TULARE COUNTY

CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

2018-2019

Photos By: Larry Lewis
Rick Eastes

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TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE JUDGES

Superior Court of the State of California

Stephanie Cameron
Court Executive Officer/
Jury Commissioner

COUNTY OF TULARE
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Nocona Soboleski
Assistant Court Executive Offic

JUDGES' COMMENTS

On behalf of the entire bench of the Tulare County Superior Court we want to sincerely thank the 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury for all the work they have performed on behalf of the citizens of Tulare County. Once again another Civil Grand Jury's term has been completed.

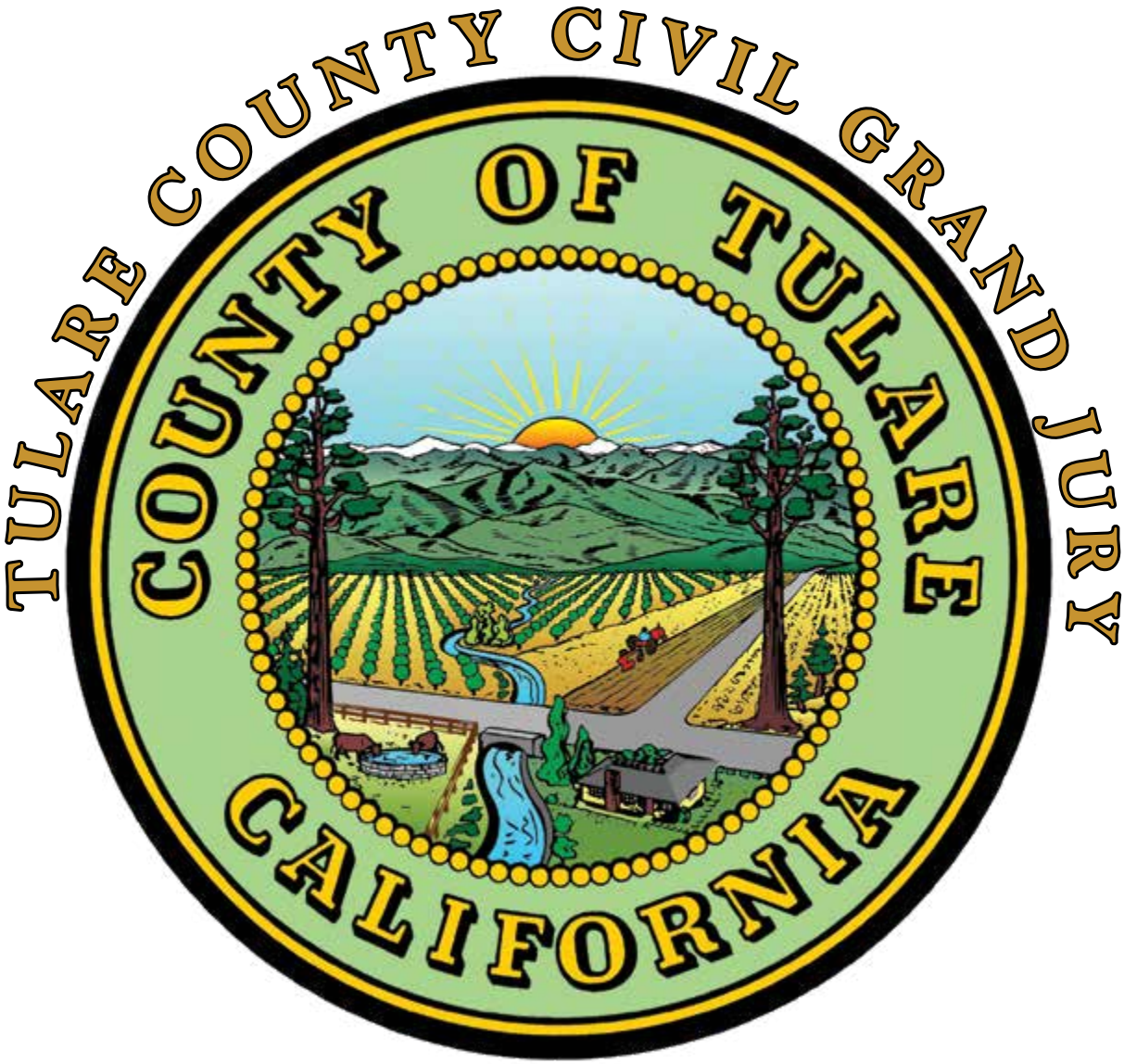
Civil Grand Jurors always assume a great deal of responsibility whenever they agree to be a part of a year's panel. They willingly do this as volunteers without any purpose other than to insure that governmental agencies and individuals are properly performing their duties. The taxpayers of Tulare County were well served by all the time and effort put forth by this Civil Grand Jury. We are especially grateful for the efficient manner in which this year's Civil Grand Jury performed these tasks and the overall cooperation and respect they showed to each other.

Much is misunderstood by the general public as to the functions and purpose of the Civil Grand Jury. It is empowered by statutory authority to investigate local governmental agencies and process citizen complaints involving local government issues. No other agency or group has mandate to be a "watch-dog" to insure that our local government works effectively, efficiently, and to the best interest of all citizens. We need responsible, dedicated people such as those on this year's Civil Grand Jury to serve in the future. If you would like to volunteer to do meaningful work for our community, we invite you to apply for service on Civil Grand Jury by contacting the Superior Court at (559) 730-5000 x1359 and ask for an application.

In closing, we applaud each member of this Civil Grand Jury for your dedication to service on behalf of all citizens who live in Tulare County.

Brett R. Alldredge
Presiding Judge

David C. Mathias
Assistant Presiding Judge


TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY
COUNTY OF TULARE
CALIFORNIA

Tulare County Civil Grand Jury

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Visalia, CA 93277

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Honorable Judge Brett R. Alldredge
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
State of California
County of Tulare

Honorable David S. Mathias
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
State of California
County of Tulare

Dear Judge Alldredge and Judge Mathias,

Our experience as members of the 2018-2019 Tulare County Civil Grand Jury has been informational, interesting and educational, as we worked together as a team in our investigations throughout our term.

The Civil Grand Jury wishes to extend our thanks and gratitude to Judges Alldredge and Mathias for their advice and guidance. We also appreciate the relationship with the Tulare County Counsel and District Attorney's Office for their assistance.

A very special thank you to Annette Jones, the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury Clerk, her knowledge, professionalism and assistance during the year were above her normal duties. I personally would have been lost without her daily helpfulness and encouragement. We are also grateful to Ellen Kennedy, the Tulare County Superior Court Executive Secretary for her expertise and support.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve with the 2018-2019 Jury during my term as a foreperson. My appreciation to the eighteen other jurors for their service and dedication during our year together.

