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The Honorable Stephen Berrier Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury Superior Court of the State of California County of Yuba 215 Fifth Street Marysville, Ca 95901

The Honorable Judge Berrier:

On behalf of the 2022-2023 Yuba County Grand Jury, in accordance with Penal Code 933(a), I respectfully submit our final report chronicling our service throughout the last year.

It has been an honor and privilege to be the foreperson for the 2022-2023 Yuba Grand Jury. I worked with a very dedicated and diverse group of citizens from all points of the county. These jurors carried out their responsibilities with dignity and respect for the people of Yuba County and the Grand Jury process. Inquires and investigations that were conducted show that the various agencies of the county use their resources diligently to serve the people of Yuba County.

All complaints were carefully considered and investigated thoroughly when appropriate. The 2022-2023 Grand Jury exercised its watchdog function to provide transparency and accountability. The jury focused on areas of the county that have not been reported on in the very near past. Some of the investigations did not end up having formal reports written, either because no issues were found or because of time constraints on investigations. Those reports not written were just as important as those that were written.

The Grand Jury would like to sincerely thank the office of Clerk of the Board for Yuba County, Yuba County Counsel, all the Yuba County administrative staff, and the entire court staff. Without their help and guidance we as the Grand Jury could not function. As foreperson, I am incredibly thankful for the dedicated people that sacrificed their time and energy to honorable serve the citizens of Yuba County. I have been very fortunate to have gotten to know such dynamic individuals, and am forever grateful for their efforts in executing the functions of the Yuba County Grand Jury.

Respectfully,

Marls A. Cina

Mark A. Viviano Foreperson 2022-2023 Yuba County Grand Jury

## 2022 - 2023

# Yuba County Civil Grand Jury



Dawn Contreras-Douglas	(Foreperson Pro Tem)	Dobbins
Susan DeConti		Browns Valley
Patrick Delaney	(Librarian)	Wheatland
Jim Ferrell		Olivehurst
Elizabeth Hambright		Wheatland
John Marty		Marysville
Mary Jane Mathews		Marysville
Jazmin Meza	(Secretary)	Olivehurst
Dale Nichols		Olivehurst
Nikki Padilla		Marysville
Hector Roa		Plumas Lake
Aaron Rose		Browns Valley
Patrick Sanger		Loma Rica
Poncho Sannizzaro	(Treasurer)	Plumas Lake
Joe Visalli		Dobbins
Mark Viviano	(Foreperson)	Marysville
Susan Williams		Marysville
James Wilson		Marysville

# 2022-2023 Yuba County Grand jury

History of the Grand jury

#### **Before American Development**

Some historians believe that the earliest versions of the grand jury existed in Athens, where the Greeks used citizen groups to develop accusations. Others find traces of the concept in all the Teutonic peoples, including early Anglo-Saxons. For example, the concept was employed in the early Scandinavian countries. Evidence also exists that the early French developed the "King's Audit" involving citizens who were sworn and required to provide fiscal information related to the operation of the kingdom.

However, most commentators believe that the grand jury arose as an institution in England. In the first millennium, English individuals prosecuted criminals, with the king personally involved in the system. Under the Doom Law of Anglo-Saxon King Aethelred (AD 980-1016), a dozen landowners were appointed to investigate alleged crimes. In 1166, King Henry II established a system of local "informers" (twelve men from every one hundred) to identify those who were "suspected of" various crimes. If the suspects survived their "trials by ordeal," they paid fines to the King. However, the informers were fined if they failed to indict any suspect, or even enough suspects. After 1188, they became tax collectors as well, and after the reign of Henry III, they were charged with "looking into the condition and maintenance of public works".

The Magna Carta, signed by King John in 1215, did not mention the grand jury specifically, but did establish various procedures to ensure fairness in the dispensation of justice. Thereafter, until the mid-1300s, the 12-men juries served both to present indictments and to rule on the validity of charges. During Edward III's reign, from 1312-1377, the 12 individuals were replaced by 24 knights, called "le grande inquest," and the 12 became a "petit jury" responsible only for declaring innocent or guilty verdicts.

Ultimately, in the 1600s, the English grand jury developed as a process to determine whether there was probable cause to believe that an accused individual was guilty of a crime. Grand juries reached their English pinnacle of citizen protectors in 1681, when they refused to indict enemies of King Charles II for alleged crimes. English laws establishing grand juries were repealed in 1933.

#### **Early American Development**

The use of juries was limited in early colonial history. In the New Haven colony religious beliefs resulted in the residents eliminating trial by jury because there was no reference to juries in the laws of Moses. However, procedures similar to grand juries were used to hear criminal charges of larceny (Boston, 1644), holding a disorderly meeting (Plymouth, 1651), and witchcraft (Pennsylvania, 1683.) In the early 1600s, colonial representatives of the English monarchs made laws and prosecuted violators. The first grand juries recommended civil charges against those crown agents, thus establishing themselves as representatives of the governed, similar to grand juries today.

The first grand juries also investigated government misconduct or neglect. For example, the first colonial grand jury, established in Massachusetts in 1635, "presented" town officials for neglecting to repair stocks, and considered cases of murder, robbery and spousal abuse.

Other early grand juries performed a variety of administrative functions, including audits of county funds (New Jersey), inspections of public buildings (Carolinas), and review of taxes and public works (Virginia). Virginia grand juries also investigated whether each family planted two acres of corn per person. In the Colonies, grand juries were considering criminal accusations and investigating government officials and activities, but with a populist view. Grand jurors included popular leaders such as Paul Revere and John Hancock's brother. These grand juries played a critical role in the pre-Revolutionary period. Three grand juries refused to indict John Peter Zenger, whose newspaper criticized the royal governor's actions in New York (he ultimately was prosecuted by the provincial attorney, defended by Alexander Hamilton, and acquitted). Grand juries also denounced arbitrary royal intrusions on citizens' rights, refused to indict the leaders against the Stamp Act of 1765, and refused to bring libel charges against the editors of the Boston Gazette in 1766.

After the Revolutionary War ended, the new federal constitution did not include a grand jury. Early American leaders such as John Hancock and James Madison objected. Thereafter, the grand jury was included in the Bill of Rights, as part of the Fifth Amendment, which states, "No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger..."

From then until today, the federal grand jury remains an integral part of the justice system, used by federal prosecutors for a variety of potential crimes. In 1801, a federal grand jury indicted Colonel Aaron Burr for treason. Most recently, federal grand juries considered allegations related to the Oklahoma City and New York Trade Center bombings, President Clinton's conduct both before and during his term of office, and the claims of wrong doing by former California Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush and some associates.

