

# **YUBA COUNTY**

## **GRAND JURY**



**1990-91 FINAL REPORT**

# YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY

## FINAL REPORT

1990 - 1991



SUPERVISOR JOAN SAUNDERS.....FIRST DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR THOMAS I. "TIB" BELZA.....SECOND DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR BILL HARPER.....THIRD DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR MICHELLE D. MATHEWS.....FOURTH DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR LEAH STOCKER.....FIFTH DISTRICT  
RESIGNED MAY, 1991

July 1, 1991

The Honorable Thomas P. Mathews  
Presiding Judge  
Yuba County Superior Court  
215 5th Street  
Marysville, CA 95901

Dear Judge Mathews:

We, the 1990-91 Yuba County Grand Jury, wish to submit this final report to you along with our appreciation for the opportunity to serve on this Jury.

First I would like to commend the members of this Grand Jury for their hard work, dedication and their exemplary attendance record at the meetings. Even though we had some members, who were plagued with serious health problems, we had only one resignation during the year.

I would also like to say that the four (4) members, who held over from last year, were invaluable to us due to their experience. I feel that "hold over" Jurors are a most valuable asset to a new Jury. While I personally do not plan to hold over for the 1991-92 Grand Jury, I believe that some of our members will. I can highly recommend any of them, who should choose to do so.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of the various offices and agencies throughout the County for their total cooperation with the committees of the Grand Jury.

A special thank you, for the Jury Commissioner, Bonita Marqua, and to 'Sam' and Terry in her office. They were all a great help to us.

Another special thank you, to Laura Miller of the County Administrator's Office, for lining up the various department heads to speak at our first several meetings. I believe that this helped everyone to get off to a good start.

There are a few problems that the entire Jury feels should be solved in the near future.

First a problem that was also addressed by last year's foreman. The Grand Jury needs and should have their own meeting room, not to be shared with anyone. It should have security features to protect the confidentiality and secrecy, which the Grand Jury is sworn to uphold. The room should be available day or night for regular or committee meetings as needed. It should be equipped with a computer or word-processor for the members use.

We feel that the budget does not meet the needs of the Grand Jury. It appears that the fall and spring seminars being offered to Grand Jurors are becoming more popular. According to members, who attended this year, they are very educational. We had four (4) members attend the fall seminar in Modesto, CA and two (2) members attended the spring seminar in Santa Rosa, CA. Should future Juries want to send more members, it could totally deplete the budget. We also feel that the allowance for meals of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars a day is inadequate and should be raised to at least what a regular county employee would be allowed.

Another problem, we have been dealing with all year, involves County employees, who serve on the Grand Jury. At the present they are not paid their regular salary for any time they have to take off from work to perform Grand Jury duties. We do not feel that this is fair, since the same employee called for regular criminal or civil jury duty, does receive their salary. We feel that this demeans the importance of the Grand Jury. It would also eliminate a lot of very good, intelligent, potential Grand Jury candidates (County employees) from being willing to serve on the Grand Jury. We urge that this matter be corrected as soon as possible.

Last but not least, I would like to thank County Council, Dan Montgomery, and you, Judge Mathews, for the support you both gave anytime you were asked by me or other members of the Jury for advice and guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill J. Kauk". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bill J. Kauk, Foreman  
1990-91 Yuba County Grand Jury

# 1990 - 1991 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY

## SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

THOMAS P. MATHEWS - PRESIDING JUDGE

DENNIS C. BUCKLEY

ROBERT C. LENHARD

## GRAND JURY MEMBERS

BILL J. KAUK - FOREMAN

JOHN AKINS

GERALD ARNOLD

RONALD BARRIE

EVA CONLEY

PAMELA DAVIS

ELIZABETH DYMON - RESIGNED NOVEMBER 1990

ROBERT EMIG-OTT

ROBERT O. HEIKEN - FOREMAN PRO-TEM

ROBERT HUDSON

ERNEST C. KENTER - SGT-AT-ARMS

ROGER KERWIN

ADRIA AZEVEDO KIBBE

LILLARD MOODY

BOB MULLINS

BILL ROCHER

DENNIS RYAN - SECRETARY

LOLA SCHROEDER

BYRON SHANNON

IONA VAN DIEMEN

BROWNS VALLEY

WHEATLAND

WHEATLAND

MARYSVILLE

WHEATLAND

MARYSVILLE

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**1990 -91 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY**  
**COMMITTEES**

**CITY COMMITTEE**

GERALD ARNOLD - CHAIRMAN

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**

ROGER KERWIN - CHAIRMAN

**COURT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

DENNIS RYAN - CHAIRMAN

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

LOLA SCHROEDER - CHAIRMAN

**PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AGENCY COMMITTEE**

ROBERT O. HEIKEN - CHAIRMAN

**SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

JOHN AKINS - CHAIRMAN

**EDITING COMMITTEE**

BILL J. KAUK - CHAIRMAN

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**CITY COMMITTEE**

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**CITY OF MARYSVILLE**

**Introduction:**

The City of Marysville is run by charter. It is administered by a City Administrator and five (5) council members. The City Administrator acts as Chief Executive Officer, handles finance, personnel, purchasing, and emergency services. Council members play a major role in the City's administrative functions.

