



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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To: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

September 15, 2015

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

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

RE: 2014-15 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Yolo County Environmental Health Services
Division: Has the Food Truck You're Visiting Been Inspected?

Honorable Judge Richardson:

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations in the 2014-2015 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, "Yolo County Environmental Health Services Division: Has the Food Truck You're Visiting Been Inspected?" from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services Director, Environmental Health Director, County Counsel and Human Resources Director.

F2 Food truck operators who are out of compliance are not ticketed or fined.

Yolo County Environmental Health Director and County Counsel response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

R1 By December 31, 2015, the Director of Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services, in conjunction with the Director of the Environmental Health Services Division and the Director of Human Resources, shall implement a plan to alter work hours so that food truck inspections can routinely take place while in operation including weekends and evenings.

Yolo County Department of Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services Director, Environmental Health Director and Human Resources Director response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. While the vast

majority of inspections are conducted during regular business hours with all permitted facilities being inspected at least annually, the Environmental Health Division already has inspectors that work on evenings and weekends in order to conduct inspections at community events.

Further, the statement in the Grand Jury's report, "They permit and inspect over 900 retail food businesses ... in addition to over 500 mobile food vendors and special event food booths," gives the impression there are significantly more mobile food facilities than actually exist in Yolo County. To clarify, there are currently 117 permitted mobile food facilities in the county; a number which does not justify increasing evening and weekend inspections beyond the current level.

R2 By October 1, 2015, the Director of Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services, in conjunction with County Counsel, shall determine and implement the necessary steps to enable inspectors to ticket or fine food truck operators who are out of compliance.

Yolo County Environmental Health Director and County Counsel response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The goal of the program is to protect public health and safety by assuring safe food handling practices. Issuing tickets and fines will not achieve this goal. Instead, through education and communication, the Environmental Health Division helps business return to and stay in compliance. Failure to return to compliance results in additional follow-up inspections, compliance conferences, administrative hearings, permit revocation and closure of the facility. Environmental Health charges food facility operators for follow-up inspections, compliance conferences and administrative hearings. The charges are based on the county cost to administer the enforcement action. These charges have the same effect a ticket or fine would, which is to financially impact the business to encourage compliance.

R3 By July 1, 2016, the Director of Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services, in conjunction with County Counsel and the Board of Supervisors, shall implement the use of GPS technology on food trucks.

Yolo County Board of Supervisors, Department of Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services Director, Environmental Health Director and County Counsel response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Use of GPS would not be an effective tool to identify unpermitted vehicles in the county. However, on July 1, 2015, Environmental Health implemented a new policy to begin conducting Mobile Food Facility (MFF) inspections in the field. MFFs are now required to submit route sheets as part of their permit renewal process which inspectors then use to locate the MFF. This method is used successfully in other jurisdictions.

Additional Comments:

The following statement in the Grand Jury's report also requires clarification: "...at the June 2015 Woodland event, out of the 11 trucks participating, six did not have a current Yolo County permit." A review of Environmental Health records verified all 11 trucks at the event did have a valid permit with Yolo County. It is unknown whether the Grand Jury was looking for stickers on trucks or if they asked operators for a copy of their permits. As a result of the Grand Jury's report, it has come to our attention that some of the operators that participate in the permit reciprocity program were not mailed a sticker at the time of permit issuance; and issue which is now being addressed.