#### Adaptation by the States

As the various states were admitted to the Union and adopted their legal and operating procedures, almost all initially included some reliance on grand juries for review of criminal indictments and/or inquiries into government activities. Some states' grand juries were very active in administrative affairs, even recommending new laws. Others carried out investigations of government officials; one Tennessee grand jury indicted the entire state court of appeals and another opposed a judge's reappointment on the grounds of "mental imbecility."

Throughout this state-by-state development, the underlying concept remained the same: ordinary citizens, neighbors, and others on grand juries were a necessary part of government to ensure that public prosecutors were not swayed by personal or political prejudices, and that government officials efficiently and effectively performed their jobs.

Since the mid-1800s, a number of reformers criticized grand juries as ineffective or outof-date because they were slow, lacked expertise, and on other grounds. Others criticized the "star chamber" atmosphere of secret hearings without customary due process rights. However, these complaints were offset by effective grand jury investigations, including those of the Boss Tweed ring in New York City (1871) and racketeering charges brought by a grand jury assisted by Thomas Dewey in the 1930s. Since the nineteenth century, various minor and major changes have been made in grand jury selection, procedures, and qualifications, often resulting in fairer and more efficient jury operations.

Today, all states except Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, may use grand juries to indict and begin criminal trials. 23 states and the District of Columbia require that grand jury indictments be used for certain more serious crimes. California and 24 other states make use of grand jury indictments optional. All states and the District of Columbia use grand juries for investigative purposes. This page intentionally blank

### REPORTS

- 1. "A Well-Run Facility Poised for Expansion" Yuba County Jail
- 2. "Overcoming Obstacles" Yuba County Animal Care Services
- 3. "Raising Expectations" New Administrative Team Leads Historic Marysville
- 4. "Keeping Our Students Safe" Yuba Gardens Intermediate School

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## "A Well Run Facility Poised for Expansion"

## Yuba County Jail Report

#### SUMMARY

Located in the City of Marysville, the Yuba County Jail (YCJ) is under the supervision of the Yuba County Sheriff's Department (YCSD). The Yuba County Grand Jury (YCGJ) is required by an amended Consent Decree (*Hedrick et al v. Grant et al*, *E.D.Cal.No.2:76-cv-00162-EFB* 1979/2019/2023)<sup>1</sup> and California Penal Code Section 919<sup>2</sup> to conduct yearly YCJ inspections and report to the court on conditions found. The current amended Consent Decree will come to term on May 31, 2023, and the YCJ is negotiating a new one.

A new medical and mental health facility at the jail broke ground on October 24, 2022. The new addition is being funded through a \$20 million California Senate Bill (SB) 863 Improvement Grant<sup>3</sup>. There will be a remainder of approximately \$735,000 needed, which will be funded by Yuba County. Once completed, the jail plans to hire additional mental health professionals and staff.

Overall, the Grand Jury's assessment is that the jail is a well run and managed operation that continues to grow to meet the future needs of Yuba County. The Grand Jury's evaluation was corroborated by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)<sup>4</sup> during their unannounced inspection of the jail on March 3, 2023. The BSCC reported the jail to be a well-managed facility with no areas of concern or corrections identified.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Consent Decree for the YCJ was filed in 1976. The court decision was issued in 1979 in the United States District Court, California Eastern Division. The original Consent Decree was amended in 2019 and a second (preliminary) amended Consent Decree was issued in February, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>California Penal Code Section 919 states: " (a) The grand jury may inquire into the case of every person imprisoned in the jail of the county on a criminal charge and not indicted. (b) The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. (c) The grand jury shall inquire into the willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within the county. Except as provided in Section 918, this subdivision does not apply to misconduct that involves a shooting or use of excessive force by a peace officer described in Section 830.1, subdivision (a) of Section 830.2, or Section 830.39, that led to the death of a person being detained or arrested by the peace officer pursuant to Section 836."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Under California Senate Bill 863, the Board of State and Community Corrections awarded this grant to expand YCJ facilities and build the mental and health wing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The California Board of State and Community Corrections conducts inspections of county jail and juvenile detention facilities. The Board provides technical assistance and training to local correctional staff regarding safety, re-entry, and violence reduction. Rehabilitative grants are issued to state and local governments and community organizations.

#### BACKGROUND

The YCJ is located at 215 Fifth Street, Marysville. It was constructed in 1962 and enlarged and modernized in the early 1990's. The jail has a capacity for 428 inmates and as of March 2023, housed approximately 112. As of the writing of this report, the reduced number is due in part to the CoronaVirus-19 (COVID-19) pandemic policies<sup>5</sup>. At the time of the first tour, two inmates were Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) <sup>6</sup> detainees. In 2022, YCJ was the only remaining county jail contracted by ICE in the State of California. This contract was terminated February 8, 2023. For more than three decades, the YCJ housed ICE detainees and benefited from the money collected as part of the contract with ICE.

A class action lawsuit filed in 1976 (*Hedrick et al v. Grant et al,* 1979/2019/2023) resulted in a Consent Decree. It was last amended in 2019. The Grand Jury is required to conduct yearly inspections of the jail and report to the court on conditions found. Adherence to the Consent Decree includes, but is not limited to:

- record keeping
- inmate grievances
- recreation
- cell size
- medical services
- inspections

Upon jail detainment, inmates are medically screened and quarantined before being placed in the general population. All inmates are provided with the *Yuba County Inmate/Detainee Handbook*<sup>7</sup>. This is available in English and Spanish. If other languages are needed, those requests are accommodated. The handbook details rights and responsibilities of the inmates, as well as outlining inmate privileges and disciplinary procedures. Furthermore, the handbook outlines how inmates are sheltered, obtain food, medication, and receive recreational time. An inmate's personal belongings are collected and stored until the inmate's release.