Respectfully,

RC White

Ron White, Foreman
2018-2019 Tulare County Civil Grand Jury

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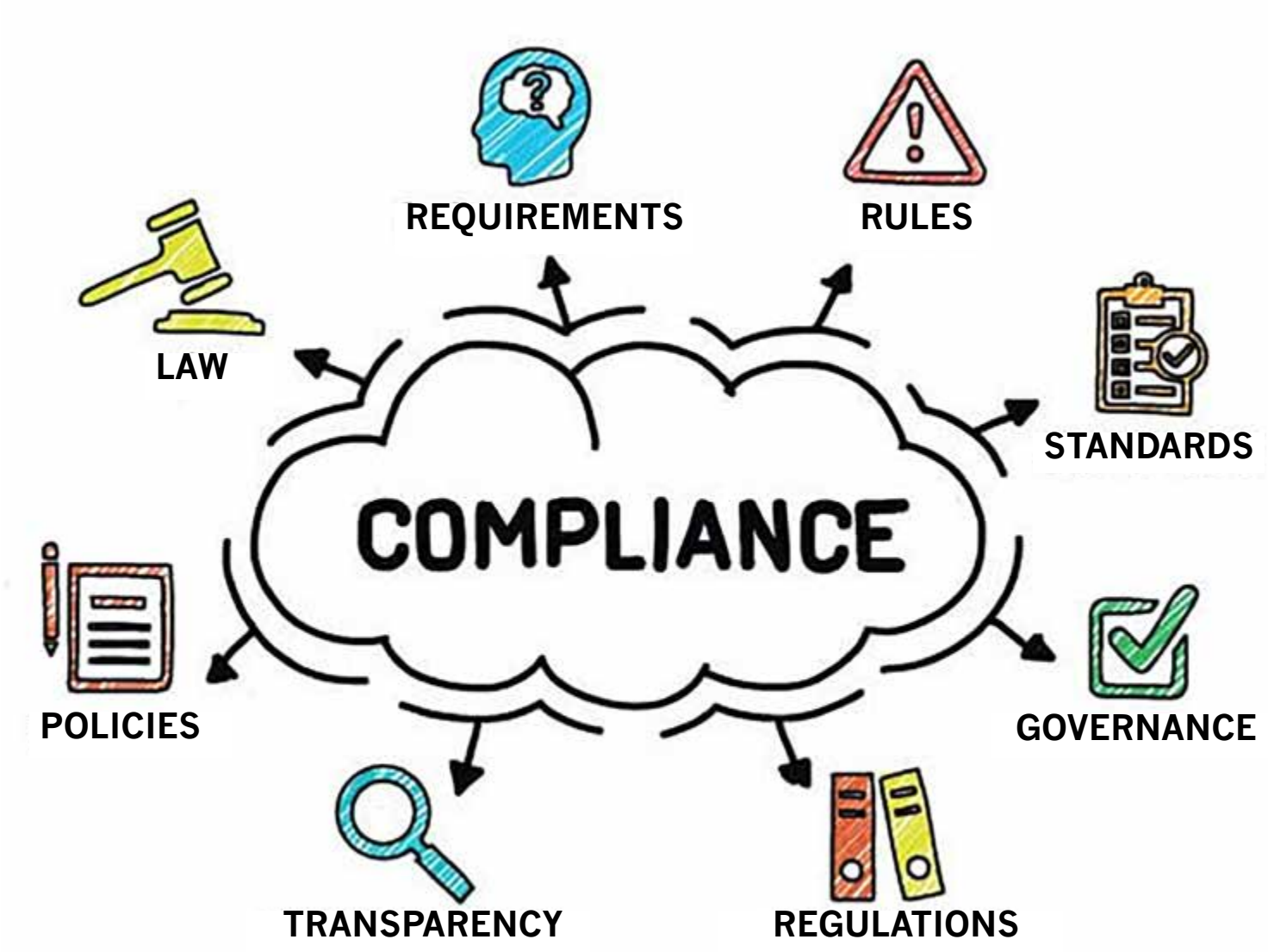

REQUIREMENTS
RULES
LAW
STANDARDS
COMPLIANCE
POLICIES
GOVERNANCE
TRANSPARENCY
REGULATIONS

GRAND JURY RESPONSE REPORT
2017-2018 COMPLIANCE REVIEW

OVERVIEW OF GRAND JURY RESPONSE DUTIES:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) is impaneled annually to act as the public's watchdog by investigating and reporting on the affairs of county agencies, local governments and independent districts within Tulare County. TCCGJ reviews complaints brought by citizens and internally initiates investigations about perceived government irregularities. As a fact finding body, the TCCGJ has the potential to make recommendations for constructive changes and possible solutions to a wide range of local governmental problems. This is done by reviewing and evaluating policies and procedures, methods, and systems utilized to determine if more efficient and economical programs can be employed. TCCGJ is authorized to, and in some cases, must do the following:

- Inspect and audit books, records, and financial expenditures to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent
- Examine the books and records of any nonprofit organization receiving local public funds
- Inquire into the conditions and management of jails and detention facilities
- Inquire into any charges of willful misconduct in office by County, local officials, or employees

TCCGJ does not investigate private entities, nonprofit organizations not funded by the county; states or federal agencies; courts; school curricula; or, other matters not connected with local governments.

TCCGJ annually issues a final report which contains specific reports addressing one or more issues. California Penal Code §933.05 requires responses from governing agencies, including the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, city and county government entities , schools, special districts, and certain non-profit corporations. This ensures these entities have performed their function in a lawful, economical, and efficient manner. Each report contains information such as the background regarding the subject matter, reasons for the investigation, the procedures followed in obtaining information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations. All required responders must reply in writing to each finding and recommendation in the specific report within a specified time period.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE:

1. Reviewed returned responses to the 2017-2018 and 2015-2016 Grand Jury Final Reports
2. Reviewed relevant California Government and Penal Codes
3. Compiled statistics regarding the responses

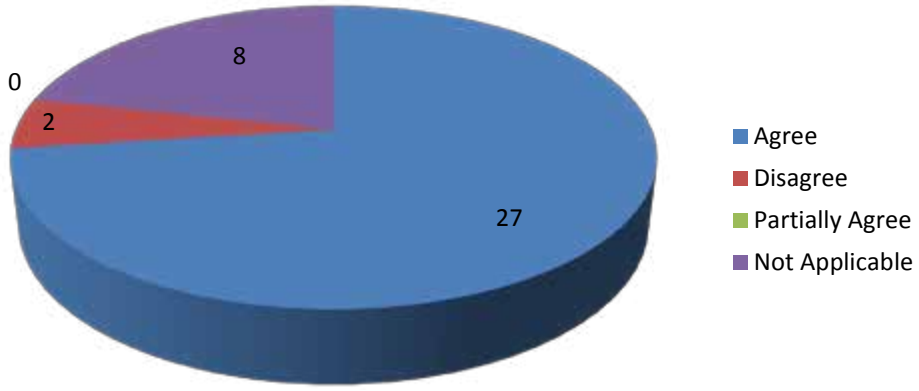
The 2017-2018 TCCGJ reports required responses from the following responding agencies:

1. Tulare County Resource Management Agency – The Roads of Tulare County
2. Tulare County Sheriff's Office - Vision of Protection
3. Tulare County Board of Supervisors Clerk's Office – Show Me the Records!!!
4. Pleasant View School District – A Pleasant View of Discipline to Create a Positive Environment
5. Tulare County Animal Services – It's Reigning Cats and Dogs Animals in Control
6. Tulare County Health and Human Services – Homeless Health and Sanitation
7. Tulare County Sheriff Office – Female Detainees in Tulare County Jails
8. Kaweah Health Care District – Kaweah Delta's Emergency
9. East Orosi Community Service District – Where is Trust, Transparency, and Accountability
10. Tulare County Office of Education – To Unify or Not to Unify
11. Tulare County Probation Department – Pay Up and Recover

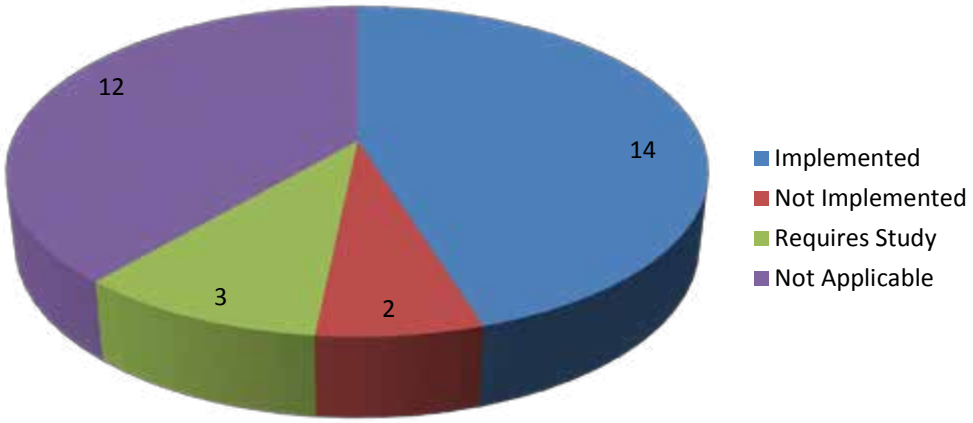
DATA REVIEWED:

1. There were 11 TCCGJ reports published in the 2017-2018 Final Report.
2. There were 60 findings and 26 recommendations to the 2017-2018 Final Report.
3. The following diagrams indicate the numbers of those in concurrence with or disagreement to the findings, and implementations' or non-implementation of recommendations made by the responding entities.

