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**BUTTE COUNTY
GRAND JURY REPORT
2012 ~ 2013**



Butte County Grand Jury

2012 – 2013

Final Report

2012-2013 Grand Jury Mission Statement

The Butte County Grand Jury is responsible for reviewing the various levels, branches and agencies of government within this county. These comprehensive reviews are conducted in an effort to ensure the various government branches and agencies are performing their duties and operating in an appropriate manner which best serves the citizens of Butte County.

When necessary, the Grand Jury may also hear and determine the appropriateness of certain criminal indictments.

May 29, 2013

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PREFACE



P.O. Box 110
Oroville, CA 95965

Butte County **GRAND JURY**

To: The Citizens of Butte County

The term of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury is coming to a close. The nineteen members of the Jury have been privileged to serve for the past year. It has been a rewarding and interesting experience for all of us and we are pleased to have had this opportunity to serve our community.

The Grand Jury functions primarily as a "watchdog" representing the citizens of the County in providing oversight of the operations of governmental entities within the County. Another section of this report gives more details about how the jury is organized and functions.

In this letter we would like to comment on the importance of the complaints and observations which the Grand Jury receives from the citizens of the County. While each Grand Jury is independent and free to look into such matters as its members decide, many investigations have their origin in correspondence received from citizens of the County. Complaints are received, acknowledged and given due consideration. Because each Grand Jury sets its own priorities and has considerable time constraints, some complaints may not result in investigations.

An investigation undertaken by a Grand Jury typically takes several months to complete. If a report is written following the investigation, several weeks must be added to the process. Because of this, complaints received early in the Grand Jury's term, which in Butte County always begins July 1st of each year, have a better chance of being selected for investigation. Complaints received later in the term may be passed on to the next Grand Jury which may or may not choose to investigate them.

The process for making complaints or expressing concerns is straightforward. Instructions and a complaint form are available on the Butte County website, **www.buttecounty.net**.

Service on the Grand Jury is voluntary. We urge those citizens who receive a letter offering this opportunity to give it serious consideration. For those able to devote the time and energy, it is a very worthwhile and rewarding opportunity to become a better informed citizen and contribute to your community.

We have been very pleased to have had this opportunity. We thank our family members and friends who have supported this year of service. We thank the many governmental employees and board members who have so willingly contributed to this process. And we thank the citizens of the County for this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,
Members of the 2012-13 Grand Jury



P.O. Box 110
Oroville, CA 95965

Butte County **GRAND JURY**

The Honorable Stephen Benson
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Butte

Dear Judge Benson,

On behalf of the 2012-2013 Butte County Grand Jury, it is my honor and privilege to present to you our final report for your review and consideration. The twelve reports which follow have been approved by the Grand Jury. It is our intent that these reports and our year of service will be of benefit to the citizens of Butte County.

We are grateful again this year for the use of the courtroom facility in Paradise. It has served our needs well and we hope that as long as the County has use of that facility, it can be used by future Grand Juries. It is our hope that the County will continue to develop plans for the permanent assignment of the Grand Jury to facilities which include a room for meetings and a secure place for storage of resource materials in the Grand Jury library. The California Grand Jurors' Association local chapter and the current Grand Jury have seen the continued development of the library as an important and long term objective.

The Grand Jury visited many County departments, cities and other government entities. Numerous interviews were conducted. Although some of the investigations did not result in the issuance of individual reports, we wish to express our appreciation for the willing and competent assistance we were given. Also, we wish to thank the officials who made presentations to the Jury, the County Counsel and the Court staff who always assisted us in a helpful and professional manner. We also wish to note that while one member of the Grand Jury is employed by one of the entities we reviewed, that person did not participate in any of the interviews, analysis and writing regarding that entity.

2012 was an election year. The Butte County Registrar of Voters invited members of the current Butte County Grand Jury to serve on the Logic and Accuracy Board. Prior to the November 6, 2012 election, three members of our Grand Jury observed the testing of mechanical and electronic equipment, verifying that the ballot counting program accurately tallied the test ballots. On election night, they observed the ballot count process and remained until all ballots were counted. These jurors performed the same functions for the special election on January 8, 2013. These jurors concluded that the entire process assured that the final vote tallies accurately reflected the votes cast in Butte County.

The 2012-2013 Grand Jury has worked as a cooperative and committed team. It has been a great pleasure working with such a conscientious group and I believe the citizens of the County should be extremely pleased with the effort and results of their work. I should note that all nineteen original jury members were able to participate for the entire year. We thank these committed people as well as their families, friends and employers who have supported us during our year of service.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul L. Moore, Foreperson
2012-2013 Butte County Grand Jury