Inmates are housed according to security classification, court status, and health. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, outreach and educational programs such as religious gatherings, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous, are offered on a limited basis. These programs are being offered remotely to inmates via YCJ issued tablets. Inmates have access to computers or are issued tablets to attend online classes and virtual visits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> California enacted an Executive Order N-33-20 on March 4, 2020, which declared a state of emergency due to a CoronaVirus-19 outbreak. This proclamation ordered strict operational guidelines for state facilities, businesses, and public areas to reduce the spread of the infectious virus. This executive order was rescinded on February 28, 2023. <sup>6</sup>Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) upholds federal immigration law by removing and deporting persons who pose a safety threat. This includes those who enter the country illegally, immigration fugitives ordered removed by federal judges, convicted criminals, undocumented aliens, and gang members.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Bibliography for document reference.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The Grand Jury researched jail policies and reviewed grievances sent by inmates during the previous year. Tours of the jail were conducted on August 23, 2022, November 1, 2022, and March 27, 2023. The Grand Jury examined relevant logs, records, daily operations, kitchen facilities, and observed inmates. Prior to conducting tours, Grand Jury members studied the Consent Decree, amended Consent Decrees, previous jail reports, and plans for construction of a mental and health wing. In order to devise tour questions, the Grand Jury reviewed ongoing COVID-19 practices, information pertaining to holding of inmates, meal preparation, and upcoming expiration of the amended Consent Decree. Topics discussed during the Grand Jury tours included:

- jail intake
- holding and isolation cells
- medical and dental facilities
- kitchen
- law library
- recreation areas
- ICE holding wing
- male and female general housing dormitory cells

#### DISCUSSION

Overall, the Yuba County Grand Jury was impressed with the operations and maintenance of the Yuba County Jail. Additionally, the Grand Jury found the County is updating its jail to meet current growth. During this year's inspection of the jail, the Grand Jury reviewed the expansion project to add a 15,000 square foot mental and health wing. This project broke ground on October 24, 2022. The project is scheduled for completion in December, 2023. The County's contract with ICE ended in February, 2023. The terms of the Yuba County Consent Decree are currently under renegotiation.

#### FINDINGS

**F1.** The Yuba County Grand Jury commends the County Jail staff for functioning as a highly responsive team to operate a well-managed facility.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**R1.** It is recommended that County Jail staff continue to provide a high level of service to the citizens of Yuba County.

#### **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

None

#### **INVITED RESPONSES**

The Grand Jury invites the following governing body to respond within 60 days:

• The Yuba County Board of Supervisors as to Finding 1 and Recommendation 1.

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code Section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Board of State and Community Corrections https://www.bscc.ca.gov/ (last visited Apr. 28, 2023)

Executive Order No. N-33-20 (2020)

https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.4.20-Coronavirus-SOE-Pr oclamation.pdf

Hedrick et al. v. Grant et al., E.D. Cal.No.2:76-cv-00162-EFB (1979/2019/2023)

Immigration and Customs Enforcement https://www.ice.gov/about-ice (last visited Apr 28, 2023)

Jail Construction, CA Senate Bill 863 Improvement Grant (2011/2012/2014/2015) https://bscc.ca.gov/news/bscc-solicits-proposals-for-new-round-of-jail-improveme nt-funding/

Powers and Duties of Grand Jury, Chapter 3, CA Penal Code § 919 (2020 & Amended by Stats. 2015, Ch. 175, Sec. 2. (SB 227) https://www.easylawlookup.com/California-Law/Penal-Code/par-8013/\_easylooku p.blp?GO=Prepare&print=&data=PENAL&sidfw=&location=78232&p\_start=405& p\_end=412&p\_para=8013&p\_epara=8132&displayer=YES&par=8013&site=EAS Y&spon=&stype=P&sterm=+&smode=AND&sexact=ON

Yuba County Inmate/Detainee Handbook

https://files4.revize.com/yubaca/Yuba%20County/Sheriff/Jail/Jail%20Policy%20M anual%20(9-16-2021).pdf (last visited Apr. 28, 2023)

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"Overcoming Obstacles"

**Yuba County Animal Care Services** 

#### SUMMARY

The Yuba County Animal Care Services (ACS) is tasked with processing and caring for lost, abandoned or seized animals in Yuba County. The Yuba County Grand Jury (YCGJ) received three complaints regarding the ACS's refusal to pick up stray animals in outlying areas of the County. The decision was made to conduct an investigation into their practices. No concrete evidence was found confirming or denying the complaints. While touring, an issue was noted with an unsafe approach to the facility due to an abandoned railroad crossing.

#### BACKGROUND

The current ACS facility was built in 2004 and is located at 5245 Feather River Boulevard, Olivehurst. The building occupies 3,788 square feet, with a total of 36 dog kennels. There are 21 cages for cats and four pens for livestock. Located adjacent to the Yuba County Airport, the facility is appointed in a manner appropriate with its use, with kennels, treatment rooms and exercise areas.

The ACS is a division under the Yuba County Sheriff's Department that provides 24/7 services to the County for safety and control of animals. Current staffing at the facility is seven full-time employees, two part-time employees, and two volunteers. An Animal Control Officer (ACO) is on call every night, weekends, and holidays for emergency calls. Emergency calls include: injuries, bites, or an animal that may cause harm to people or other animals. Animals arrive at the care facility by means of citizens bringing in a stray, owner surrender of a dog, or a citizen complaint generating a field call by the ACO. The ACS employs a program called Chameleon<sup>1</sup>, which is a system for logging calls for service. The shelter does not accept feral cats from the public.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Chameleonbeach.com (Software and technology solutions for animal control agencies, humane societies, SPCAs, and other animal sheltering organizations.)

#### METHODOLOGY

Members of the YCGJ visited the ACS on three occasions to inspect the facilities and speak with staff. Interviews were conducted during each visit. Policies, procedures and statistics were provided. The grand jury conducted online searches into policies and facts concerning the ACS and also reviewed past grand juror's reports on the facility. Research was conducted by reviewing American Humane Society guidelines, facility logs and social media information.

#### DISCUSSION

As stated during interviews, the ACS partners with several local entities and non-profits for services and donations. Currently, two volunteers work at the facility and more are always needed. Potential volunteers must first undergo a background check by the Sheriff's Department. Local businesses donate bags of food that may have been damaged during shipping. Monies donated by the public are used for the sole purpose of animal care and services. A partnership with local pet stores offers adoption services offsite. Advertisements in the local newspaper and social media are used to feature animals available for adoption. In 2022, adoptions totaled 288 and 763 animals were euthanized due to overcrowding or other reasons. Always seeking to increase adoptions, the shelter and the Bissell Pet Foundation <sup>2</sup> have partnered to attain this goal.

A contracted veterinarian visits the facility once a week and provides services as needed. A room designed for medical care also serves as a lab and examination area. Some vaccinations are administered upon intake. There are no after-hours veterinary services available to the shelter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bissell Pet Foundation: A national animal welfare organization dedicated to reducing the number of animals in shelters and rescues through pet adoption. Services include transport, spay/neuter programs, vaccinations, microchipping and crisis and disaster response.

Upon entering the ACS area from Feather River Boulevard, vehicles must go over a sudden rise of several feet and a sudden drop-off on the other side due to a discontinued railroad track. Shelter staff reported problems with vehicles crossing the discontinued railroad spur <sup>3</sup> at the entrance to the facility parking lot. ACS staff reported that long wheelbase vehicles and trucks pulling trailers have become stuck or drag the undercarriage of vehicles over the spur.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Spur: A railroad track that branches off from a main line.