2017-2018 Findings



2017-2018 Responses



SUMMARY

Instructions are provided to all entities from which responses are required. Not all entities responded by the response date, however, with subsequent requests to do so, all but East Orosi Community Services District responded. All entities responding to a report must do so in accordance with California Penal Code §933.05.

2018-2019 Final Report and Responses may be found on the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury Website: http://tularecounty.ca.gov/grandjury

REVIEW OF 2015-2016 IMPLEMENTATION

TCCGJ annually issues a final report addressing one or more issues requiring responses from various agencies in the county. All required responders must reply in writing to each finding and recommendation in the specific report. The 2015-2016 Grand Jury Final Report included 13 reports. The grand jury is obligated to verify implementation of recommendations made in past reports with the required responders using a specific method of follow up as detailed below. Out of 13 reports, each report contained at least one recommendation.

METHOD OF FOLLOW UP:

1. Clarification letters were sent to the designated responders.
2. Reviewed websites and confirmed updates were completed.
3. Reviewed updated documents and responses.

The 2015-2016 TCCGJ reports required responses from the responding agencies including:

1. Lindsay City Council – Nightmare in Lindsay
2. Tulare County Fire Department
3. Farmersville Unified School District – Farmerville School Issues
4. Tulare County Health and Human Services – Homeless, Hopeless and Helped Less
5. Tulare County Housing Authority - The Aging Wait for Elderly Housing
6. Tulare County Sheriff Office – Female Detainees in Tulare County Jails
7. Tulare County Sheriff Office and District Attorney –Justice for All
8. Tulare County Probation Department – Cause and Effect
9. Richgrove Community Service Board of Districts – Richgrove Community Service District
10. Tulare County Resource Management Agency, Cities of Woodlake, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, Lindsay, Exeter, Dinuba, Farmersville – Are we ready for El Nino
11. Tulare County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector – Auditor's Audit Failures
12. Tulare Local Health Care District Board of Directors – Tower of Shame
13. Tulare County Sheriff Office – We Will be the Difference

DATA REVIEWED:

There were 13 TCCGJ reports published in the 2015-2016 Final Report, with 88 findings and 63 recommendations.

SUMMARY:

25 agencies were required to respond to the findings; of which 92 were "agreed to," 12 were "disagreed to," 7 "partially agreed to," and 29 were "not applicable."

25 agencies were required to respond to the recommendations; of which 63 were implemented and 13 were not implemented.

There was one report not requiring a response.

Instructions were provided to all entities from which responses were required. All entities responded in accordance with California Penal Code §933.05.

ELECTIONS: TIMELY ACCESS TO RESULTS

BACKGROUND:

In Tulare County, the primary responsibilities of the Registrar of Voters (often referred to as "the Elections Office"), include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. To direct the processing of voter registration affidavits;

2. Maintenance of voter registration records;

3. Verification of State and local petitions (i.e. initiative, referendum, recall and nomination);

4. Management of mail ballot program and mail ballot voter records, including preparation, mailing, verification, and processing of mail ballots;

5. Coordination with external organizations including the United States Postal Service, ballot printing and mailing contractor;

6. Ensuring State and Federal reporting requirements are completed;

7. Management and staffing of polling precincts;

8. Other duties which have come to be expected – if not required by law – are maintenance of a website, accessible by the general public, from which information regarding election results may be obtained; and the timely reporting thereof.

REASONS FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) received a complaint regarding mishandling of change of address procedures impacting the complainant's ability to cast a ballot.

Also, in recent years, the Registrar of Voters website has been inoperable (i.e. "crashed") early in the evening of election nights, resulting in an inability on the part of voters, the news media and other interested parties to access information regarding the outcomes of various elections. These deficiencies in reporting often resulted in several days passing before election results were known. This served as a catalyst to the TCCGJ to initiate an investigation.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviewed complainant
2. Interviewed Registrar of Voters personnel
3. Conducted onsite review of election night procedures
4. Reviewed relevant documents and data

FACTS:

1. There were 166,279 registered voters in Tulare County as of October 22, 2018.
2. In the November 6, 2018 election, 101,066 ballots were cast and processed (60.78 percent of those eligible to vote).
3. Voters who live in precincts with less than 250 registered voters must use mail ballots or vote at the Registrar of Voters Office. Registered voters in larger precincts have the option of voting by mail or in person at the precinct.
4. In the June 5, 2018 Primary Election, at least one voter and other interested party experienced difficulties in accessing elections results on the Registrar's website on a timely basis.
5. In addition to address changes being provided by the voter, the elections office also receives address changes from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the USPS.
6. Early in 2019, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (TCBOS) approved $1.5 Million for upgrading Elections Office equipment.

FINDINGS:

F1. In preparation for the November 6, 2018 General Election, the Elections Office moved data from a shared computer server to a proprietary server, thus facilitating accessibility and increasing speed and capacity of the website. Consequently, irregularities experienced in the June 5, 2018 Primary Election, were not evident in the November General Election.

F2. The Elections Office does not maintain a complaint log nor do they have established protocols to resolve complaints filed and to track them to resolution.

F3. The scheduled upgrade of equipment should assist the Elections Office in reporting accurate election returns in a more timely manner.

CONCLUSION:

The TCCGJ found the Elections Office to be responsive and effective in addressing issues related to the accessibility and reporting of election returns.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. Formal policies, procedures and protocols should be developed to address issues related to complaints lodged with the Elections Office. This would include, but not be limited to, establishing and maintaining a complaint log.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Tulare County Registrar of Voters. Findings F2 and F3, Recommendation R1

Disclaimer

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

ELDER ABUSE: EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

BACKGROUND:

Elder abuse is defined as an action by a person in a position of trust which causes harm to an elder. Harmful actions by strangers are not considered elder abuse, but are considered crimes. Elder abuse includes physical, emotional, sexual, and financial exploitation. Neglect, self-neglect, and isolation are also common forms of abuse.

Abuse and neglect of elderly adults is recognized as a social problem. One in ten adults over 65 years of age has suffered some form of abuse. According to US Census Bureau figures, the 65+ population rises from 40 million today, to over 70 million by 2030. It is estimated that there are at least 18,150 people over 65 residing in Tulare County. In 2016, there were 2,700 reports of elder abuse in Tulare County. From 2016 to 2018, the number of criminal investigative cases involving elder abuse in Tulare County increased 14.3 percent and is projected to continue increase. It is estimated that only one in 14 cases of elder abuse is reported in Tulare County. The short and long term effects of financial abuse include decline in health leading to early death; dependence on social service agencies; inability to afford medications; and, increased risk of hospitalization or long term care. Laws pertaining to elder abuse include but are not limited to the following:

1. California State Law, SB 1018, (California Financial Abuse Law, effective 8/29/2005). This law was enacted to protect the elderly from financial exploitation.

2. California Welfare and Institutional Code sec. 15630, "Mandated reporters that fail to report may be guilty of a crime."

