

OLIVEHURST PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

Our mission is to provide high quality services to enhance our community's quality of life.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennise Burbank James Carpenter John Floe Mary Jane Griego Christopher White

GENERAL MANAGER

John Tillotson, P.E.

July 18, 2019

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

Honorable Judge Berrier,

The Board of Directors for the Olivehurst Public Utility District (OPUD) agree with the substance of the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations, but notes as an ancillary procedural matter for the record that OPUD is not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. OPUD was formed on November 13, 1948 as an independent special district. The District was formed to provide domestic water and fire protection services to the community of Olivehurst. It has since added wastewater, park, drainage and street lighting services. The principal act that governs the District is the Public Utility District Act. See Public Utilities Code §15501-17501.

With regards to the recommendation R3, Olivehurst Public Utility District remains committed to customer service and will continue to "offer customers multiple methods to make payments" per the Grand Jury's recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary Jane Griego", is written over the typed name.

Mary Jane Griego,
Chair, Olivehurst Public Utility District Board of Directors

Yuba-Sutter Transit



August 22, 2019

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

Re: **RESPONSE TO THE 2018-19 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT –
“Transit Bus Stop Safety for High School Students”**

Dear Judge Berrier,

Attached for your information and use is the official Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority response to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2018-19 Grand Jury Final Report – “Transit Bus Stop Safety for High School Students.” This response was approved by the Board of Directors at their publicly noticed and regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2019.

Please contact Keith Martin at (530) 634-6880 or at keith@yubasuttertransit.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

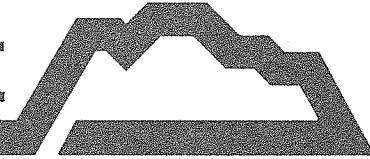
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Leahy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Leahy, Chairman
Yuba Sutter Transit Board of Directors

Enclosure

CC: Keith Martin, Transit Manager, Yuba-Sutter Transit
Robert Bendorf, Chief Administrative Officer, Yuba County



OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2018/2019 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY REGARDING TRANSIT BUS STOP SAFETY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

APPROVED AUGUST 15, 2019

GRAND JURY POSITION

In response to concerns of students, parents and teachers of both Lindhurst High School (LHS) and South Lindhurst High School (SLHS), the 2018/2019 Yuba County Grand Jury investigated safety issues related to the existing Yuba-Sutter Transit bus stop on the southeast corner of Evelyn Drive and Martel Drive in the Johnson Park neighborhood of Olivehurst. This resulted in the following two findings and two recommendations from the Grand Jury.

Findings:

- F1. Johnson Park bus stop exposes approximately 100 students per day to unsafe conditions.
- F2. Johnson Park bus stop is located too far from LHS and SLHS to provide a safe route for students.

Recommendations:

- R1. The Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority Board needs to review the current schedules and bus routes and make an effort to provide a safer environment for the success of our students in our community.
- R2. The Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority Board needs to add an additional stop that is closer to the schools' location.

BACKGROUND

Yuba-Sutter Transit has provided scheduled fixed route service (Route 3) to the Johnson Park neighborhood since the current system was established in January 1993. Route 3 operates from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each weekday and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each Saturday. No service is provided on Sundays or major holidays. This route requires the use of two buses to provide continuous half hour service frequencies on a scheduled 50 minute loop from Yuba College to Johnson Park and back to Yuba College.

Measured in passenger boardings per service hour, Route 3 has long been one of the most productive routes in Yuba-Sutter Transit's system of six routes. In response to tremendous systemwide ridership growth and steadily worsening traffic congestion over the years, several initiatives to speed passenger boarding were implemented in an effort to maintain on-time performance. Route 3 has specifically been shortened and streamlined over the years which included the elimination/consolidation of a number of bus stops. In the Johnson Park neighborhood alone, which originally had bus stops at Larson & McGowan, Lever & Larson (Johnson Park School) and at Evelyn & McGowan, the Johnson Park School stop was dropped in 2003 and the remaining two stops were consolidated into the existing Evelyn and Martel stop in August 2013. Since the consolidation, this stop has consistently been among the top ten most active bus stops in the Yuba-Sutter Transit system.

Despite these efforts, Route 3 still regularly runs behind schedule especially in peak hours during the school year resulting in significantly degraded service quality from late trips and missed transfers by our passengers. As a result, any extension of the route or even the addition of a new stop would need to be carefully assessed to avoid further worsening the route's already struggling performance especially if such an extension or stop is not likely to improve ridership or safety considerations enough to justify the requisite decrease of service quality or the increase in operating and/or capital cost necessary to mitigate such an impact.

