



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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To: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

July 28, 2015

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

Cc: Yolo County Board of Supervisors

RE: 2014-15 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Closing the Loop: How Yolo County Implements Its Responses to the Grand Jury

Honorable Judge Richardson:

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations in the 2014-2015 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, “Closing the Loop: How Yolo County Implements Its Responses to the Grand Jury” from the Yolo County Administrator and County Counsel.

F1 A large majority of recommendations resulting from YCGJ investigations have been responded to positively by local government officials and entities, and most responses indicate that recommendations will be implemented, either in full or in part.

Yolo County Administrator and County Counsel response: The respondents agree that the County generally implements the grand jury’s recommendations, with exceptions as noted in the text of the report.

F2 No formal mechanisms are currently in place within local government to track, report, or publicly review responses and actions taken as result of YCGJ recommendations.

Yolo County Administrator and County Counsel response: The respondents disagree with this finding. The report mentions that the grand jury reviewed “various tracking sheets created and used to track grand jury findings and/or recommendations and follow-up activities.” These tracking sheets have been made publicly available and are addressed during public Board of Supervisors’ meetings. Additionally, responses to the grand jury are made publically available on the Grand Jury’s website (hosted by the County), and through the Board of Supervisors’ agendas and correspondence.

We also take exception to the following statement in the report: “Unfortunately, supporting information requested from the Board of Supervisors was not provided and in turn, could not be considered in the investigation.” This is not accurate. The grand jury interviewed members of the Board of Supervisors and each provided the County’s tracking sheets for follow-up on grand jury recommendations from 2012-13 and 2013-14. The County is not aware of any requests for other supporting information.

R1 By December 1, 2015, the Yolo County CAO shall work with the Yolo County Counsel to develop a single tracking system for grand jury findings, recommendations, responses and the ongoing status of each item. During the development of this system, consideration should be given to the future ability to release this information in a public document on an annual basis.

Yolo County Administrator and County Counsel response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The County Administrator’s Office has managed a single tracking system for several years, consistent with this recommendation. No further action appears necessary to implement this recommendation.

Additional Comments:

In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05(f), grand jury reports are provided to affected agencies two working days prior to their public release. Upon reviewing a draft version of the report discussed in this letter, County representatives called the Grand Jury to request a discussion about inaccuracies in the report. That call was not returned until moments before the report was made public.

The County hopes that future grand juries will confer with local agencies at their request before releasing a report that may contain inaccuracies of the sort mentioned above. Nonetheless, we expect that this letter has clarified that existing County practices conform to the recommendations offered by the grand jury.