3. California Penal Code § 368 governs crimes against elder or dependent adults.

Several agencies exist- wholly or in part- for the protection of the elderly in Tulare County. These include:

1. Tulare County Sheriff's Department

2. Other Law Enforcement agencies within Tulare County (e.g., various police departments serving municipalities)

3. The Office of the Tulare County District Attorney
4. Kings Tulare Area Agency on Aging (KTAAA)
5. Tulare County Department of Health and Human Services
    a. Adult Protective Services
    b. Public Guardian
6. Kings-Tulare Ombudsman Program

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The reasons for this investigation were to review and raise awareness of current programs in Tulare County, designed to identify and prevent elder abuse. These programs are designed to protect independent adults, those needing financial guidance, and those in care facilities. The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) endeavored to determine what resources are available to protect the elderly.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviewed witnesses
2. Reviewed specific documents
3. Examined statues, ordinances, and supportive services in place for the protection of elder adults

FACTS:

1. Elder abuse includes physical, emotional, sexual, and financial exploitation or neglect.
2. KTAAA serves as Tulare County's principal advocate for older adults.
3. Elder abuse occurs in all socio-economic strata, subcultures, religions, and neighborhoods.
4. Tulare County Sheriff's Department estimates that elder abuse cases in Tulare County will increase by a factor of 23.8 percent from 2017 to 2018.
5. Financial abuse is the most often reported type of abuse.
6. The following are mandated reporters and are required to report suspected instances of elder abuse:
    a. Physicians and medical professionals
    b. Clergy
    c. Bank employees
    d. Any individual assuming care responsibility or custody of an elderly person

7. Common characteristics of the abused:
    a. Over 75 years of age
    b. Socially isolated
    c. Loyal defenders of the abuser
    d. Dependent on their abuser
8. Common characteristics of abusers:
    a. Most often a relative of the abused
    b. Most often live with the abused
    c. May be abusing drugs and/or alcohol
    d. Externalize blame on others
    e. Expect the elderly care recipient to meet a wide range of their needs
    f. Often shift anger meant for an authority figure to the abused

FINDINGS:

F1. Despite multiple agencies in Tulare County dealing with the issues surrounding elder abuse, the number of unreported cases remains high.

F2. Elder abuse is not confined to any one socio-economic stratum.

F3. Increased demand for social services and long-term care - as a result of financial abuse - will have a direct negative impact and place a financial burden on all agencies serving Tulare County's elders.

F4. All reported cases of elder abuse are treated with strict confidentiality.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. If additional resources can be found by agencies serving the elderly, consideration should be given to prioritizing actions and policies toward promoting the earlier and more consistent reporting of suspected incidents of elder abuse.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Tulare County Board of Supervisors – Findings F1, F3 Recommendation R1
2. Kings – Tulare Area Agency on Aging – Findings F1, F2, F3, F4

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INMATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN TULARE COUNTY

BACKGROUND:

California Penal Code (PC) §919 (b) requires civil grand juries to inquire into conditions and management of "public prisons" within the county.

In 2018-2019, the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) toured county jails and reviewed educational programs offered to inmates by the Tulare County Sheriff Office (TCSO). The goals were to determine:

1. The types and number of programs being offered
2. The costs of providing academic education in the jails,
3. The number of inmates volunteering to complete these programs while incarcerated,
4. Whether or not these educational programs are changing inmate behaviors, and
5. Whether or not these programs are reducing recidivism rates

The TCSO operates under the mandate of PC § 6030 as codified in California Code of Regulations, Title 15, § 1061:

"Inmate Education Plan. The facility administrator of any Type II or III facility shall plan and shall request of appropriate public officials an inmate education program. When such services are not made available by the appropriate public officials, then the facility administrator shall develop and implement an education program with available resources. Such a plan shall provide the voluntary academic and/or vocational education of housed inmates. Reasonable criteria for program eligibility shall be established and an inmate may be excluded or removed based on sound security practices or failure to abide by facility rules and regulations."

On October 14, 2017, AB 1008 was codified into existing law under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). AB 1008 prohibits an employer from asking an applicant for employment to disclose information concerning an arrest or detention that did not result in a conviction, any pretrial or post trial diversion program, or information regarding a criminal conviction.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The TCCGJ decided to investigate and report to the public on the various educational programs available to inmates within the jails of Tulare County.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Site visits
2. Interviewed appropriate administrative personnel
3. Reviewed applicable and relevant documents

FACTS:

1. There are 24 inmate education programs offered. The types of programs include education and literacy skill development, job skill training, job placement services, parenting classes, and behavioral modification programs.
2. Funding is obtained from multiple sources.
3. Inmate participation in education programs is voluntary.
4. The TCSO offers behavioral focused educational programs.
5. Recidivism data is tracked by the TCSO and measures current rates.

FINDINGS:

F1. Listed are some of the inmate educational programs offered:

   a. AC/DC Electrical Systems
   b. General Education Development (GED)
   c. Literacy Program
   d. Alcohol/Drug Relapse Prevention
   e. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT/WRSAT)
   f. The Gang Awareness Parenting Project (G.A.P.P.)
   g. Theft Intervention Program
   h. Vocational Transition Program

F2. State funds include SB 1, AB 109, Proposition 98, and an annual Budget Act Item 158. Grants are a major component of Tulare County inmate education program funding. The importance of this funding source is reflected by the fact that the Sheriff's staff includes a full time grant writer. Grant sources include federal, state and local funds.

F3. The number of inmates participating varies for each program. For example:

a. Substance Abuse male RSAT program included 64 inmates.

b. Substance Abuse female WRSAT program included 32 inmates.

c. Theft Intervention Program had 57 inmates enrolled.

d. Vocational transition program had 97 inmates enrolled.

F4. The behavioral focused educational inmate programs include Substance Abuse male and female RSAT, Theft Intervention Program, Mother/Father Read Programs, The Gang Awareness Parenting Program, and a Transitional Skills program.

F5. The TCSO annual recidivism rate data for specific inmate educational programs include:

a. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment:

1. Less than one year data indicates that:

a. 69% of inmates who graduated in 2015 were not re-arrested and 31% were re-arrested.

b. 58% of inmates who graduated in 2016 were not re-arrested and 42% were re-arrested.

c. 60% of inmates who graduated in 2017 were not re-arrested and 40% were re-arrested.

d. 74% of inmates who graduated in 2018 were not re-arrested and 26% were re-arrested

b. Gang Awareness Parenting Project

1. Less than one year data indicates that:

a. 61% of inmates who have been released for less than one year have not been re-arrested in Tulare County.

F6. Due to the recent implementation of AB 1008, the TCSO has not yet conducted a study to determine its effects on recidivism rates to date. The Sheriff is considering including a study on AB 1008 in the future implementation of a job placement skills program.

CONCLUSION:

Data regarding rates of recidivism for Tulare County trend favorably from 2016-2018. Tulare County recidivism data, when compared to rates for inmates throughout California's other 57 counties, compares favorably.

These inmate education programs are designed to help inmates improve competence in reading, language arts, mathematics, vocational (job skills) education, and self-esteem. The benefits and outcomes are an opportunity for lifelong learning and literacy skill development.

These services help the individual and community by providing inmates with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively as workers, family members, and consumers of goods and services.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. The TCCGJ recommends that the TCSO implement a study of AB 1008. This study should be focused on determining AB 1008's effects on recidivism rates.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

Tulare County Sheriff Findings F1-F6, and Recommendation R1.

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EFFECTS OF PROP 64 IN LEGALIZING MARIJUANA IN TULARE COUNTY

BACKGROUND:

In November 1996, California voters approved Proposition 215, the initiative exempted certain patients and their primary caregivers from criminal liability under state law for the possession and cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes.

In November 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64, legalizing the recreational use of marijuana.

In January 2017, Tulare County Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance §3502, extending Ordinance §3500, temporarily establishing the regulations on the recreational use, cultivation and sales of marijuana in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Cities in Tulare County have the authority to institute their own regulations. As of this time, the cities of Woodlake and Farmersville allow the cultivation and distribution of marijuana or commercial cannabis. Tulare County has two licensed medicinal use marijuana co-ops.

Although non-medical marijuana possession, use, and sale have been decriminalized under state law, the federal government has not sanctioned the cultivation, sale, or possession of non-medical cannabis in any way.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

While investigating the Resource Management Agency (RMA), the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) found that marijuana regulations and enforcement are complex and continually evolving. TCCGJ decided to inform the public on the rules and regulations involved in administering the county ordinances on marijuana.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviewed agency personnel
2. Reviewed relevant documents and data

FACTS:

1. Tulare County has the authority to investigate illegal marijuana growing and processing operations in the unincorporated areas.

2. RMA has only one dedicated full time marijuana code enforcement inspector. In 2018, RMA had a total of 296 medical marijuana complaints. Of these, 155 complaints resulted in the assessment of fines and fees.

3. In 2018, Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) served 100 search warrants for RMA to abate the growth of illegal marijuana groves.

4. In 2015, TCSO received 350 citizens' complaints regarding marijuana cultivation. If there are 100 or more plants, TCSO investigates and works with the District Attorney to decide if criminal charges may be filed. Smaller groves and non-criminal violations are referred to RMA.

5. Under the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, there are 17 different types of State licenses that govern all manner of marijuana production and sales.

6. There are four focuses of marijuana licensing in the State of California.
   a. Growing and cultivation
   b. Delivery
   c. Transportation
   d. Laboratory testing

7. In the event of noncompliance, RMA assesses fines and fees.

8. Under Tulare County Ordinance §3502, there are six plants per private residence allowed indoors for personal use, and 12 plants allowed for a licensed co-op. The cultivation of cannabis outdoors is prohibited.

9. Law enforcement officials have found that in places where recreational marijuana has been decriminalized, some individuals use state marijuana laws as a cover for illicit grow operations. The District Attorney has the discretion to prosecute marijuana violations.

10. RMA code enforcement, upon verification of an illegal grove, issues a 10 day notice to eradicate the plants. If the plants are not abated, they will be re-inspected and a search warrant may be issued. If there is still no owner response, they will issue a 30 day notice to eradicate. In 2005, 46 illegal marijuana groves were known to exist by TCSO. By 2015, this number has increased to over 1000 groves.

11. RMA reported there are not enough certified inspectors to perform code enforcement duties.

FINDINGS:

F1. RMA assesses fees and/or fines with the focus to abate illegal marijuana. A property lien may be placed to recover the costs of investigation, eradication, and search warrants. Tulare County cannot collect on a tax lien until the property is sold, transferred, or refinanced.

F2. Despite being illegal, some code violators have been known to pay fines assessed, then turn around and harvest the crop at considerable profit.

F3. With 296 marijuana complaints and more than 1000 illegal groves, there has been an increase in the workload for RMA staff.

CONCLUSION:

Decriminalization of recreational marijuana in portions of Tulare County has not necessarily resulted in a reduction in the number of plants eradicated.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. Tulare County RMA should hire additional certified code enforcement inspectors for the marijuana program.

REQUIRED RESPONSE:

1. Tulare County Board of Supervisors Finding F1 Recommendation R1

INVITED RESPONSE:

1. Tulare County Resource Management Agency Finding F3 Recommendation R1

Disclaimer

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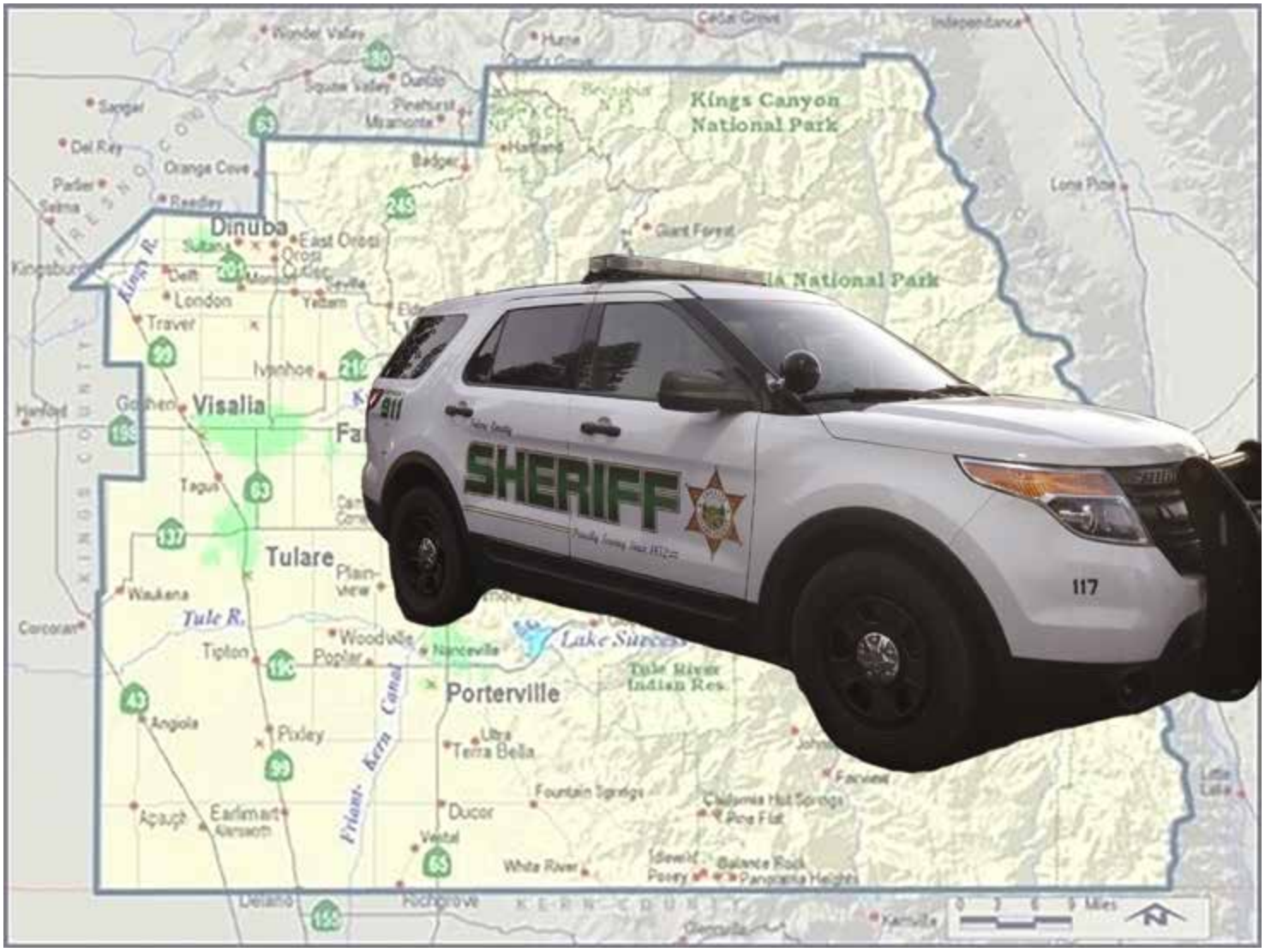
Kings Canyon National Park
Dinuba
Visalia
Tulare
Porterville
Lake Success
Tule River Indian Res.
Tule R.
Kaweah R.
Friant-Kern Canal
SHERIFF
117

SHERIFF'S PATROL

BACKGROUND:

Tulare County consists of 4,839 square miles of land mass - roughly half of which is National Park, National Forest or National Monument land - with seven (7) incorporated municipalities spread throughout. Each of these cities has its own police department charged with serving and protecting the residents within their jurisdictions. The total estimated population of these cities is 305,036 which represents approximately sixty-six percent (66%) of the County's total population (estimated 464,493). Tulare County's seven cities comprise 94.07 square miles of the County's land mass, which – if Federal lands are removed from the equation– still leaves the Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) with approximately 2,325 square miles of territory for which it is responsible to provide police protection.

