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## **PLUMAS COUNTY GRAND JURY MEMBERS 2007-2008**

Carl Peters, Foreperson . . . . .	Graeagle
Bill Mainland, Foreperson Pro Tem . . . . .	Portola
Mahlah Holden, Recording Secretary . . . . .	Quincy
Michael Curry, Treasurer . . . . .	Maybe
Robin Kinkley, Corresponding Secretary . . . . .	Graeagle
Deb Baer . . . . .	Portola
Johna Berg . . . . .	Clio
Tom Bridgeman . . . . .	Chester
Alan DeWolf . . . . .	Quincy
Doyle Frazier . . . . .	Graeagle
Dina Lindsey-Grace . . . . .	Greenville
Ron Longacre . . . . .	Lake Almanor
Jalie Martin . . . . .	Chester
Gary Spence . . . . .	Lake Almanor
Philip Walling . . . . .	Quincy
Larry Williams . . . . .	Quincy

### **GRAND JURY COMMITTEES**

Community Relations	County Administration	Editorial Review
Health and Welfare	Law and Justice	Special Districts
	Oversight	

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Plumas County Grand Jury is a body of nineteen Plumas County citizens charged and sworn to inquire into matters of civil concern within the boundaries of Plumas County and any incorporated city within these boundaries. Grand Jury duties, powers, responsibilities, qualifications and selection process are set forth in the California Penal Code Section 888 et seq.

The Penal Code requires the Grand Jury to:

- Inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.
- Inquire into the willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers within the county.
- Investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of county officers, departments, or functions of the county. The investigations may be conducted on some selective basis each year.
- When requested by the Board of Supervisors, investigate and report upon the needs for increase or decrease in salaries of the county elected officials.
- Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, no later than the end of its term, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

In addition to these requirements, the Grand Jury may:

- Investigate and report upon the needs of all county officers, including the abolition or creation of offices and the equipment for, or the method or system of performing the duties of, the several offices.
- Examine the books and records of a redevelopment agency, a housing authority, or a joint powers agency and may investigate and report upon the method or system of performing the duties of such agency or authority.
- Examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county or the local agency formation commission in the county and may investigate and report upon the method or system of performing the duties of such district or commission.

Although not mandated by the California Penal Code, it is the policy of the Plumas County Grand Jury to review and acknowledge all written, dated, and signed citizen complaints. Within the time allowed by its established investigatory priorities, the Grand Jury may investigate the complaints where appropriate. All complaints are treated confidentially. This applies to written documents as well as to the testimony of witnesses and participants. The complainant may be asked to appear as a witness. Citizen complaint forms may be obtained on-line at the Grand

Jury page of the Plumas County website or by sending a written request to:

Plumas County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 784  
Quincy, CA 95971

The Grand Jury functions lawfully only as a body. No individual grand juror, acting alone, has any authority. Meetings of the Grand Jury are not open to the public. The Penal Code requires that all matters discussed before the Grand Jury and all deliberations are to be kept private and confidential. The end result of all investigations into civil matters is released to the public in a final report, which sets forth the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury.

Participation in Grand Jury investigation and discussion is an opportunity to get an intimate look at how government works and to make informed and valuable recommendations regarding possible improvements. It is also an opportunity to serve with fellow county residents and to discover how a body of nineteen citizens reaches consensus. Service on the Grand Jury is also a way to contribute and to make a positive difference. Jurors serve 12 months and may be requested to serve a second 12 months. The term of the Grand Jury runs from July 1 to June 30.

### **Note to Respondents**

Effective January 1, 1997, there was an extensive change in the law affecting respondents and responses to Grand Jury findings and recommendations. The legal requirements are contained in the California Penal Code, Section 933.05.

For assistance of all respondents, Penal Code Sec. 933.05 is summarized as follows:

### **How to Respond to Findings**

The responding person or entity must, within time frames specified in Penal Code Section 933(c), respond in one of two ways:

1. That you agree with the finding.
2. That you disagree 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 for disagreement.

## **How to Report Action in Response to Recommendations**

Recommendations by the Grand Jury require action (Penal Code 933.05). The responding person or entity must report action on all recommendations in one of four ways:

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with summary of the implemented action.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis. If the person or entity reports in this manner, the law requires an explanation of the analysis or studies in a time frame not to exceed six months.
4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation.

If either a finding or recommendation deals with budgetary or personnel matters of a county department headed by an elected officer, both the elected officer and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if the Grand Jury so requests, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority.

### **Requirement to Respond**

No later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency (includes departments) shall comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body. Every elected county officer or agency head for which the Grand Jury has responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with an information copy sent to the Board of Supervisors, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. All of these comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court who impaneled the Grand Jury.

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

The final report of the 2007-2008 Plumas County Grand Jury will be distributed to the following individuals and agencies:

The Honorable Judge Ira Kaufman

The Honorable Judge Janet Hilde

Plumas County Grand Jury for 2007-2008

Plumas County Grand Jury for 2008-2009

Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Plumas County Administrative Officer

Plumas County Auditor/Controller

Plumas County Building Department

Plumas County Clerk

Plumas County Counsel

Plumas County Department of Animal Services

Plumas County Department of Human Resources

Plumas County Department of Social Services/Public Guardian

Plumas County Development Commission

Plumas County District Attorney

Plumas County Facility Services Department

Plumas – Sierra County Fair

Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Plumas County Information and Technology Department (Website)

Plumas County Jail

Plumas County Libraries

Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES)