Department.

After preliminary investigation and interview the Grand Jury declined further action on this complaint.

**COMPLAINT #12-09-13
ATWATER CITY COUNCIL**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Atwater city Council.

Request for additional information was requested and not provided by the complainant. Therefore, the Grand Jury declined to take further action.

**COMPLAINT #12-09-14
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, COUNTY OF MERCED**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Department of Social Services, Health and Human Services, County of Merced.

The Grand Jury does not take action on matters pending before the courts. There were other remedies available to the complainant such as appeal and hearing with administrative law judge. Therefore, no action was taken in this matter.

**COMPLAINT #12-09-15
MERCED CITY SCHOOLS**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a letter requesting a face to face meeting to discuss an investigation of Merced City Schools.

The Grand Jury process requires that an complaint be filed to proceed. The Grand Jury declined to set up the face to face meeting and sent the complainant a complaint form to fill out and file.

**COMPLAINT #12-09-16
MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

The Grand Jury does not take action on matters pending before the courts. Therefore, no action was taken in this matter.

COMPLAINT #13-01-17
MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

After a preliminary investigation and interview, the Grand Jury declined to take further action.

COMPLAINT #13-03-18
MERCED POLICE K-9 UNIT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced Police K-9 Unit.

The complaint was anonymous and not clear as to what the complainant wanted the Grand Jury to investigate. Unable to obtain further information, the complaint was declined.

COMPLAINT #13-03-19
LOS BANOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Los Banos Unified School District.

Due to limitations on time the grand Jury referred this matter to the 2013-2014 Merced County Civil Grand Jury

COMPLAINT #13-03-20
MERCED CITY SCHOOL BOARD

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced City School Board.

Due to limitations on time the Grand Jury referred this matter to the 2013-2014 Merced County Civil Grand Jury.

COMPLAINT #13-03-21
MERCED SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced School District Office Administrators.

The Grand Jury declined to take action on the above complaint.

COMPLAINT #13-04-22
GUSTINE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Gustine School District Board Members.

Due to limitations on time the Grand Jury referred this matter to the 2013-2014 Merced County Civil Grand Jury.

COMPLAINT #13-05-23
MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

After review of the complaint the Grand Jury declined to proceed.

COMPLAINT #13-05-24
ATWATER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury received a complaint to investigate the Atwater City Council Members.

After review of the complaint the Grand Jury declined to proceed.

RESPONSES
TO THE 2011-2012
FINAL GRAND
JURY REPORT



DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

Karen Rodriguez
Interim Director

3368 N Highway 59, Suite A
Merced, CA 95348
(866) 901-3212
(209) 722-0556 Fax
www.merceddcss.com

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 3199
Merced, CA 95344

Equal Opportunity Employer

July 2, 2012

TO: Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Merced

ATTN: Angelo Lamas

RE: Grand Jury Report Response 2011/12
Child Support Complaint # 10-11-12

The Merced County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) acknowledges that we have received and reviewed the 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report.

Complaint 10-11-12 alleges that Merced County Child Support Staff failed to verify the personal information of the complainant, erroneously placed a lien on his property and failed to identify themselves on the phone or explain the department policy on confidentiality to the complainant.

Department management staff had the opportunity to meet with the grand jury and resolve this complaint.

Recommendation 1: The department's normal work processes require that all necessary information is on the paperwork before it is filed in court. In this case, the identifying information was redacted from the filed copy of the lien.

After meeting with the Grand Jury on December 13, 2011, DCSS was able to research this issue using the complainant's address which was provided by the Grand Jury. With this additional information we were able to search the Whatcom County (Washington) Recorder's Office to view recorded property liens, conveyance documents, and property lien releases. Whatcom County images all of their recorded property transaction documents. This allowed DCSS to compare the complainant's signature on the property transfer documents to our non-custodial parent's (NCP) signature on a filed court document in our county. Comparing the signatures helped confirm that the complainant and NCP were two different individuals and we had inappropriately recorded a lien against the complainant.

The recorded lien had both our case number and superior court case # on it. The original lien generated by us referenced NCP's social security number (SSN) and date of birth (DOB); however, this information was missing on the recorded lien.