In practical terms, the TCSO is responsible for patrolling an area which is approximately 43 miles from North (Traver) to South (Kern County Line) and 45 miles from East (Three Rivers) to West (Kings County Line). In years past, response times for Sheriff's patrol units were an issue involving some controversy, due to the length of time required by patrol units to respond to citizens' calls for assistance.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ), on its own initiative, as a means by which to address the response time issue, launched an inquiry into Sheriff's response times to requests for assistance.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviewed TCSO personnel.
2. Reviewed pertinent documents.

FACTS:

1. In 2016, the TCSO Patrol Division underwent a reorganization and restructuring of its methodology used in responding to calls for assistance.
2. TCSO defines response time as being the time elapsed between the call for assistance being dispatched and the time the officer arrives at the scene.
3. Prior to the 2016 restructure, average response time was 14-15 minutes. After restructuring, average response time was reduced to 6.7 minutes.
4. In 2018, TCSO Dispatch Center responded to more than 100,000 calls for assistance.
5. In 2018, average response time to "high priority" calls for assistance was approximately ten minutes.

6. Prior to 2014, the TCSO Patrol Division operated with four substations and calls for emergency assistance were assigned to deputies responsible for patrolling specific areas/territories.
7. Prior to restructuring, a total of 20 patrol cars were in use at the four substations in Tulare County. Subsequent to restructuring when the boundaries were redrawn, the same 20 patrol cars were in use at the five substations.

FINDINGS:

F1. Subsequent to the 2016 restructure, five substations were in use, and patrol car assignments were done on a "closest unit" basis rather than by an assigned area/territory, thus improving response times.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. TCSO should continue periodic review of systems and procedures to further improve response times.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Tulare County Sheriff Recommendation R1

Disclaimer

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TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY CODE ENFORCEMENT

BACKGROUND:

"The Mission of the Resource Management Agency (RMA) is to support Tulare County's quality of life and economic prosperity by effectively managing the natural and man-made resources and committing to timely, quality and cost effective services." [1]

The purpose of the RMA is to provide efficient public service in the areas of planning, engineering, development, construction and building through its three branches: a) Economic Development and Planning; b) Public Works; and c) Administration.

The Economic Development and Planning Branch includes: the Economic Development Office, Permit Center, Environmental Planning, Grants, Planning and Project Processing, and Building and Housing Divisions.
The Public Works Branch includes: the Road Maintenance Management, Design, Construction Management Development Services, Special Programs Groups, and the County Surveyor.
The Administration Branch includes the Clerical, Fiscal, and Human Resources Divisions.

The purpose of this report is to review the Code Enforcement of the Economic Development and Planning Branch. The Building and Housing Division is responsible for the issuance and inspection of building permits throughout the County. Additionally, the division provides administration of the code enforcement programs (including marijuana, building and zoning, employee housing, abandoned vehicle, and substandard building abatement).

[1]Tulare County Resource Management Agency, Handout November 2018

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury decided to investigate Code Enforcement including timely collection of fees and fines.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviewed agency personnel
2. Reviewed relevant documents and data

FACTS:

1. There are four RMA cod enforcement programs:
   - **a.** Substandard housing
   - **b**. Abandoned vehicles
   - **c.** Marijuana
   - **d.** Employee housing

2. There are only six full time certified code inspectors. Due to the workload, RMA has requested from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) additional certified code inspectors. The certification testing prerequisite for a code enforcement inspector requires a minimum of five years on the job experience.

3. 1,762 RMA code enforcement complaints were received in 2018. Of these, 183 complaints have fees due. Complaint types with fees due include *22 general code violations, six substandard housing, and 155 medical marijuana.*

4. A lien is put on the property of the violator who does not pay the fines and fees assessed. Currently all funds from tax liens and payments go to the county general fund.

5. When a lien is established, the County does not collect until the property is sold, transferred, or refinanced.

6. There were $287,000 of uncollected fines by code enforcement in 2018.

7. Issuing inspection abatement warrants signed by a Superior Court judge is one method used in the collection process.

8. RMA is proposing a change to the collection process whereby fines would be added to the tax rolls. A fee study is in progress regarding the addition of fines to the tax rolls. RMA proposes to establish an enterprise fund, so the funds would be designated for RMA.

FINDINGS:

F1. There are not enough certified code inspectors to perform code enforcement duties.

F2. RMA is actively and effectively studying ways in which to improve its collection process and maximize collection rates.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. The Board of Supervisors should consider proposals made by RMA to improve the effectiveness of its code enforcement activities, including alternative means of collecting assessed fines and designating collected fines for use by RMA.

R2. Board of Supervisors should consider RMA's request for additional Certified Code Inspectors.

REQUIRED RESPONSE:

1. Tulare County Board of Supervisors Findings F1, F2 Recommendations R1, R2

INVITED RESPONSE:

2. Resource Management Agency Findings F1

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WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, NOT A DROP TO DRINK

BACKGROUND:

Yettem and Seville are disadvantaged communities located in northern Tulare County, approximately nine miles north of the City of Visalia, with populations of approximately 300 and 545, respectively.

In 2009, Tulare County accepted a request to become the court appointed receiver for the Seville Water Company (SWC), which provided water to the community of Seville. The SWC system was aging and had not been properly maintained for several years. There were frequent leaks in the pipes and the well was unable to meet the need of the community. There were also frequent water outages during the summer months.
In the case of Yettem, the State required Tulare County to build the sewer and water system in the 1990's after private wells began failing. The county continues to be the owner and operator.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Grand Jury became aware of the lengthy process of establishing the Community Service District (CSD) for the Yettem-Seville communities and the establishment of a potable water source for the communities including Stone Corral School.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. The Grand Jury interviewed several witnesses

2. Reviewed specific documents

FACTS:

1. Tulare County has been the owner operator of the Yettem water system since 1995.

2. Yettem and Seville have issues with nitrate contamination in their water supply.

3. Yettem has problems with low water pressure in the fire hydrants.

4. There is a "boil-water" notice in effect for both communities.

5. Due to the close proximity and similar needs of both communities, the county determined that it would be best to connect both systems in order to lower the costs and apply for state grants.

6. Self-Help Enterprises and Community Water Center assisted the communities by organizing, educating, and advocating for the formation of the CSD.

7. In November 2018, the residents of Yettem and Seville voted to combine the two systems and create one CSD.

8. The county has encountered numerous delays in constructing the system due to:

   a. Coordinating the requirements of State Water Resource Control Board, Department of Transportation, and Department of Fish and Wildlife.
   b. Funding sources from the State Water Resources Control Board.
   c. No State Laws being established to coordinate the project.

9. Households in the communities receive bottled water deliveries which are expected to continue until June of 2020.

10. Yettem and Seville will receive new fire hydrants.

11. Even though the residents established a CSD, the County will be responsible to complete the water project before turning the system over to the CSD.
12. The long term goal of Yettem, Seville, Cutler, Orosi, East Orosi, Munson, and Sultana, communities is to create a regional water system.

13. The total cost to Tulare County to manage the process over the ten year period was approximately $270,000.

14. The total cost for the system, which includes phase one and two, will be in excess of $8,000,000, funded by grants from the State.

FINDINGS:

F1. It has been at least 10 years without a potable water system for both committees.

F2. The County had to coordinate with various state agencies to begin, causing delays in the project.

F3. The North Tulare County Water Alliance has been formed to develop a long term solution to address the drinking water and water supply needs of the communities of Yettem, Seville, Cutler, Orosi, East Orosi, Munson, and Sultana.