ANALYSIS

The Yuba County Grand Jury recommendation to extend Route 3 to add another bus stop in a currently unimproved area on the southwest corner of Olive Avenue and Martel Drive is problematic on several levels. First, this new stop would add approximately 9/10ths of a mile to the existing Route 3. At an average speed of 15 miles per hour, this extension would add at least another four minutes to an already impacted schedule. Before and after school, this extension would be expected to take much longer due to traffic conditions on Olive especially near the intersections of both Martel and McGowan Parkway requiring an increase of 10 percent or more in the scheduled 50 minute loop (which now more typically operates as a 55 minute loop). This would require off-sets elsewhere to either shorten what is already a very productive and direct route or to add another vehicle to the schedule to maintain the service frequency.

To determine if the resulting impact of some combination of lost passenger trips from eliminated service/stops and increased operating cost from the operation of an additional vehicle is justified, an assessment of the potential for an increase in passenger activity and/or bus stop safety of such a change must be conducted. According to the Grand Jury report, the proposed new bus stop would: 1. Reduce the walking distance between the stop and both of the two target schools; and, 2. Improve the safety of the students using the new stop.

First, the Grand Jury report states that students must now walk nearly a mile from the existing bus stop to the two campuses which apparently presume that all students travel on Martel to Olive from the existing bus stop on Evelyn. In fact, the most direct path from the existing

Johnson Park bus stop is to continue north on Evelyn Drive to the rear access gate which Yuba-Sutter Transit staff has confirmed is open before and after school each attendance day. This gate is approximately 1,300' (about ¼ mile) from the existing bus stop and the LHS buildings are just beyond that gate. The SLHS campus is approximately 1,100' (about 2/10ths mile) north of this same gate or a total of 2,400' from the existing bus stop.

Assuming use of the proposed new stop at Olive and Martel, the distance to LHS would be reduced by about 200' (to less than 1,100') while the distance to SLHS would be reduced by less than 500' (to slightly over 1,900'). While the proposed stop would result in shorter walks to both campuses, such small improvements are not likely to significantly impact a student's decision to ride the bus or not since transit planners generally consider ideal walking access to be within ¼ mile of a stop (1,320'), decent access to be within ½ mile of a stop (2,640') and the outer limit of reasonable access to be within ¾ mile of a stop (3,960').

Second, the Grand Jury report states that 479 service calls were received by the Yuba County Sheriff Department for addresses within the greater Johnson Park area over the one year period of February 2018 through January 2019. Staff reviewed the same report that was provided to the Grand Jury by the Sheriff's Crime Analysis Unit and confirmed that a call for service does not necessarily correlate to criminal activity as this report also includes welfare checks, civil service, traffic stops, animal complaints, noise complaints, follow-ups, etc. In addition, without allowing for non-attendance days, 53 percent of the 479 reported service calls occurred outside the normal weekday school hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. While there is some level of risk to waiting at a bus stop or walking down the street during the day in any residential area, a detailed countywide analysis would be required to determine if this risk is significantly higher in the Johnson Park neighborhood than any other area of Yuba County.

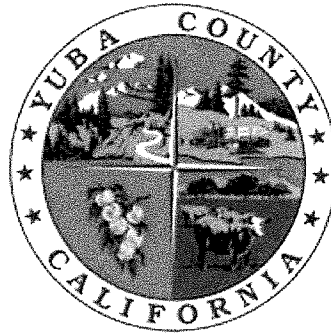
CONCLUSION

While appreciating the Grand Jury's concern with the operation and overall safety of the local fixed route system, the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors respectfully disagrees with their recommendations having determined that the slight decrease in walking distance and any presumed incremental increase in overall passenger safety that may result from extending Route 3 and adding a new bus stop is not currently justified. However, Yuba-Sutter Transit does regularly evaluate service and policy options to improve passenger access and safety and will continue to do so in the future especially as conditions change. At a minimum, the issues raised by the Grand Jury will again be addressed in the next update of the Yuba-Sutter Short Range Transit Plan which is now expected to begin by the end of 2020.

Approved by the Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2019

The County of Yuba

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



915 8th Street, Ste. 109
Marysville, California 95901
(530) 749-7510
(530) 749-7353 FAX

August 27, 2019

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

Re: RESPONSE TO 2018-19 GRAND JURY – “Transit Bus Stop Safety for High School Students”

Dear Judge Berrier,

Provided pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c) are the comments from the Board of Supervisors related to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2018-19 Grand Jury Final Report – “Transit Bus Stop Safety for High School Students.” Consistent with Section 933(c), responses do not address departments under control of elected officials or outside agencies, except where a specific response was solicited and then our response is consistent with provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05(c).