Council members elect among themselves their officers. There is a Mayor, Vice-Mayor and three (3) council members. The Vice-Mayor is responsible for Mayor Pro-Tem duties.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**Findings:**

The position is vacant at the time of writing of this report. The City Clerk is serving as the interim administrator.

**Recommendation:**

The City continue the search for a full time administrator.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: CITY CLERK**

**Findings:**

The City Clerk assembles and maintains all documents, prepares agendas and minutes of all City Council meetings, is responsible for municipal elections and maintenance of city records; acts as a filing officer for statements of economic interest filed by designated officials and employees and provides clerical and technical support for City Council, City Administrator, redevelopment activity, Finance, Personnel, Emergency Services, Planning Commission, and the Marysville Levee Commission.

The City is currently upgrading the existing computer system to an IBM compatible system connected to a local Area Network (LAN). A review and summary of all funds indicates that the City is in excellent financial condition. Money is deposited in the Local Agency Investment Fund, a State agency. However, no money has been budgeted for the effects of SB 2557 (booking fees and property tax fees) if they are collected by Yuba County.

**No Recommendation**

**Commendation:**

The Grand Jury commends the City for maintaining a prudent reserve.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**CITY OF MARYSVILLE-PUBLIC WORKS**

**Introduction:**

The Public Works Department consists of:

Planning: Provides planning for the community consistent with the City's general plan.

Government Buildings: Maintenance of City Hall and the Police Department (other than Janitorial labor services).

Building Regulations: Responsible for enforcement of the provisions for the various building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, sign codes, zoning and health ordinances.

Engineering and Administration: Provides general direction and coordination of the activities of Public Works Department.

Public Works Center: Provides mechanical repair services for all city vehicles (except fire department).

Streets: Responsible for maintaining fifty-eight (58) miles of city streets, including curbs and gutters.

Traffic Safety: Responsible for maintaining traffic safety, both vehicular and pedestrian, by means of traffic striping and effective use of warning signs and signals.

Trees: Responsible for maintenance of trees and parkways within the city right-of-way.

Street Lighting: Maintenance of city-owned lighting.

Parks: Responsible for operation and maintenance of the city's parks, recreation areas, park buildings, municipal grounds, and the city's cemetery.

Capital Improvement: Has control of capital improvements.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: STAFFING**

**Findings:**

The department is staffed by five (5) park employees, three (3) street maintenance, and four (4) water treatment plant employees. In addition, there is one (1) street sweeper operator.

The City has added an additional park maintenance position for the current fiscal year. Additional vehicle maintenance personnel were not funded as recommended by the Public Works Director during budget deliberation. There is only one (1) mechanic to maintain forty six (46) vehicles and other motorized equipment. A half-time student intern is also utilized.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends hiring additional mechanical personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: STREETS AND SIDEWALKS**

**Findings:**

There is a disproportional amount of heavy traffic on some city streets. In addition, the filling of pot holes seems to be a major street problem. The City has initiated a sidewalk repair and replacement project.

**Recommendation:**

The City should initiate an area-wide traffic study for heavy congested traffic areas. Additional street maintenance personnel should be employed. The City should also continue their program to repair and replace worn out sidewalks.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**CITY OF MARYSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Marysville Fire Department is operated by one (1) fire chief, thirteen (13) firemen and ten (10) volunteers. The City Administrator has direct control over this department. The fire department has a rating of four (4) in fire insurance which is an above average rating. The location of the fire department provides easy access in responding to calls throughout the city.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FIRE PROTECTION COVERAGE**

**Findings:**

Marysville Fire Department has an annual contract of thirty-three thousand (\$33,000) dollars to provide fire and rescue protection to District 10, Hallwood and outlying areas. In spite of impending drought for the coming season, Marysville has an adequate supply of water and hoses to pump water from Ellis Lake or the river, seventy-four (74%) percent of calls are for rescue with no charge to the calling party. Thirty-eight (38%) percent of fire calls are attributed to smoking. Marysville Fire Department inspects all public buildings on an annual basis and is involved in many aspects of fire protection and education.

**No Recommendations**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT**

**Findings:**

Marysville Fire Department has provided fire and rescue protection far and above accepted standards. Within the last few years several outstanding additional pieces of equipment have been added at minimum cost. Major equipment replacement is on a thirty (30) year schedule.

**Recommendation:**

The Equipment Replacement Fund should be adjusted each year to reflect the cost of inflation.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**Findings:**

The Department applied for a Hazardous Material Grant from the State of California. The grant in the amount of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) has been approved. The Department is currently in the preparatory stage of initiating a Hazardous Materials Response Program.

