

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
COUNTY OF PLACER

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Thomas M. Miller, Placer County Executive Officer  
By: James Importante, Management Analyst

**DATE:** May 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** 2010-11 Placer County Grand Jury Report on the Annual Inspection of Holding Facilities in Placer County– Board of Supervisors Responses

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Action Requested: Authorize the Chairman to sign response letters to the 2010-11 Placer County Grand Jury report on the Annual Inspection of Holding Facilities in Placer County.

Background: On March 15, 2011, the Placer County Grand Jury issued its final reports based on the annual inspection of all Placer County holding facilities. The report includes facts derived from the Grand Jury's investigations, and findings and recommendations based on those facts.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors was asked to provide a response to this Grand Jury report. County Executive Office staff prepared a response on the behalf of the Board of Supervisors, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and the Placer County Superior Court administration, which will be subject to your approval today. This memorandum provides a brief summary of the recommended Board of Supervisors' response to the findings and recommendations in Grand Jury report. Details of the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations are included within the response letter attached. Upon approval by your Board, the signed responses will be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Placer County Superior Court and the Placer County Grand Jury.

In previous years, the Grand Jury provided a single "final report" that contained the individual reports on the annual inspection of the County's various holding facilities. The final report also included other investigations requested by citizens, or generated by the members of the Grand Jury. This year, the 2010-11 Grand Jury published individual reports throughout its term rather than a single final report. On April 5, 2011 the Board approved the response to the Grand Jury's report on the All American Speedway. The report on the annual inspection of the County's holding facilities is the second report the Board is asked to respond to. Staff will return to the Board again to recommend responses as additional Grand Jury reports are published in the future.

The 2010-2011 Placer County Grand Jury conducted its annual inspections of all holding facilities in Placer County, within incorporated and unincorporated areas. The Grand Jury concluded the overall operations of the holding facilities within the County are

clean, organized, and well maintained. Specific to Placer County, the Grand Jury recommended a new motor be installed for the sally port gate at the Historic Courthouse in Auburn which can be electrically and manually operated, and replacement of the Sheriff's substation at Burton Creek.

Staff recommends that the Board agree with all the Findings of the Grand Jury regarding the County's holding facilities. With respect to the Grand Jury's recommendation to install a new motor for the sally port gate at the Historic Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is responsible for the ongoing oversight, management, operation, maintenance and repair of the Court Exclusive-Use Area, which includes the sally port, as outlined in the Transfer Agreement approved by the Board, AOC, and Superior Court in August 2007. Staff communicated with the Superior Court and the Sheriff's Department, and confirmed they are working on purchasing and replacing the motor for the sally port gate.

The replacement of the Burton Creek substation has been historically supported by the Board, with its inclusion in the County's Capital Improvement List and Financing Plan. Its replacement requires numerous steps including: identifying funding sources, a suitable building site, developing plans and specifications, bidding and awarding a construction contract, construction, and inspections. More recently, changes in the potential scope of the project, whether the replacement Burton Creek facility would include courtrooms for use by the Superior Court, made it increasingly difficult to appropriately plan and allocate funding towards this project.

Environmental: None.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact related to the signing of the responses to the Grand Jury.

Attachments: *Re: 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report – Annual Inspection of the Holding Facilities in Placer County*

# County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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May 3, 2011

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Placer  
P.O. Box 619072  
Roseville, CA 95661

**Re: 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report – Annual Inspection of the Holding Facilities in Placer County**

Dear Judge Pineschi:

The Placer County Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2010-11 Grand Jury for their efforts in their annual inspection of the holding facilities in Placer County and for providing your findings for our response. This letter is in response to the 2010-2011 Grand Jury's Findings & Recommendations from the report based on the annual inspection.

## **FINDINGS**

- The Board agrees with the following finding Placer County's Holding Facilities:
  - Finding No. 1 – All County Facilities. The overall operations of the holding facilities within the County are clean, organized, and well maintained.
  - Finding No. 4 – Historic Courthouse Holding Facility. The motor operating the sally port gate at the Historic Courthouse is unreliable and there is no way to manually control the gate.
  - Finding No. 7 – Main Jail and Minimum Security. Food Service Manager Renee Harvey for doing an outstanding job and uses local products to help keep costs down.
  - Finding No. 8 – Santucci Justice Center Holding Facility. The Santucci Justice Center is modern, clean, secure, and well maintained.
  - Finding No. 9 – Sheriff's Tahoe Substation at Burton Creek. Deputies at the Burton Creek substation are cross-trained in search and rescue. The employees at this facility take pride in their work and the services they provide to the public. The Substation was constructed in 1959 and Grand Jury reports since 1999 have made recommendations to replace this facility.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation R1 to replace the motor for the sally port at the Historic Courthouse has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The Board of Supervisors understands that the recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Under the terms and provisions of the *Transfer Agreement Between the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and the County of Placer*, after the transfer of the Historic Courthouse, the AOC is responsible for the ongoing oversight, management, operation, maintenance and repair of the Court Exclusive-Use Area, including the sally port.

Regarding the specific recommendation, the Board of Supervisors supports the Superior Court in replacing the motor for the sally port gate. Additionally, communication with the Sheriff's Department and Superior Court confirms they are currently working on procuring a new motor to replace the broken motor for the sally port gate.

- Recommendation R2 to replace the Burton Creek substation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to replace the Burton Creek facility with the project on the County's Capital Improvement Projects list. As stated in the Board's response to similar recommendations by previous Grand Juries, the replacement of the Burton Creek facility is contingent upon available funding, developing a suitable building site, CEQA environmental review, construction drawings and plans, bid proposal and solicitation, reviewing bids, negotiation and awarding construction contract, construction, and requisite inspections prior to occupancy.

A major issue that requires resolution before a further planning or construction of a replacement facility could occur is the scope of the project. The current Burton Creek facility is a comprehensive justice center including a Sheriff substation, jail, and a courtroom used by the Superior Court. This co-location of law enforcement and judicial services, similar to the Santucci Justice Center, provides the public a convenient service. The Board, in its previous response to the Grand Jury on August 24, 2010 mentioned that the AOC notified the County that a feasibility study for a new Tahoe Courthouse was approved by the State Public Works Board, the State Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The AOC anticipated that this study will identify a new site for the courts.

Subsequent to our response, a letter from the AOC dated October 15, 2010 stated that the AOC was given approval by the State Public Works Board to proceed with site acquisition and preliminary plan phases to construct a new courthouse in the Tahoe area of Placer County. The new courthouse is funded by the state and the County is not responsible for any portion of funding for the

courthouse. While the courthouse is a separate project entirely undertaken by the AOC, the potential still exists to co-locate the courthouse and the Sheriff's substation. The County will continue to work with the AOC as they proceed with the courthouse project on whether co-location is possible and will ultimately define the scope of the replacement of the Burton Creek facility.

The Board of Supervisors remains committed to a replace the Burton Creek facility for the Sheriff and believes in doing so in a responsible manner given the economic recession and limited resources available to the County.

The Board would like to thank the 2010-11 Grand Jury for its report on the annual inspection of the County's holding facilities. The Director of Facility Services will follow up this response and provide additional information regarding the annual inspection of the County's holding facilities, as requested by the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER

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Robert M. Weygandt, Chairman  
Placer County Board of Supervisors

cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors  
Tom Miller, CEO  
Edward Bonner, Sheriff  
Jim Durfee, Director, Director of Facilities