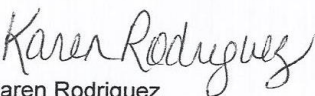
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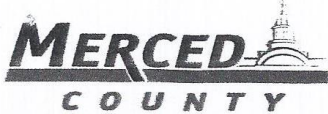
While speaking to the Whatcom County Recorder, our staff was able to confirm that Whatcom County will reject any lien that includes a DOB and/or SSN. They would have returned the lien to us to redact the DOB and SSN, or their representative said they may have redacted the information themselves. They only record documents by name. Since all of their recorded documents are imaged and available for public viewing they will not accept any which include personal identifying information like DOBs or SSNs. Therefore, the omission of NCP's personal identifying information (SSN/DOB) on the recorded lien was the result of the Whatcom County Recorder's confidentiality policy and procedures. This was not determined until after we met with the Grand Jury.

Recommendation 2: It is the department policy that our employees identify themselves when asked by any caller. Department staff will be provided a refresher course on phone etiquette, including identifying themselves and providing information on the department policy regarding confidentiality. In this case, we had received a phone call from the complainant in September of 2008. During that call, he refused to provide his address, phone number or fax us a copy of his ID so we could exclude him. He did express his concerns about confidentiality at that time. The individual said he did not trust the department staff to be who they said they were and he would not provide any personally identifying information. Our department does have a complaint process that the individual could have used, which would have resolved the issue much quicker. Fortunately, he felt comfortable relaying this information through the Grand Jury representative, so that we were able to resolve the identify issue and remove the erroneous property lien.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with the Grand Jury to resolve this complaint. I found the jurors both patient and dedicated. They were very interested in understanding county governmental practices in order to make the best decisions.

Sincerely,


Karen Rodriguez
Interim Director



September 11, 2012

The Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Superior Court of California, County of Merced
670 West 22nd Street
Merced, CA 95340

RE: Board of Supervisors Grand Jury Response

Dear Presiding Judge McCabe:

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the Merced County Grand Jury's responsibilities and commitment to public service. Pursuant to Penal Code 933, responses from elected and appointed officials have been received and appropriately forwarded. The following acknowledgements and information is respectfully submitted relating to matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors.

Mandated Inspections – John Latorraca Correctional Facility and Main Jail

The Grand Jury conducted an inspection of the John Latorraca Correctional Facility at 2584 West Sandy Mush Road and Main Jail at 700 West 22nd Street, both located in Merced. The Grand Jury recommended that the Board of Supervisors carefully consider the Sheriff Department requests for video monitoring upgrades and control center improvements, and to utilize electronic monitoring more in order to help reduce inmate population and incarceration costs.

At this time improvements to facility control centers and monitoring systems are being planned. In addition, the Board encourages all justice departments, including the local Court, to consider utilization of electronic monitoring and other alternate sentencing programs whenever possible, as a means to reduce incarceration rates and promote more positive outcomes.

Mandated Inspections – Iris Garrett Juvenile Justice Correctional Complex

The Grand Jury conducted a mandated inspection of the Iris Garrett Juvenile Justice Correctional Complex, located at 2840 W Sandy Mush Road, in Merced. The Grand Jury was satisfied with their visit to the facility and with the efforts being made for detained minors.

The Merced County Board of Supervisors commends the men and women who serve at the Juvenile Correctional Complex.

Complaint 10-11-12

The Grand Jury investigated a complaint regarding Child Support Services where the allegations included false accusations, personal information not being verified, a lien inappropriately being placed on an individual's property and improper phone etiquette. The Grand Jury reported that in an effort to locate an absent parent to collect support payments, the department made several attempts through different resources to locate the absent parent who has had a number of addresses and was reported to have used

**Board of
Supervisors**

John Pedrozo
Supervisor, District One

Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Jr.
Supervisor, District Two

Linn Davis
Supervisor, District Three

Deidre F. Kelsey
Supervisor, District Four

Jerry O'Banion
Supervisor, District Five

James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

Merced County
Administration Building
2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7366
(209) 726-7977 Fax
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more than one social security number. The complainant in this situation was calling from out of state and has the same name as the absent parent and also had addresses from the same states. After several unsuccessful attempts to contact the absent parent, Child Support Services took subsequent steps in their procedures to pursue support payments by placing a lien on property owned. However, during the course of interviews it was established that the complainant was not the absent parent the department was seeking and the issue has been addressed and the lien on the property removed. Some of the difficulties in this situation were compounded because other states do not maintain date of birth or social security numbers and only record some documents by name. In addition, when contacting the department, the complainant refused to provide any personal identifying information which could have proven his identity and excluded him as the absent parent. The complainant also chose not to use the complaint process established by Child Support Services, which could have resolved the issue sooner.

