

GRAND JURY

County of Yolo

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YOLO COUNTY GRAND JURY ISSUES REPORT ON DAVIS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

The 2010-2011 Yolo County Grand Jury has recently completed its report on the City of Davis Affordable Housing Program. The Grand Jury investigated allegations regarding the administration of the affordable housing program in Davis. The Grand Jury found that over time the City has successfully evolved an affordable housing program that currently ensures fairness in the selection process and retains rental properties and some homes in the program. Approximately 700 low and moderate income households achieved home ownership through the program since its inception about 20 years ago.

However, the City was far less successful with the Davis Area Cooperative Housing Authority (DACHA). DACHA encountered practical and affordability problems from the outset and currently no longer exists as an entity. Among other conclusions, the Grand Jury found that greater care should have been taken initially by the City and the Redevelopment Agency when performing legal analysis of documents such as DACHA's articles of incorporation and bylaws and that better initial oversight of DACHA by the City could have prevented this situation. The Grand Jury found that no inappropriate gift or use of public money was made at any time, for any purpose by the City in connection with DACHA. However, the City has incurred losses that may not be recovered and may increase in the future. Better initial oversight of DACHA could have prevented this.

The Yolo County Grand Jury functions as a citizen 'watchdog' organization to review the operations and performance of county and city governments, school districts, and special districts. Based on these assessments, the Grand Jury publishes its findings and may recommend constructive action to improve the quality and effectiveness of local government.

The public can access the full Davis Affordable Housing report and the six reports released in April at the Grand Jury website: <http://www.yolocounty.org/index.aspx?page=780>. The Grand Jury will release an additional report next week, May 23rd. The last four investigative reports and the final published volume containing all twelve reports for the year will be issued on June 30.