#### **FINDINGS**

Entrance to the facility crosses over a substantial railroad berm  $^4$  that can cause a vehicle to become high-centered  $^5$  or damaged. F 1:

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

A more gradual incline should be made to ease access over the track. A work R 1: order should be filed with the county within 30 days of receipt of this report.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Berm: A mound or wall of earth or sand.
 <sup>5</sup> High-centered: A vehicle that is stranded with all or most of it's wheels off the ground.

#### **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the following response is required from the following governing body within 90 days.

• Yuba County Sheriff

#### **INVITED RESPONSES**

The Grand Jury invites the following to respond within 60 days.

• The Yuba County Board of Supervisors

Penal Code §929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

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"Raising Expectations" New Administrative Team Leads Historic City of Marysville

#### SUMMARY

The 2022-23 Yuba County Grand Jury (YCGJ) conducted a seven-month investigation of the City of Marysville (City). The investigation was prompted by citizens' complaints regarding how City funding is being allocated and concerns centered on the overall management of City assets and services. Another citizen complaint to the Grand Jury centered on an audit finding from Marysville's 2021 Annual Audit Report<sup>1</sup>. While investigating these citizens' concerns, the Grand Jury discovered several improvements in city operations and several major redevelopment projects recently completed or in progress.

After extensive review of City documents, reports, online websites, and numerous lengthy interviews with City staff, the Grand Jury recommends completing a Capital Asset Inventory and developing policies for improving the fiscal management, administration, and operations of the City.

#### BACKGROUND

Founded in 1843, the City of Marysville is often considered California's oldest city. Marysville grew rapidly and prospered during the California Gold Rush. Even today, touring the City provides a nostalgic glimpse into the rich history of this famed California city. Downtown streets are still lined with numerous buildings and landmarks of the pioneer era. Lifelong residents of the City hold Marysville dear to their hearts and remember it as a flourishing agricultural hub for the north state. Third and fourth generation residents pridefully remember a time of thriving prosperity for this charming City where the Yuba and Feather rivers meet.

Over the past several decades, the City has dealt with small staff, limited budgets, the Great Recession of 2007<sup>2</sup>, and business closures due to CoronaVirus-19 (COVID-19) Pandemic mandates<sup>3</sup>. These circumstances have greatly impacted large cities. However the effects of these calamities have been magnified for small cities, such as Marysville. The City's landlocked physical location between the Yuba and Feather rivers impede Marysville's attempts to grow. Many existing structures, including historic buildings, now stand vacant. Citizens have become disillusioned with the apparent lack of city growth, particularly in the downtown corridor. Local citizens expressed concerns to the Grand Jury over the City's lack of growth, progress, management and operations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The 2021 City of Marysville Annual Audit Report is located on the City's webpage and referenced in the bibliography.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The Great Recession was an economic downturn that began in 2007 and lasted until mid-2009. It was the longest and deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression of 1929. This recession began in the United States and spread worldwide. The poverty rate reached 25%. Unemployment reached 10% and many lost their homes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> California enacted an Executive Order N-33-20 on March 4, 2020, which declared a state of emergency due to a CoronaVirus-19 outbreak. This proclamation ordered strict operational guidelines for state facilities, businesses, and public areas to reduce the spread of the infectious virus. This executive order was rescinded on Feb 28, 2023.

#### METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury conducted this investigation by:

- Attending City Council meetings
- Reviewing City Council meeting agendas and minutes
- Reviewing online City, County, and State websites
- · Conducting interviews with City employees
- Holding interviews with City appointees
- Examining City manuals, documents, guidelines, plans, and reports

#### DISCUSSION

Upon completing the investigation, the Grand Jury discovered that the City is fiscally and operationally well managed. The new management team is decidely experienced and knowledgeable in management, leadership, and legal expertise. This team has the capability to successfully execute formidable endeavors outlined in Marysville's new Strategic Plan and the General Plan currently under development. During interviews, the following six priorities of Marysville's preliminary Strategic Plan were reported to the Grand Jury:

- Increase fiscal sustainability
- Expand economic development
- Improve infrastructure
- Enhance public safety
- Support parks and recreation
- Strengthen organizational capacity

The Grand Jury commenced its investigation by attending several City Council meetings. The observed Council meetings were being conducted properly and in accordance with Ralph M. Brown Act (1953)<sup>4</sup> requirements. The Grand Jury carefully reviewed all documents posted on the City of Marysville website<sup>5</sup>. During this public document review, Jury members discovered the Marysville General Plan<sup>6</sup> to be grossly outdated; the plan has not been updated since 1985. Guidelines for city general planning are outlined in Government Code Section 65040.2<sup>7</sup>. Under this statute, oversight of city planning falls under the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)<sup>8</sup>. According to the OPR, there is no requirement for how often the general plan is updated. However, the planning period is traditionally every five years, with some cities updating their general plan every 15-20 years.

<sup>6</sup>The Marysville General Plan of 1985 is located on the City's website and referenced in the report bibliography.

<sup>7</sup>California Government Code Section 65040.2 specifies the mandatory elements of city and county general plans. <sup>8</sup>The Governor's Office of Planning and Research is statutorily required by Government Code Section 65040.2 to adopt and revise State guidelines for the preparation and content of local general plans for all cities and counties of California.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The Ralph M. Brown Act, passed in 1953, is found in the California Government Code beginning at Section 54950. It requires local government business to be conducted at open and public meetings, except in certain situations. The Act is based upon State policy that the people must be informed so they can keep control over their government.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>The City of Marysville web address is included in this report's bibliography.

Review of the City's last known audit report, revealed two 2021 audit findings. These included no inventory of the City's Capital Assets and no City Capital Asset policy. Additionally, the Grand Jury found no formal Business Operations Manual, Procurement Policy, or Conflict of Interest Policy. The Institute of Local Government (ILG)<sup>9</sup> highly recommends these policies to promote good stewardship of public resources and to maintain the public's trust and confidence. The Grand Jury held lengthy interviews with City employees and individuals appointed to the City's Planning Commission. These interviews confirmed that the City has yet to complete an inventory of their Capital Assets and develop a Capital Asset Policy. In culminating this multifaceted investigation, the Grand Jury confirmed the following facts:

#### FACTS

- 1. The City of Marysville's General Plan was last updated in 1985.
- 2. AECOM<sup>10</sup> Consultancy was hired by the City Council in October, 2021 to facilitate the process of updating Marysville's General Plan.
- 3. City growth, redevelopment and renovation is now evident in the following projects:
  - Bryant Field restoration<sup>11</sup>
  - New Marysville Drakes Baseball Team<sup>12</sup> of the Pecos League
  - New downtown corridor restaurants and establishments
  - New businesses along South Fifth Street
  - New business franchises and grocery chain on North "B" Street
  - Historic Hotel Marysville restoration<sup>13</sup>
  - Fifth Street<sup>14</sup> and Fifth Street Bridge<sup>15</sup> modernization projects

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>The Institute of Local Government supports local government agencies in California. The institute's website is listed in this report's bibliography.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>AECOM Consultancy is the world's largest consulting firm for designing, building, financing, and operating large projects. See the report bibliography for the firm's web address.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Marysville's Director of Community Services provided press releases in local newspapers about the restoration of Bryant Field. These are included in this report's bibliography.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>The Marysville Drakes professional baseball team are a member of the independent Pecos Baseball League and began their first season of play in April 2023. The team website is included in this report's bibliography.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>The current project to restore the historic Hotel Marysville is outlined on its website, included in the bibliography of this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>Renovation of Fifth Street in Marysville can be referenced on the City of Marysville website, under Press Releases. This website is referenced in the report bibliography.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>The Fifth Street Bridge Replacement Project was a joint construction venture between the cities of Marysville and Yuba City. A study project for the plan was completed in 2013. The project was approved by the Councils of both cities. Construction on the bridge was completed in 2020. The study project and plans can be located on websites listed in the bibliography.

- New low-cost housing construction on Yuba Street
  Adopt-A-Park<sup>16</sup> Program improvements
  Riverfront Motocross (MX) Park<sup>17</sup>

- 4. Continuous staff changes over the past four decades have hampered City capacity-building<sup>18</sup> efforts.
- 5. City staff is small, often leading employees to assume multiple roles and responsibilities.
- 6. Fiscal checks and balances (including contract acquisitions) are dependent upon municipal ordinances.
- 7. The City has not concluded an inventory of its Capital Assets.
- 8. The City has not developed a Capital Asset Policy.
- 9. The City lacks a Business Policy Manual.
- 10. Traffic mitigation is being sought through traffic calming measures.
- 11. Multiple business and law enforcement agencies of the Yuba Sutter Homeless Consortium<sup>19</sup> are involved in addressing housing and mental health services for the homeless of Yuba and Sutter counties.
- 12. Building owners are being issued citations for unsightly vacant property within the City limits.
- 13. Improvement plans to transition building inspections from a manually routed system to an automated electronic system are in progress.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Marysville's City Council approved the Adopt-A-Park Program at its September 6, 2022, Council meeting. The program allows businesses based or operating in Marysville to participate. Non-profit groups, families, schools, government entities, or faith-based groups can apply to engage in city park improvement projects categorized as custodial, beautification, or monetary donations. See City Council agenda link included in the report bibliography. <sup>17</sup>Riverfront MX Park, on the banks of the Feather River, is a new Bicycle Motocross (BMX) racing and practice facility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Capacity-building is the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources of an organization or community so they can survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world. <sup>19</sup>The Yuba Sutter Homeless Consortium is a non-profit organization. It was established to connect the homeless population of Yuba and Sutter counties with programs and services that can help individuals and families overcome obstacles preventing permanent housing. The consortium works with local non-profit organizations and local government agencies that provide services to the homeless of these two counties.

#### FINDINGS

- **F1:** City assets are unknown. The City's audit finding 2021-002 Capital Asset Accounting remains unresolved.
- **F2:** The City has not developed a Capital Asset Policy; the City's audit finding 2021-002 Capital Asset Accounting remains unresolved.
- **F3:** The Yuba County Grand Jury commends the City's new Management Team for their current vital work of rewriting and updating Marysville's General Plan.
- **F4:** The Grand Jury commends the Marysville Management Team for working diligently to make renovation, rebuilding, and growth priorities for the community.
- **F5:** The Grand Jury commends Marysville leadership for working to raise expectations for the City of Marysville.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **R1:** The City of Marysville should complete an inventory of its Capital Assets by October, 2023.
- **R2:** The City of Marysville should write and publish a Capital Assets Policy by February, 2024.
- **R3:** The Marysville Management Team should continue their significant work on the new Marysville General Plan.
- **R4:** The Marysville Management Team should maintain renovation, rebuilding, and growth as community priorities.
- **R5:** Marysville leadership should continue raising expectations for the community of Marysville.

#### **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

The following responses are required pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05 within 90 days:

• City of Marysville as to Findings F1 and F2 and to Recommendations R1 and R2.

#### INVITED RESPONSES

The Grand Jury invites the following governing body to respond within 90 days:

• The City Council of Marysville as to Findings F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 and Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R4, R5.

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code Section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

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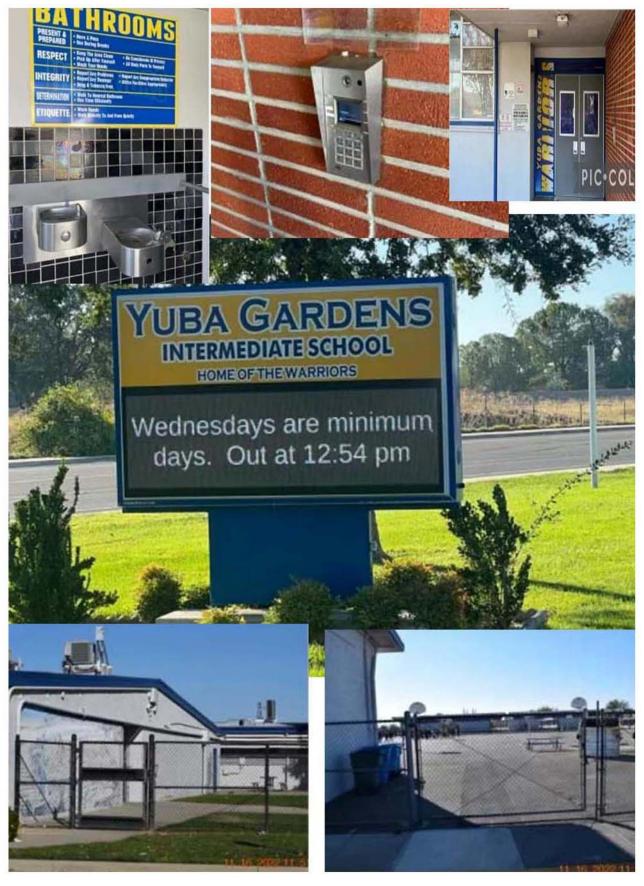
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# "Keeping Our Students Safe"

## **Yuba Gardens Intermediate School**

#### SUMMARY

The duties of the Yuba County Grand Jury (YCGJ) are to investigate and report on various matters regarding the County and its various departments. Investigations include cities, school districts, and special districts within the County to ensure they are being managed efficiently, honestly, and in the best interest of citizens.