Response

The Board respects the efforts of Child Support Services representatives in the challenges they face in assisting families, conducting investigations, locating and dealing with absent parents, and working in an environment where information and cooperation is very limited. The efforts of the Grand Jury in resolving this issue was appreciated. We also support refresher training for staff that will develop their customer service skills, including phone etiquette.

Complaint 07-01-11

The Grand Jury investigated a complaint regarding the Merced County Sheriff Department and whether an employee within the department was illegally hired. The Grand Jury did establish that the employee was legally hired in accordance with proper standards. It was discovered, however, that confidentiality had been breached when background investigation information was leaked to department employees who should not need or have knowledge of this information.

It was recommended that all personnel within the department be provided training on the issue of confidentiality, especially within the Background Investigation Unit, and that all personnel be advised of the consequences for breaches of confidentiality.

Response

The Board of Supervisors holds confidentiality to be paramount in regard to personnel or client matters. The Board will continue to stress the significance of this issue when working with departments in establishing training needs. Doing so builds mutual respect among staff.

Complaint 07-02-11

The Grand Jury received a complaint requesting an investigation of alleged inappropriate activities within the Merced County Sheriff Department. All of the allegations were found to be unsupported; however, the Grand Jury did research one allegation about inappropriate hiring of personnel. No instance of inappropriate hiring was found after employment records were reviewed by the Grand Jury. Interviews with Human Resources and Sheriff Department staff indicated that the hiring of the employee was in accordance with established policy.

The Grand Jury did provide a recommendation, however, that Merced County Human Resources take steps to insure that all employee documentation includes a complete and thorough employment history and that departments review employment applications for complete information and to insure that county nepotism policy is not violated.

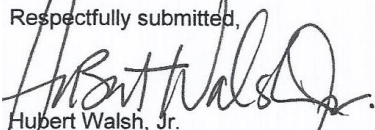
Response

The Board of Supervisors encourages departments to consistently use established County policies when selecting and hiring applicants for a position. The application and interview process are a vital part of this hiring process. Complete and valid information is sought through the application and supplemental questions. The County application also requests information as to whether applicants have family members employed with the County. The interview process is to be utilized to gain more information that is not readily available in the application and thus interviewing/hiring departments are able to select the best possible applicant without violating any County nepotism policies.

Conclusion

The Board continues to make every effort to ensure that County departments are operating as effectively as possible and in accordance with public policies. The Board of Supervisors recognizes the Grand Jury for its efforts and appreciates its responsibilities to provide thoughtful recommendations to improve our County and community.

Respectfully submitted,



Hubert Walsh, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: Dan Gaines, 2011-2012 Merced County Grand Jury Foreman ✓
James L. Brown, County Executive Officer



AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

Lisa Cardella-Presto, CPA
Auditor-Controller

2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7511
(209) 725-3900 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

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June 27, 2012

TO: Angelo Lamas, County Executive Office

FROM: Lisa Cardella-Presto, CPA, Auditor-Controller

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Cardella-Presto", is written over the "FROM:" line of the email header.

RE: Merced County Grand Jury Report for 2011/2012

There are no issues in the Merced County Grand Jury Report for 2011/2012 which pertain to matters under the control of the Merced County Auditor-Controller.

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COUNTY ASSESSOR-CLERK-RECORDER

Kent B. Christensen
Assessor-Clerk-Recorder

2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7501
FAX (209) 385-7387
(www.co.merced.ca.us)

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July 2, 2012

TO: Honorable Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Merced

FROM: Kent B. Christensen
Merced County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder-ROV

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report

I have received and reviewed the Merced 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report and have determined that there are no issues that pertain to the departments I am responsible for.