FINDINGS

F1. Johnson Park bus stop exposes approximately 100 students per day to unsafe conditions.

The Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding, as per data provided by Yuba-Sutter Transit and the Yuba County Sheriff’s Department it does not indicate “unsafe conditions.” While the Board of Supervisors understands that the location of any bus stop does not insulate it from incidents that may be deemed unsafe after review, there do not appear to be any incident correlation with the information provided.

F2. Johnson Park bus stop is located too far from LHS and SLHS to provide a safe route for students.

The Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding. The Board appreciates the concerns from the Grand Jury for rider / student safety, however information obtained from Yuba-Sutter Transit indicates a much shorter walking distance than identified in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPERVISORS

Andy Vasquez – District 1 • Mike Leahy – District 2 • Doug Lofton – District 3 • Gary Bradford – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5

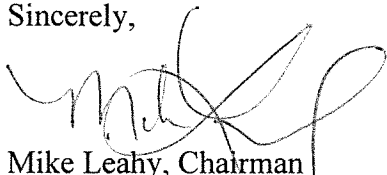
R1. *The Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority Board needs to review the current schedules and bus routes and make an effort to provide a safer environment for the success of our students in our community.*

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. As discussed with the Transit Manager, this stop, along with others will be reviewed in the 2020 Transit Plan.

R2. *The Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority Board needs to add an additional stop that is closer to the schools' location.*

The recommendation requires further analysis. As discussed with the Transit Manager, this issue as presented will be examined in the 2020 Transit Plan.

Sincerely,

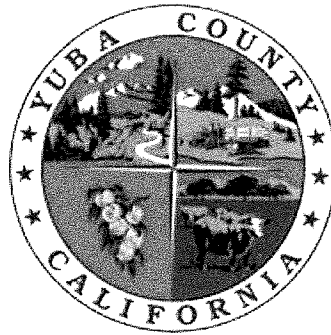
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Mike Leahy, Chairman
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISORS

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Re: RESPONSE TO 2018-19 GRAND JURY – “Animal Care Services”

Dear Judge Berrier,

Provided pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c) are the comments from the Board of Supervisors related to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2018-19 Grand Jury Final Report – “Animal Care Services.” Consistent with Section 933(c), responses do not address departments under control of elected officials or outside agencies, except where a specific response was solicited and then our response is consistent with provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05(c).

FINDINGS

F1. The ACS staff and volunteers are encouraged to keep up the high standard that they have set. They are dedicated and selfless.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

F2. Kennel space is very limited in the shelter.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPERVISORS

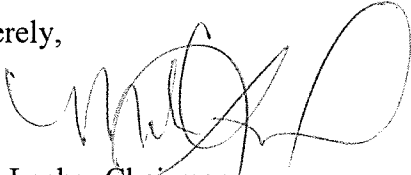
Andy Vasquez – District 1 • Mike Leahy – District 2 • Doug Lofton – District 3 • Gary Bradford – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5

R1. None.

R2. ACS should continue to work with the County to enlarge the facility to double kennel space.

This recommendation needs further analysis and will be discussed with the Sheriff's Department and Administrative Services (capital projects / facility management) prior to the end of the 2019 calendar year. The Board acknowledges kennel space is limited, requiring a focus on innovative programs and ideas from our staff and volunteers to assist in lowering the population of unclaimed animals.

Sincerely,

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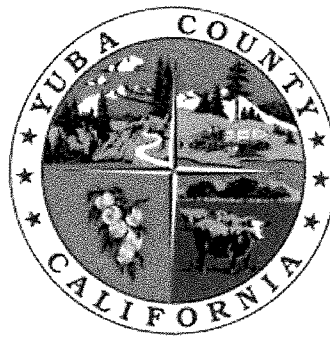
Mike Leahy, Chairman
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISORS

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August 27, 2019

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
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215 Fifth Street
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Re: RESPONSE TO 2018-19 GRAND JURY – “Life Building Center & 14Forward”

Dear Judge Berrier,

Provided pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c) are the comments from the Board of Supervisors related to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2018-19 Grand Jury Final Report – “Life Building Center 14Forward.” Consistent with Section 933(c), responses do not address departments under control of elected officials or outside agencies, except where a specific response was solicited and then our response is consistent with provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05(c).