CONCLUSION:

The Yettem-Seville project will create the following benefits:

1. Potable water

2. Consistent water supply

3. New infrastructure

4. Water quality (reduction of nitrates below the maximum contaminate level)

5. Fire protection (new fire hydrants and higher flow capacity)

6. New water meters (smart water meters which can reduce water usage by nine percent)

7. Redundant water supply

8. Local control of the system

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. The coordination of policies should be documented to provide useful guidelines for future projects with State agencies.

R2. Tulare County Board of Supervisors and Resource Management Agency should explore ways to accelerate their efforts in completing the water system in Yettem-Seville.

REQUIRED RESPONSE:

Tulare County Board of Supervisors Findings F1, F3 Recommendations R1, R2

INVITED RESPONSE:

Resource Management Agency Findings F1, F3 Recommendations R1, R2

Disclaimer

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ELECTRONIC MONITORING

BACKGROUND:

Issues regarding law enforcement are of paramount importance to the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) and we note the potential for significant bail reform in California next year, likely increasing the number of persons being electronically monitored. Recent articles on the use of electronic monitoring devices in the United States came to the attention of the TCCGJ. The commitment of the Tulare County Probation Department is significant in terms of funding and time allocated to the adult electronic monitoring program. Currently under review by the California Supreme Court is a case which could significantly impact the use of electronic monitoring in the future. Therefore, the TCCGJ decided that a periodic review is warranted.

The focal points of the review were the following:

1. How widespread is the use?

2. How does the use of ankle bracelets compare in effectiveness with standard incarceration?

3. Are there financial benefits to Tulare County tax payers?

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

Given that the judicious use of the electronic monitoring program will continue for the foreseeable future, the TCCGJ thought it prudent to analyze its use and effectiveness.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviews of County Probation Department personnel.
2. Analysis of Probation Department financial data.
3. Solicited data from Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO).
4. Research of relevant information.

FACTS:

1. Three types of equipment are being used: radio frequency, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Transdermal Alcohol Detector.

2. GPS, being a more precise and reliable method of tracking technology, drove a nationwide increase in electronic monitoring, all types, up 140% from 2005 to 2015.

3. Total ankle bracelets in use in the County as of June 2018 was 383.

4. The Probation Department has reported, on average, there are three violations annually.

5. Mandatory use is done at the expense of the County. The costs related to voluntary use are in part covered by payments by the individual being monitored.

6. There are four full-time employees assigned to ankle bracelet monitoring. Annual expense to the County for three Probation Officers and one Technician is $345,000.00.

7. Annual expense for monitoring services and equipment is $285,000.00.

8. Total budget for the County's ankle bracelet program is $630,000.00.

FINDINGS:

F1. Estimated average annual cost per individual being monitored in Tulare County is $1,607.00 versus average annual cost for incarceration of $27,602.00, results in a potential annual savings per person of $25,995.00. These statistics do not include the costs related to inmate medical care.

F2. Breakdown of monitoring services as of September 5, 2018:

a. Adult 46 (including DUI's)
b. Pre-trial 42
c. Post release 27
d. Domestic Violence 5
e. Community Transition 8
f. Sex Offender 3

CONCLUSION:

Comparing the cost of incarceration to the cost of ankle monitoring, the savings per individual are substantial. While the inmate is on an ankle monitor the chances of re-offending are minimized. Furthermore, in terms of societal benefits, electronic monitoring may allow individuals to remain employed during their prosecution.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. Consideration should be given to expanding the electronic monitoring program.

REQUIRED RESPONSE:

1. Board of Supervisors Recommendation R1

INVITED RESPONSE:

1. Tulare County Probation Department Recommendation R1

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QUESTIONS
COMMENTS
CONCERNS
PROBLEMS
COMPLAINTS

Synopsis

An inquiry generally begins with a Citizen's Complaint submitted to the Grand Jury or with a Grand Jury Initiated Investigation. If it is determined by a committee that the Citizen's Complaint or Jury Initialed Investigation warrants a more in depth investigation the committee will schedule interviews, visits, and data reviews. After the committee completes its investigation, it will determine if the issue raised warrants a final report.

In 2018-2019, the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury had 21 Citizen's Complaints and 10 Jury Initial Investigations. Of those 31 potential reports:

Eight (8) final reports were published.

Thirteen (13) issues were closed without a written report.

1. Seven were determined that no action was warranted.

2. Five in which the Grand Jury did not have jurisdiction over matters which may be pending in court.

3. Two were determined that there are allegations of criminal conduct and referred to the DA's office.

Seven were anonymous complaints. Generally, anonymous complaints are not acted upon because there is no one to ask for additional information needed to proceed with an investigation.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

The Grand Jury receives complaints from Tulare County citizens concerning a variety of grievances. These complaints are assigned to one of the standing committees for action.

The Grand Jury may refuse to act on a complaint, particularly if the matter is under judicial review, appears to be more appropriate for action by another agency, or it is out of the Jury's purview. Grand Jury investigation reports (regarding complaints) are submitted to the entire jury with recommendation for action. A quorum of 12 jury members must approve the report. Some complaints may remain open for action by the following Grand Jury as deemed appropriate.

Submission of Complaint

Complaints should be in writing and legible. All normal attempts to resolve the problem should have been taken prior to the submission of the complaint. When these efforts have been proven unsuccessful, a complaint form should be prepared and submitted. These complaint forms may be requested and obtained from the Grand Jury office and this Web Site.

Content of Complaint

The complaint form available from the Grand Jury is designed to help an individual supply pertinent data regarding the reason for the complaint. It is easy to fill out and asks for information that is vital in helping the Grand Jury resolve the problem.

1. Identify yourself with your full name, correct mailing address and a phone number where you can be contacted during office hours.
2. Identify the nature of your complaint.
3. Identify all the people involved and how they might be contacted.
4. If needed, the location of the occurrence that precipitated your complaint.
5. Furnish originals or copies of documents and / or recordings that may support your allegation. ***(according to Ca. Evidence Code 140 all submitted documents & recordings are evidence and will not be returned)***
6. Be specific in reporting the reasons for you claim. Avoid making broad statements.

Confidentiality

The ***complainant's identity is rigorously guarded*** and the Grand Jury is forbidden, by law, to release any information about investigations.

You will receive written acknowledgment of this complaint after it is received and reviewed by the Grand Jury. This acknowledgment will be mailed to the address on the form.

Citizen Complaint Form

All complaints submitted to the Grand Jury are held in the strictest confidence

Tulare County Grand Jury
5963 So. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 624-7295
Fax: (559) 733-6078

Date: _____

1. YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ **Res. Phone** _____

Res. Address (City/Zip) _____

Work Location _____ **Bus. Phone** _____

2. PERSON OR AGENCY ABOUT WHICH THE COMPLAINT IS MADE:

Name/Agency: _____

Location or Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Person in Charge (if agency):** _____

3. OTHER PERSONS OR AGENCIES YOU HAVE CONTACTED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM:

Agency and Location	Approximate Date of Contact

4. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROBLEM (Include names and dates of events, and agencies involved)

(Attach Additional Sheets if Necessary)

5. PLEASE SUBMIT COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE AND / OR DOCUMENTS REGARDING YOUR COMPLAINT AND THE NUMBER OF PAGES SUBMITTED WITH YOUR COMPLAINT. (PAGES \ ATTACHMENTS)

6. PERSONS YOU THINK SHOULD BE CONTACTED:

Name and Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Reason to Contact: _____

_____

_____

Name and Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Reason to Contact: _____

_____

_____

Name and Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Reason to Contact: _____

_____

_____

7. ACTION WHICH YOU BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE:

Excerpt from the Grand Juror's Oath:"…I will keep my counsel, and that of my fellow Grand Jurors and of the government, and will not, except when required in the due course of judicial proceedings or authorized by statute, disclose the testimony of any witness examined before the Grand Jury, nor anything which I or any other Grand Juror my have said, nor the manner in which I or any other Grand Juror may have voted on any matter before the Grand Jury…"

TULARE COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY QUESTIONNAIRE 2020-2021

2020-2021

CIVIL GRAND JURY

PLEASE RETURN TO ROOM 303

VISALIA COURTHOUSE

This jury service differs from jury duty as a trial juror. Your participation is voluntary and it is considered to be a privilege to be chosen to serve on the Civil Grand Jury.