Sincerely,

Kent B. Christensen
Merced County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder-ROV

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

2139 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, CA 95341-6445
Phone: (209) 385-7431
Fax: (209) 725-3536
Los Banos Office: (209) 827-2030

Animal Control: (209) 385-7436
www.co.merced.ca.us

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July 2, 2012

Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Merced
2260 "M" Street
Merced, Ca 95340

Re: 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report

Your Honor,

I have received and reviewed the 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report. There are no issues in the report which require further action by the Merced County Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Director of Animal Control

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Information Systems
Geographical Information Services
Purchasing

Communications
Custodial Services
Central Services

Mark A. Cowart
Director / Chief Information Officer

2222 "M" Street
(209) 385-7690
(209) 725-3535 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

Mailing Address
2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340

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MEMORANDUM

July 23, 2012

From: Mark Cowart

To: Angelo Lamas, County Executive Office

Subject: **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE 2011/2012 GRAND JURY REPORT**

I have received and reviewed the 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report. I find no issues in the report which pertain to matters under my control.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7637
(209) 385-7375 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

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DATE: August 24, 2012

TO: Judge Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Angelo Lamas, Management Analyst III

SUBJECT: **Grand Jury Response**

Enclosed are the appropriate County department responses for the final Grant Jury report for Fiscal Year 2011/2012. The Board of Supervisor response to the Grand Jury report is expected in September.

cc: Dan Gaines, 2011-2012 Merced County Grand Jury Foreman
Merced County Board of Supervisors
James L. Brown, County Executive Officer

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COPY

**DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT**

Robert A. Morris
Acting Director


1880 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, CA 95341-6407
(209) 724-2000
(209) 725-3592 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us/index.asp?NID=9

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MEMORANDUM

July 2, 2012

To: Honorable Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge,
Superior Court of California, County of Merced

From: Robert A. Morris, Acting Director, Department of Workforce
Investment 

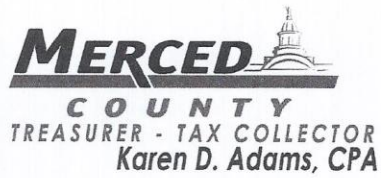
Subject: Acknowledgement of the 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report

I am acknowledging receipt of the Grand Jury report of 2011/2012. I have reviewed the report and find no reference to issues under my control and jurisdiction and have no comments regarding any of the findings or recommendations contained in the report.

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WIF 00-21B

Revised 01/09



Karen D. Adams, CPA
Treasurer-Tax Collector

2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7307
(209) 725-3905 (Fax)
<http://www.mercedtaxcollector.org>

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Merced County Superior Court
P.O. Box 2034
Merced, CA 95344

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 GRAND JURY REPORT

I received and reviewed the 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report. I have no comments regarding any of the findings or recommendations contained in the report.

Sincerely,

Karen D. Adams
Treasurer-Tax Collector

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



403 "F" STREET ★ LOS BANOS, CA 93635

209-826-5166 ★ FAX 209-826-8737

July 11, 2012

Merced County Executive Office
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340
Attn: Angelo Lamas

Re: Acknowledgment of 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report

Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge, Merced County Superior Court:

Please note I have received and reviewed the 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report. There are no issues in the report which pertain to matters under my control.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Brandt".

Ron Brandt
Manager



MARK N. PAZIN
COUNTY OF MERCED
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF-CORONER

August 14, 2012

The Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge
Merced County Superior Court
Merced, CA 95340

Re: Response to the 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge McCabe:

I have reviewed the 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report.

I concur generally with the observations and recommendations of the report.

Sincerely,

Mark N. Pazin
Merced County Sheriff-Coroner

2222 M STREET • MERCED • CALIFORNIA • 95340 • (209) 385-7451



**MERCED COUNTY
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
ASSOCIATION**
3199 "M" Street
Merced, California 95348

MARIA L. AREVALO
Plan Administrator

Telephone 209-725-3636
Fax 209-725-3637

July 3, 2012

To: Presiding Judge, Merced County Superior Court.
From: Maria L. Arevalo, Retirement Plan Administrator
Re: 2011/2012 Merced Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Brian McCabe:

I have received and reviewed the Merced 2010/2011 Grand Jury Report and have determined that there are no issues requiring a response by the Merced County Employees' Retirement Association.

Sincerely,

Maria L. Arevalo
Retirement Plan Administrator

Cc. County Executive Office




DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Richard A. Schwarz
Acting Director

715 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Merced, CA 95340-6041
(209) 385-7602
(209) 725-3989 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

Building Services
Parks and Recreation
Roads
Fleet Management
County Surveyor
Building & Safety

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DATE: July 26, 2012
TO: Presiding Judge Brian McCabe
FROM: Richard A. Schwarz, Acting Director of Public Works 
SUBJECT: 2011-2012 Merced County Grand Jury Report

MEMORANDUM

Please be advised that I have received and reviewed the 2011/2012 Merced County Grand Jury Report.

There are no issues in the report which pertain to matters regarding my Department, so I have no detailed comments.

RAS:jlr

cc: Angelo Lamas, County Executive Office

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Kathleen Grassi, R.D., M.P.H.
Director

Administration
260 E. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95341-6216
(209) 381-1200
(209) 381-1215 (FAX)
www.co.merced.ca.us/health

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July 3, 2012

Angelo Lamas
County Executive Office
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

Dear Mr. Lamas:

The Department of Public Health has reviewed the 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report and there are no issues contained in the report that pertain to matters under the control of our department. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Grassi, R.D., M.P.H.
Director of Public Health

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PUBLIC DEFENDER

Eric Dumars
Interim Public Defender

2150 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7692
www.co.merced.ca.us

August 1, 2012

TO: The Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge of the Merced Superior Court

FROM: Eric Dumars, Interim Public Defender 40

RE: 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report

The Merced County Public Defender's Office has read and reviewed the 10/11 Grand Jury Report and has no comment.

ED:jh

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PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Scott M. Ball
Chief Probation Officer

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge
Merced County Superior Court
627 W. 21st Street
Merced, CA 95340

Re: Acknowledgement/Response to Grand Jury Report 2011/2012

Dear Judge McCabe:

I have received and reviewed the Grand Jury Report with regard to the inspection of the Iris Garrett Juvenile Justice Complex. The inspection occurred on November 10, 2011, and the Grand Jury did not find reason to provide any recommendations. I greatly appreciate the work of the Grand Jury and their commendations of our staff and facilities.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Ball
Chief Probation Officer

cc: Hub Walsh, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
James L. Brown, County Executive Officer
Scott De Moss, Assistant County Executive Officer
Angelo Lamas, County Executive Office

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Administration

Manuel J. Jimenez, Jr., MA, MFT
Director

Administration
1944 M Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 381-6813
(209) 725-3676 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

Mailing Address
PO Box 2087
Merced, CA 95344

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DATE: July 2, 2012
TO: County Executive Office
Angelo Lamas
FROM: Manuel J. Jimenez, Jr.
SUBJECT: Grand Jury Final Report 2011-2012

I have received and reviewed the Merced County Civil Grand Jury Final Report for 2011-2012. There are no issues to report on regarding the Merced County Mental Health Department.

If you require any further information, please contact me.

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Jacque Meriam
County Librarian

2100 "O" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7484
(209) 726-7912 Fax
jmeriam@co.merced.ca.us
Equal Opportunity Employer

TO: Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge,
Superior Court of California,
County of Merced

FROM: Jacque Meriam
Merced County Librarian

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 Merced Grand Jury Report

DATE: June 28, 2012

I, Jacqueline M. Dodd Meriam, Merced County Librarian, via e-mail, have received and reviewed the 2011-2012 Merced Grand Jury Report. There are no issues in the report which pertain to the Merced County Library System.

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HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Ana Pagan
Director

2115 W. Wardrobe Avenue
(209) 385-3000
(209) 354-2501 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 112
Merced, CA 95341-0112

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June 27, 2012

The Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

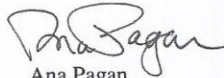
Regarding: Grand Jury Report 2011/2012

I have received and reviewed the report.

There were no issues in the report that pertain to matters under our control.

We are appreciative of the grand jury's commendation related to the Human Services Agency activities regarding mandated reporter education.