Accordingly, the YCGJ elected to investigate the Yuba Gardens Intermediate School (YGIS). No other investigations of the school have been conducted in past years.

The investigation determined that YGIS is a well-run and secure school, with exceptions regarding gate security.

#### BACKGROUND

YGIS, a public school, is part of the Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD). It is located at 1964 11th Avenue, in the community of Olivehurst. There are currently about 794 registered students in grades 7 through 8, with a student-teacher ratio of 23:1. The national ratio is 17:1. <sup>1</sup>

YGIS has been given an overall grade of "C" by Niche Ranking. Nearly 100,000 public schools and districts are ranked by Niche based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents. To arrive at the overall grade of "C", YGIS was given a grade of "C-" for academics, a grade of "B-" for teachers, and a grade of "A" for diversity.<sup>2</sup> YGIS ranks 908, out of 2,954 schools, making it one of the most diverse public middle schools in California. <sup>3</sup>Other schools in the County are graded similarly.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.niche.com/k12/yuba-gardens-intermediate-school-olivehurst-ca/#teachers</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://www.niche.com/k12/yuba-gardens-intermediate-school-olivehurst-ca/#rrdeport-ca</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>https://www.niche.com/k12/yuba-gardens-intermediate-school-olivehurst-ca/#rankings</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://www.niche.com/k12/yuba-gardens-intermediate-school-olivehurst-ca/#similar-schools</u>

YGIS started serving the Olivehurst and Linda communities in 1953. Over the past 70 years YGIS has adapted to change, including the transition to a closed and secure campus.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The investigation included two on-site tours of the YGIS campus; September 8, 2022, and September 26, 2022.

Public schools throughout California are required to provide information to the community in the form of a School Accountability Report Card (SARC) Report. These comprehensive reports provide information to the community and allow public comparison of schools for student achievement, environment, resources, and demographics. SARC Reports are published annually.<sup>5</sup>

The investigation included an overview of the SARC Report section titled *"School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvement"*. This section lists physical facility items needing repair or improvement. For example, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, fire safety, windows, and more.

#### DISCUSSION

Supervisory staff (staff) was asked to provide a status of completion for the facility items mentioned in the SARC Report. It was stated that the items of most importance to the school have been repaired, others are near completion, and work orders are currently in process for others. Staff praised the MJUSD School Board for the cooperation provided with current repairs and with future plans of long-term facility improvements.

The public entrance into the front office is controlled by an electronically secured double door. Visitors use an intercom located near the entrance to state their name and reason for their visit. Visitors are visible through the windows on the doors. Entrance is permitted when an authorized staff member electronically or manually unlocks one of the double doors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Paragraph 1 from the Yuba Gardens Intermediate School 2022-2023 SARC Report <u>https://www.mjusd.com/documents/Parents/SARC/22-23/2022%20Yuba%20Gardens.pdf</u>

Students enter or exit the campus through two gates. The gate located at the back part of the campus is reserved for students using school bus transportation.

The front gate, most adjacent to the main building, is used by students that walk to school. Staff stated that each gate is supervised by two teachers, as part of the requirements of the District's contract agreement with the Marysville Unified Teacher's Association.

Any other expectation or procedure for gate security is not a part of this agreement. Campus gate security procedures are developed and delegated as needed.

Staff explained that the front gate also serves as an entrance for District employees and vendors to make deliveries during school hours. District employees have a key to unlock the gate. Whereas, vendors need to check in at the front office to have the gate opened by the custodian. Staff stated that the gate is currently expected to be locked again by the District employee or the vendor after delivery. However, the custodian re-locks the gate or responds when an open gate is reported.

Other gates located near the gymnasium and library buildings require a key to enter the campus. According to staff, they are reserved for the entry of teachers and school personnel. To enter, these gates must be unlocked and pulled open. They are spring assisted to close and lock after entry. Staff explained that these gates also serve as emergency exits by pushing the crash bar handle.

Before the start of the second tour of September 26, 2022, YCGJ members observed students walking onto campus through the front gate without teacher supervision. Staff stated that teachers should have been present to supervise, that they would be reminded of their gate assignments at the next staff meeting.

On November 16, 2022, the following observations were made by YCGJ members. The front gate was unsecured around noon time. Secondly, one north facing key-entry gate was able to be opened without a key.

Regarding the front gate, staff reasoned that the gate had probably been left unsecured after a delivery. Staff stated that this gate is generally checked by the custodian. Staff stated that the school is considering building a dedicated receiving dock on campus and discontinuing using this gate for deliveries. However, dates have not been set for this project.

Regarding the key-entry gate, staff reasoned that a staff member may have failed to secure the gate behind them, and added that perhaps some of the springs have become too weak to close the gate. Staff will remind teachers and school personnel to ensure they close the gates behind them.

The California Department of Education Report to the Governor and the Legislature on Lockdown Drills and Multi-option Response Drills states the following:

"Student learning and educator effectiveness are promoted by perceptions that schools are safe and that students and staff are prepared in the event of a violent event or emergency, whether on campus or in the community. While school shootings and violent incidents are relatively rare, when they do occur, they are high visibility and produce the perception that schools are not safe for children....."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Page 12, Paragraph 7 from *The California Department of Education Report to the Governor and the Legislature on Lockdown Drills and Multi-option Response Drills* 

#### FINDINGS

**F1.** Unsecured and unsupervised gates are a security and safety issue.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**R1.** It is recommended that:

- Current gate security procedures be enforced.
- Formal gate security policy and procedures be established.
- Gates are supervised while students enter or exit the campus.
- The delivery gate gets re-locked after deliveries.
- Spring assisted gates are properly closed after entry is made.

#### **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

Pursuant to Penal Code §933 and §933.05, the Grand Jury requests written response from the following governing body:

• The MJUSD School Board, within 60 days.

#### INVITED RESPONSES

A written response is invited from:

• The MJUSD Superintendent, within 90 days.