The Civil Grand Jury is composed of 19 active panel members who meet, form committees, investigate and report on the operations, accounts and records of the officers, departments and functions of the county. Service on the panel is from July 1 through June 30 and requires approximately 20 hours per week during the fiscal year.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it to Room 303, Visalia Courthouse. This questionnaire will assist the Judges of the Superior Court in compiling a list of nominees, which fairly represents a cross-section of our community. Your personal information is confidential and will only be used by the Judges of the Superior Court to assure that the group nominated represents various age groups, economic and social backgrounds. Your application will still be considered even though you may leave some of the questions unanswered.

If there is anything you would like us to know feel free to attach additional information, if necessary.

Your prompt attention to the completion and return of the questionnaire will be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please call: (559) 730-5000, ext. 1359

Fax (559) 737-4290

www.tularesuperiorcourt.ca.gov

DUTIES OF THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

Civil Grand Jurors serve a one (1) year term from July 1st through June 30th. The jury panel consists of nineteen (19) persons who are assigned to various committees plus three (3) alternates. It is understood that Civil Grand Jurors may be absent for reasonable periods for vacations. During your term as a Civil Grand Juror you would be excused from trial jury service in the State Courts.

The Civil Grand Jury is a time-honored component of our Anglo-American legal system. Civil Grand Jurors are selected citizens of the county who are expected to exercise sound judgment in reviewing and commenting upon the actions of governmental agencies.

Essentially, the Civil Grand Jury operates as an investigative agency performing a two-fold function. First, the Civil Grand Jury has powers and duties with respect to the oversight of public offices, officers, and transactions. Designated State and all County and special District agencies that serve Tulare County are routinely reviewed and critiqued by the Civil Grand Jury in its annual and interim reports.

Secondly, the Civil Grand Jury has powers and duties with respect to inquiry into possible public offenses, misconduct in office by public officers and determining whether to return indictments charging the commission of felonies.

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury selection process will be conducted May - June annually. The process involves completing this questionnaire and being interviewed by the designee of the Presiding Judge of the Tulare County Superior Courts. After selection, the designee of the Presiding Judge will further instruct jurors of their duties. Throughout its term, the Civil Grand Jury may request advice on legal matters from the District Attorney and County Counsel.

2020-2021

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY QUESTIONNAIRE

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 893, the following questions must be answered:

STATUTORY QUALIFICATIONS: (Place a check in the appropriate box)

No	Yes	Are you a citizen of the United States?
No	Yes	Are you eighteen years of age or older?
No	Yes	Have been a resident of Tulare County for at least one year prior to the date of this application?
No	Yes	Are you in possession of your natural faculties? Are you of ordinary intelligence and of sound judgment and fair character?
No	Yes	Do you possess a sufficient knowledge of the English language?

STATUTORY DISQUALIFICATIONS: (Place a check in the appropriate box):

No	Yes	Are you serving as a trial juror in any court of this State? If Yes, County _____
No	Yes	Have you been discharged as a grand juror in any court of this State within one year prior to the date of this application? If Yes, County_____
No	Yes	Have you ever been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime?
No	Yes	Are you currently serving as an elected public official?
_____	(initial here)	I am interested in serving on the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury for the fiscal year **2020-2021** and I understand the time commitment required

If you answered **NO** to any **STATUTORY QUALIFICATIONS** or you answered **YES** to any **STATUTORY DISQUALIFICATIONS**, you do not qualify. There is no need to continue or to return the questionnaire.

IF QUALIFIED, please continue and complete the questionnaire, returning it to Court Administration – Rm 303

CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT, Rule 10.625, regarding certain demographic data relating to regular grand jurors.

{Please check the appropriate box to the following}

(A) Age range, please check the appropriate box: ☐ 18-25 ☐ 26-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75 and over (B) Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

(C) Please indicate your ethnic origin by **circling one** of the following (may select more than one):

American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Hispanic/Latino

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander White Other (please specify)_____

Decline to Answer

Place of Residence by Supervisorial District: ☐ District 1 ☐ District 2 ☐ District 3 ☐ District 4 ☐ District 5

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS TO ASSIST THE JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN COMPLETING A LIST OF NOMINEES WHICH FAIRLY REPRESENTS A CROSS-SECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY. SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT MAY SEEM PERSONAL ARE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE JUDGES THAT THE GROUP THEY NOMINATE, FROM WHICH THE FINAL NAMES WILL BE DRAWN, REPRESENTS VARIOUS AGE GROUPS, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ETHNIC BACKGOUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

1. Full Name:_____ Date of Birth: _____
   (First) (Middle) (Last)
2. Address (Phys.):_____ City:_____ Zip +4:_____
   Address (Mail): _____ City:_____ Zip +4:_____
   Residence Phone: ( ) _____ Business Phone: ( ) _____
   Cell Phone: ( ) _____ Fax Number: ( ) _____
   Email Address: _____
3. Occupation: _____
   Employer: _____
   If retired, previous occupation _____
4. Can you afford the time required to be a Civil Grand Juror (approximately 20 hours per week)?_____
   If not, briefly state why not: _____
5. Do you have any physical or mental condition which would interfere with your ability to function as a Civil Grand Juror? _____ If yes, explain briefly _____
   What accommodations would the Court need to provide to accommodate your physical or mental impairment?
   _____
6. Education (Circle highest grade completed):
   6 (or less) 7 8 9 10 11 12 College: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   Name of schools attended and degrees or certification attained:_____
   _____
7. Clubs or organizations: List any civic, service organizations or any volunteer work to which you belong.
   _____
   _____
8. Spouse / Domestic Partner Name: _____
   Occupation: _____
   If retired, list previous occupation you retired from _____
   Employer: _____
9. Are you or any immediate family member an appointed or elected public officer of any public agency? _____
   If yes, explain: _____
10. Are you currently involved in any litigation (law suits) in this county? _____
11. Are you or any of your immediate family members employed by the County of Tulare or any school district within the county? _____
    If yes, where? _____

12. Do you have any significant problems reading or understanding the English Language? _____
13. Do you have any suggestions, comments or other matters you would like to bring to the judges attention in connection with your application?_____
14. Please tell us about any special skills or abilities that you have which the judges should know about in considering your application? _____

_____

15. Please tell us why you are interested in serving on the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury. (Please attach additional pages as needed)_____

_____

16. Describe any background experience or skills you have which would be helpful to grand jury service (i.e., computer skills, leadership skills, or experience writing/editing reports, working in groups, or conducting investigations or interviews.)

_____

_____

Mail in the envelope provided or deliver to: **Attention: Civil Grand Jury**
Tulare County Superior Court
221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 303
Visalia, CA 93291

Or Fax to: (559) 737-4290

NOTE: Applicants for nomination as a member of the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury are subject to investigation by an appropriate law enforcement agency as to the statutory qualifications for service and the applicant's ability and suitability for service.

In support of my application for selection as a member of the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Signed: _____Date:_____

PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE NO LATER THAN: April 17, 2020.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY
Government Plaza 5963 S. Mooney, Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 624-7295. Fax (559) 733-6078
E-mail: Grnd_jury@co.tulare.ca.us
Website: www.co.tulare.ca.us