FINDINGS

F1. Through the combined efforts of agencies and the Life Building Center, the public is becoming more aware of the homeless population and what the county is trying to do about it.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

F2. With classes and services being provide through the Life Building Center and 14Forward, many of the homeless are off the streets, working, paying taxes and giving back to the community that helped them.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPERVISORS

Andy Vasquez – District 1 • Mike Leahy – District 2 • Doug Lofton – District 3 • Gary Bradford – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5

R1. None.

R2. None.

Sincerely,

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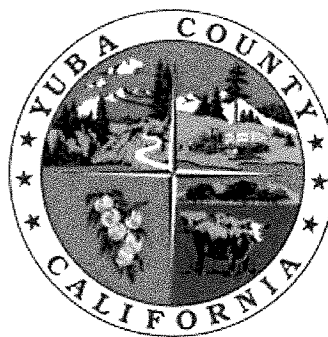
Mike Leahy, Chairman
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

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August 27, 2019

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

Re: RESPONSE TO 2018-19 GRAND JURY – “Investigation of Olivehurst Public Utility District Billing and Reconnection Practices”

Dear Judge Berrier,

Provided pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c) are the comments from the Board of Supervisors related to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2018-19 Grand Jury Final Report – “Investigation of Olivehurst Public Utility District Billing and Reconnection Practices.” Consistent with Section 933(c), responses do not address departments under control of elected officials or outside agencies, except where a specific response was solicited and then our response is consistent with provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05(c).

FINDINGS

F1. OPUD follows the policy for water service disconnection set forth by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The County agrees with this finding based on the Grand Jury’s review of OPUD’s operation. OPUD is a separate independent district with no oversight provided by the County.

F2. Olivehurst Public Utility Commission follows the policy for water service fees set forth by the CPUC and practices are outlined in Water and Sewer Service Fact Sheet and application for services.

The County agrees with this finding based on the Grand Jury’s review of OPUD’s operation. OPUD is a separate independent district with no oversight provided by the County.

F3. OPUD billing service practices were updated to make the payment system more user friendly. Customers can make payments through the USPS, at OPUD office and electronic payments are accessible through <http://www2.invoicecloud.com>.

SUPERVISORS

Andy Vasquez – District 1 • Mike Leahy – District 2 • Doug Lofton – District 3 • Gary Bradford – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5

The County agrees with this finding based on the Grand Jury's review of OPUD's operation. OPUD is a separate independent district with no oversight provided by the County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

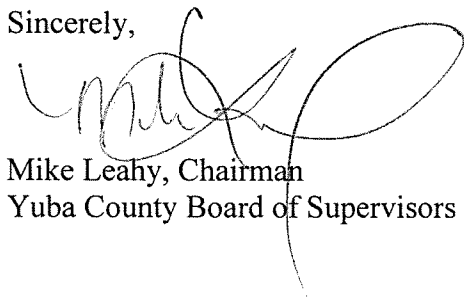
R1. None.

R2. None.

R3. OPUD continues to offer customers multiple methods to make payments.

The recommendation appears to have been implemented based on the Grand Jury's review of OPUD's operation and encourages OPUD to continue to offer multiple payment methods.

Sincerely,

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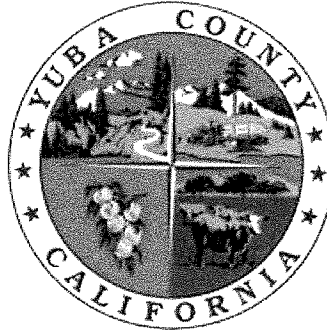
Mike Leahy, Chairman
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

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August 27, 2019

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

Re: RESPONSE TO 2018-19 GRAND JURY – “Yuba County Jail Report”

Dear Judge Berrier,

Provided pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c) are the comments from the Board of Supervisors related to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2018-19 Grand Jury Final Report – “Yuba County Jail Report.” Consistent with Section 933(c), responses do not address departments under control of elected officials or outside agencies, except where a specific response was solicited and then our response is consistent with provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05(c).

FINDINGS

F1. The hard working and committed YCJ staff is doing an outstanding job of maintaining the Yuba County Jail and meeting the needs of the entire jail population.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

F2. The YCJ is operating effectively, while serving the needs of the inmates and the public.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

SUPERVISORS

Andy Vasquez – District 1 • Mike Leahy – District 2 • Doug Lofton – District 3 • Gary Bradford – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. None

R2. None

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Leahy', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Mike Leahy, Chairman
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISORS

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