Penal Code §929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

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# Yuba County 2022-2023 Grand Jury

## **Previous Investigations Grid**

Cities	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
City Council							х	х					х
City of Marysville		х						х			х	х	Х
City of Wheatland								х					х
Marysville Business Improvement District													
Marysville City Cemetery									х	х	х	х	
Marysville City ClerK's Office												х	
Marysville City Council Meeting Minutes	х												х
Marysville Fire Department				х			х	х					
Marysville Public Works				х									
Marysville Redevelopment Agency												х	
Marysville Website													х
Parks & Recreation - Ellis Lake				х									

County and Special Districts	11	12	10	14	15	16	17	10	10	20	21	22	22
	11	12	13	14	15	10	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Administrative Services													
Administratrive Services-IT													
Agriculture													
Airport Enterprise Zone											Х	х	
Assessor													
Auditor / Controller													
Board of Supervisors											х	х	х
BoS - Ordinances													
BoS - Yuba County - Office Hours													
Brophy Water District													
Browns Valley Irrigation District													х
Building - Permit Fee			Х	х									
Camp Far West Irrigation District													
Camptonville Community													
Services District Cemetery District - Browns													
Valley													
Cemetery District - Brownsville				х									
Cemetery District - Camptonville				х									
Cemetery District - Keystone				х									
Cemetery District - Marysville				х							х	х	
Cemetery District - Peoria				х									
Cemetery District - Smartsville				х									
Cemetery District - Strawberry Valley				х									
Cemetery District - Upham				х									

County and Special Districts	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Cemetery District - Wheatland				х									
Clerk/Recorder/Elections											х		х
Clerk of the Board											х	х	
Code Enforcement													
Community Development													
Cordua Irrigation District													
County Administrator									х		х		
County Counsel District 10 - Hallwood					Х						х	х	
Community Services District Dobbins-Oregon House Fire													
Protection District													
Economic Development												Х	
Foothill Fire Protection				х									
General Services - Buildings and Grounds													
Levee District 817													
Library											х	х	
Linda County Water District									х				х
Linda Fire District							х				х		
Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)													
Loma Rica-Browns Valley Community Services District													
Marysville Levee District													
Mosquito and Vector Control District					х								
Nevada Irrigation District													
North Central Counties Consortium (NCCC)													

County and Special Districts													
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
North Yuba Water District									х		х		
Office of Emergency Services		х			х		х						
Oliverhurst Public Utility District (OPUD)								х					
Olivehurst PUD - Fire													
Olivehurst PUD - Water								х					x
Personnel Risk Management													
Plumas/Brophy Fire Protection District													
Print Shop													
Public Administrator													
Public Works Road Department				Х									
Ramirez Water District													
Reclamation District 10													
Reclamation District 784													
Reclamation District 817													
Reclamation District 2103													
River Highlands Community Service													
Smartvill Fire Department													
South Yuba Water District													
Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority	х												
Treasurer/Tax Collector													
Weights and Measures													
Wheatland Water District													
Yuba County Airport				х	х							х	

County and Special Districts	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Yuba County Resource Conservation District													
Yuba County Water Agency													

Health & Human Services	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Adults Services													
CAL Works													
Child Protective Services				Х									
Day Care													
Environmental Health													
Environmental Health - Personnel													
Environmental Health - Onsite Sewage													
Environmental Health - YSDI	х												
First Five Yuba Commission													
Fraud Investigations													
Health and Human Services									х	Х		х	
H&H Services Home Safety Visits		Х											
Health Department										Х			
Life Bldg/14Forward								х					
Mental Health Services													
Peach Tree Clinic													
Public Guardian													
Yuba Sutter Veterans Services							х						

Law Enforcement	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Animal Care Services	х							х					x
District Attorney													
DA - Family Support Division													
DA - Public Administrator													
Grand Jury - Report System													
Juvenile Hall	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	x
Juvenile Traffic Court													
Marysville Police Department	х							х			х		
Probation											х	х	
Public Defender													
Sheriff							х	х			х	x	
Sheriff - K9 Unit											х		
Victim Witness								x	x	x			
Wheatland Police Department				х							х	х	
Yuba County Jail	x	x	x	x	х	х	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Schools	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Abraham Lincoln (Home) School													
Alternative Education Program													
Anna McKenny Intermediate													
Arboga Elementary School				х									
Bear River Intermediate								Х					
Browns Valley Elementary					х								
Campton Union Elementary School District													
Camptonville School													
Cedar Lane Elementary School				х									
Charter School													
Citizen Bonds Oversight Com													
Cobblestone Elementary													
Community Day School													
Cordua Elementary													
CORE Camptonville Academy													
Dobbins Elementary School													
Edgewater Elementary													
Edward P. Duplex Contiun High School													
Ella Elementary													
Food Services - School Means Program													
Foothill Intermediate School													
Harry P.B. Carden			х	х									

Schools	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Johnson Park Elementary													
Kynoch Elementary													
Linda Elementary													
, Lindhurst High													
Loma Rica Elementary School						х		х					
Lone Tree Elementary													
Mary Covillaud Elementary School													
Marysville Charter Academy for													
the Arts				Х									
Marysville Community Day School													
Marysville High													
Marysville Independent Study													
Marysville Joint Unified Board													
Marysville Joint Unified School District Office			х		х								
Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Program													
Office of Education													
Olivehurst Elementary School													
Paragon Collegiate Academy											Х	х	х
Plumas Lake Elementary School District												х	
Preparatory Charter School													
Regional Career Center JPTA													
Rio Del Oro Elementary													
Riverside Meadows													

Schools	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
School Safety - Yuba County Schools													
South Lindhurst High School													
Thomas E. Mathews								х					
Virgina School													
Wheatland Charter Academy								х					
Wheatland Elementary School													
Wheatland High				х									
Wheatland Independent Studies									Х				
Wheatland PreSchool													
Wheatland School District Office													
Yuba College													
Yuba County Career													
Yuba County of Education													
Yuba Feather Elementary													
Yuba Gardens Intermediate													x

Special Reports	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sewage Appeals Board													
Social Media									Х				
Youth Project - Runaway Youth													
Yuba Park													
Yuba River Access													

### The Yuba County Civil Grand Jury Process

Any United States citizen who is a resident of Yuba County may apply to serve on the Grand Jury. Application forms are available from the Yuba County Superior Court or on the Yuba County Grand Jury website:

http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/departments/grand%20jury/default.aspx. The Jury Commissioner receives applications and the presiding judge reviews them. Every effort is made to impanel a jury of qualified men and women, including the following factors:

- Age
- Diversity
- Socio-economic background
- Ethnic background
- Educational background
- Geographical areas of the county

By court policy, and at the discretion of the Presiding Judge, up to 10 members of the previous year's jury may serve a second term to provide continuity. A total of 19 people serve on the Grand Jury. A drawing of names of qualified applicants names is made to bring the number of grand jurors to 19. Another drawing of the remaining applicants' names is held to provide a pool of alternates.

Jurors are sworn in and begin their one-year term commencing the first day of July. The presiding judge appoints a foreperson to preside over meetings. The jury then chooses the remaining officers and organizes itself into committees. Meetings investigations and interviews are set by each group. Committees investigate various departments and functions of local government, as decided by a super majority (12 or more) vote of the plenary. (all members of the grand jury) Jurors interview Department personnel, conduct site visits and investigate policy compliance, fiscal management, and operations. The grand jury may choose to review previous civil grand jury recommendations.