Sincerely,


Ana Pagan
Director

cc: Angelo Lamas, County Executive Office

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



FIRE DEPARTMENT

735 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY
MERCED, CA 95341
TELEPHONE (209) 385-7344
FAX (209) 725-0174

NANCY B. KOERPERICH
Fire Chief
(209) 966-3622

MARK LAWSON
Division Chief - Operations
(209) 385-7450

Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge
Merced County Superior Court
2260 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340

Re: 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report

Your Honor:

I have received and reviewed the 2011-2012 Civil Grand Jury Final Report. There are no issues in the report which require further response by the Merced County Fire Department.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Koerperich
Fire Chief

In cooperation with **CAL FIRE**

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Human Resources

James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

Robert A. Morris
Director of Human Resources

2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7682
(209) 385-7375 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

Equal Opportunity Employer

August 6, 2012

The Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Superior Court of California, County of Merced
670 West 22nd Street
Merced, CA 95340

RE: 2011/2012 Grand Jury Complaint 07-02-11

Dear Presiding Judge McCabe:

We have received and reviewed the Grand Jury report and complaint indicated above. In the complaint it was recommended that Merced County Human Resource Department take steps to insure that employee documentation include complete employment history and that applications indentify whether applicants have family members employed with the County or not.

During the interview stage, departments have opportunities to ask about periods of unemployment on an application. Our application also requests if applicant has any family member employed with the County of Merced and provides an opportunity for each interviewing or hiring department to select the best possible applicant without violating any County nepotism policies.

The Merced County Human Resource Department appreciates the Merced County Grand Jury's efforts trying to find ways to prevent these types of hiring issues from arising. Human Resources will continue to ensure that the application process is effective and that departments have opportunities to select the best possible applicant. These employees are our number one resource.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Morris
Director of Human Resources

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
LARRY D. MORSE II

550 W. Main Street
Merced, CA 95340
Phone (209) 385-7381
Fax (209) 725-3669

Chief Deputy District Attorney
HAROLD L. NUTT

Chief Deputy District Attorney
JOHN J. GOOLD

Chief Deputy District Attorney
ROBERT O. CARROLL

Director of Administrative Services
JEANNETTE PACHECO

INVESTIGATIONS
(209) 385-7383

Chief Investigator
PATRICK N. LUNNEY

VICTIM WITNESS
(209) 385-7385

Victim Witness Program Director
LISA DeSANTIS

LOS BANOS DIVISION
445 I Street
Los Banos, CA 93635
Phone (209) 710-6070
Fax (209) 827-2029

www.co.merced.ca.us/da

July 2, 2012

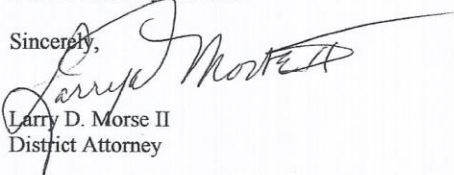
Honorable Brian McCabe
Presiding Judge
Merced County Superior Court
2260 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340

Re: 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report

Your Honor:

I have received and reviewed the 2011-2012 Civil Grand Jury Final Report. There are no issues in the report which require further response by the Merced County District Attorney's Office.

Sincerely,


Larry D. Morse II
District Attorney



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AVIATION
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mark J. Hendrickson
Director

2507 Heritage Drive
Atwater, CA 95301
(209) 385-7686
(209) 383-4959 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us

Equal Opportunity Employer

DATE: June 26, 2012

TO: The Honorable Mark Bacciarini
Presiding Judge of the Civil Grand Jury

FROM: Mark J. Hendrickson, Director
Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development Department and
Planning Department

RE: I have reviewed the 2011-2012 Civil Grand Jury Report and there are no issues in the report that pertain to matters under the control of my departments.

While there was a complaint made (#07-11-11) to investigate the Planning/Code Enforcement Department, the report noted that the Grand Jury declined to proceed with an investigation after review of the said complaint.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

City of Atwater Police Department



Frank Pietro
Chief of Police
(209) 357-6282



CIVIC CENTER
750 BELLEVUE ROAD
ATWATER, CALIFORNIA 95301

Merced County Grand Jury
PO Box 2034
Merced, CA 95344

Attn: Mary Nickles, Foreperson

Dear Ms. Nickles,

I am very sorry for the delay in responding as I thought that I had responded several months ago. In regards to the "Live Scan" Machine we have purchased one thru grant monies, and it will be delivered and set up the last week of March. In regards to securing the rear portion of the Civic Center, we did in fact have it budgeted for the 12/13 budget, but it was removed due to the financial crises the city was facing. In lieu of the rear security fence, I have installed two cameras that are monitored by our Dispatch Center 24/7. We have had no vandalism to any of our vehicles in the past several years. Thank you for your recommendations and please accept my apology for not responding in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Pietro".

Frank Pietro
Police Chief/Interim City Manager
City of Atwater