Some of the matters investigated by the grand jury are brought forward from citizen complaints about mistreatment, suspected misconduct or inefficiencies of local government. All complaints are kept confidential. If the situation warrants further investigation, the grand jury may follow up and make a report with recommendations for action.

A large portion of the public mistakenly believes an individual's appearance before the grand jury, particularly a public official, indicates suspicion of wrongdoing. It is the responsibility of the grand jury to review the conduct of city, county and other

government entities each year. This often requires public officials appearing before the grand jury to provide departmental information.

Grand jurors are a part of the judicial system and considered officers of the court. The grand jury is an independent body. The presiding judge, the district attorney, the county counsel, and the state attorney general act as advisors, but cannot limit or direct the actions of the jury except for illegality.

The confidential nature of the grand jury's work requires most business be done in closed session. Members of a grand jury are sworn to secrecy, assuring confidential testimony for all who appear. No one may be present during meetings of the grand jury except those specified by law (Penal Code 939). The minutes of grand jury meetings may not be inspected, nor can records be subpoenaed.

Grand juror statements or votes may not be disclosed. Evidence given before the grand jury must be kept secret. It is a misdemeanor to violate the secrecy of the grand jury room. A grand juror cannot confide any witness information, testimony, or action of the jury. Leaks concerning proceedings might impair or destroy the effectiveness of the jurors' efforts.

Final reports describe investigations, contain findings, and recommendations. Responses are required within 90 days for public agencies and 60 days for elected county officers or agency heads specified in these reports.



YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY COMPLAINT FORM

#### **COMPLAINT PROCESS**

- Present your complaint as soon as possible. The Grand Jury's term of service begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
- Identify your specific concern and describe the circumstances as clearly and concisely as possible.
- Document your complaint with copies of pertinent information and evidence in your possession.
- Mail or deliver your complaint in a sealed envelope to:

Yuba County Grand Jury 215 5th Street, Suite 213 Marysville, Ca 95901

Among the responsibilities of the Grand Jury is the investigation of the public's complaints to assure that all branches of city and county government are being administered efficiently, honestly and in the best interest of its citizens.

Complaints submitted to the Grand Jury will be treated confidentially whenever possible. However, it may be impossible to conduct an investigation without revealing your name and complaint.

The results of the complaints investigated by the Grand Jury are published in its final report in which the residents of the county are made aware of its investigations, findings and recommendations and the entities reported on are required by statute to respond.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

A major function of the Yuba County Grand Jury is to examine local county and city government, special districts, school districts, and any joint powers agency located in the county to ensure their duties are being carried out lawfully.

The Grand Jury:

- May review and evaluate procedures used by these entities to determine whether more efficient and economical methods may be employed;
- May inspect and audit the books, records and financial expenditures as noted above to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent;
- May investigate any charges of willful misconduct in office by public officials;
- Shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.

Anyone may ask the Grand Jury to conduct an investigation of an issue within its jurisdiction. Whether it chooses to investigate such a complaint is entirely in its discretion and may be affected by workload, resource limitations or legal restrictions. It is important to note that the Grand Jury may not investigate a matter that is currently being litigated in the court system.

By law, the proceedings of the Grand Jury are confidential. The findings and recommendations and issues it chooses to address are published in its final report.

## **GRAND JURY COMPLAINT FORM**

#### PERSON OR AGENCY ABOUT WHICH COMPLAINT IS MADE

AME:	
DDRESS:	
	_
ELEPHONE NUMBER:	

Date Received:						
Number:						
Subject:						
	_					
	_					

GRAND JURY USE ONLY:

**NATURE OF COMPLAINT** (Describe events in the order they occurred as clearly and concisely as possible. Use extra sheets if necessary and attach <u>copies</u> of any correspondence you feel is pertinent. Documentation becomes the property of the Grand Jury and will not be returned. *Please note: The Yuba County Grand Jury has no jurisdiction over state or federal agencies, the courts, judicial officers, private companies or most organizations.)* 

#### WHAT PERSONS OR AGENCIES HAVE YOU CONTACTED ABOUT YOUR COMPLAINT?

Person or Agency	Address	Date of Contact	Results

#### WHO SHOULD THE GRAND JURY CONTACT ABOUT THIS MATTER?

Person or Agency	Address	Telephone No.

Your Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Complainant's Signature

Date

#### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YUBA

### **GRAND JURY APPLICATION**

(Please print legibly in black or blue ink)

To: Of	fice of the Jury Commissioner, 21	5 Fifth Stree	et, Suite 200, Marys	sville, CA 9590	)1
NAME	::	AGE:	BIRTHDATE/	PLACE:	
ADDR	ESS:			ONE:	
DRIVE	RS LICENSE NUMBER:	5	SOCIAL SECURITY N	IUMBER:	
DURAT	TION OF RESIDENCE IN YUBA COUN	TY:	MARITAL STAT	JS:	SEX:
🗌 RET	OYER: OCCL FIRED (If retired please indicate your form al Information is confidential and will not b	ner employer a	and occupation above.)	)	
1.	Have you ever served as a member If yes, where and when?	er of the Gra	nd Jury?	☐ Yes	🗌 No
2.	Are you a United States Citizen?			🗌 Yes	🗌 No
3.	Have you been convicted of malfe	asance in o	ffice or of any felon	y? 🗌 Yes	🗌 No
4.	Have you ever been an employee	of Yuba Cou	inty?	🗌 Yes	🗌 No
5.	Do you have any relatives employ Name: Dept		•		□ No
6.	Spouses employer	00	ccupation		N/A
7.	Have you ever been in the military	service? If	yes, Branch	🔄 🗌 Yes	🗌 No
	Nature of Employment	_Period serv	ed Highe	est rank or grade	held
8.	Highest school grade completed	Years of atte	Degrees held endance	Schoo	⊳l/University
9.	If appointed to the Grand Jury, will all of those sessions of the jury as Yes INO				
10.	If appointed to the Grand Jury, wi confidentiality and security?	ll you consc	ientiously adhere t	o all applicable	e rules on ☐ No
11.	Are you interested in serving as a	Grand Juro	r?	🗌 Yes	🗌 No
12.	Will you be available for jury servi	ice for appro	oximately four hour	rs per week? 🗌	] Yes 🗌 No
Other of	comments:				
l affirm	that the information provided in this	questionnaire	e is true and correct	to the best of my	/ knowledge.
Signed	l on( <i>date</i> )	in		<u>(city)</u> ,	California

Signature