**Commendations:**

The Grand Jury commends the Chief and his department for keeping abreast with current and long range planning of department needs. The Department is a real credit to the City of Marysville.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**CITY OF MARYSVILLE-RECREATION**

**Introduction:**

The City of Marysville's recreational program provides activities of recreational and educational value for the citizens of Marysville and the surrounding area.

This Division of the Public Works Department supervises the implementation of programs in three (3) main areas. They are:

1. The Recreation Division -which is responsible for providing a broad program of organized recreational activities, in cooperation with school districts officials at school facilities.
2. Swimming pool program which is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the swimming pool. Emphasis of the swimming pool program is on a comprehensive instructional and safety program for classes, regular swimmers, and staff.
3. The softball program which includes tournaments as well as league play for men, women, and co-ed teams.

The Division is currently meeting with a group looking into the possibility of a community center for use by senior citizens. Planning is still in the conceptual stage and as with other recreational activities, funding is a problem.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: STAFFING**

**Findings:**

The Department has only one (1) full-time Director to handle and coordinate the whole year-round program. The Director receives eighty (80) hours of administrative leave per year for overtime. In the last five (5) years, the Director has worked six hundred ninety eight (698) overtime hours, of which three hundred eighty (380) hours were compensated.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends a full-time assistant be added to the Recreation Department or that part-time college interns be employed to assist the Director. In addition, the Director should be paid for all overtime.

**Commendation:**

The Recreation Department is to be commended for providing and maintaining programs for people in Marysville and the surrounding areas.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**CITY OF WHEATLAND**

**Introduction:**

Wheatland is a general law city.

The City of Wheatland operates with a five (5) member City Council. The Mayor is elected from the Council members.

The City employs a part-time manager (2 days a week). The Council is also supported by an elected City Clerk and an appointed Deputy City Clerk (bookkeeper/typist) who manages the administrative work for the City.

There is one (1) part-time City Treasurer.

The Public Works Department is under the authority of the City Council, with a superintendent and two (2) laborers who manage streets, water, and the wastewater treatment plant. It is anticipated that additional personnel will be needed in the 1992 calendar year.

The fire department has a volunteer chief and a roster of twenty (20) volunteer firemen and rescue personnel within the City. An automatic aid agreement with Plumas-Brophy Fire District adds an additional fifteen (15) volunteers. In addition, a mutual aid agreement has been executed between the City and Beale Air Force Base.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: SALARY LEVEL**

**Findings:**

City Employees' salaries have been adjusted to a salary level comparable to similar size cities in the area.

**No Recommendations**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: RETIREMENT PLAN**

**Findings:**

The City of Wheatland has no retirement plan.

**Recommendations:**

The City Council should secure a retirement plan for city employees at the earliest possible date.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: GROWTH**

**Findings:**

The Wheatland City Council has approved the plans from three (3) subdivisions which will add eight hundred ten (810) homes and increase the population by approximately two thousand seven hundred sixty (2,760) persons.

**Recommendations:**

The City Council should consider hiring a part-time Planner. In addition, a new meeting place and additional City Hall space should be constructed. This facility should be located near the present City Hall and should have ample parking space.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: SPECIFIC PLAN**

**Findings:**

The 1995 Specific Plan seems to be well-organized and funded with the developers providing the larger share of the cost for an additional fire station, schools, and water expansions. In addition, the City Council has issued a final report entitled City of Wheatland Flood Study.

**No Recommendations**



**COUNTY COMMITTEE**

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - AIR POLLUTION**

**Introduction:**

This division is responsible for the enforcement of Air Pollution laws as contained in the California Health and Safety Code, including applicable regulations contained in Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations. This division ensures compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: AIR POLLUTION CONTROL**

**Findings:**

This division is now in the process of becoming a separate department. It will become a Yuba/Sutter bi-county operation. This will be supported by both counties under a separate Air Pollution Board that will consist of members from the Board of Supervisors from both counties.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury believes this will constitute better Air Pollution control and leave the Agriculture Commissioner more time to help the agriculture areas in other ways. We feel that this should be implemented as soon as possible.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: RICE STUBBLE BURNING**

**Findings:**

More control is being placed on rice burning within numerous counties. Percentage per county burning is now in effect. Other options rather than burning of rice stubble are still under investigation by the State Agriculture Department.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that the local general public be informed of better county controlled rice burning procedures through local news releases.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**ASSESSOR**

**Introduction:**

The main function of the Assessor's Office is to provide income for county operations. This office provides approximately sixteen (16) percent of the General Fund monies. This task is accomplished by assessing all property in the county that is legally assessable. Assessment practices must follow the guide lines set by The California State Revenue and Taxation Code as administered by The State Board of Equalization.

Secondary functions of this office are to provide ownership and value information to LAFCO on properties that come before them. Also provides non-confidential information to the general public, title companies, fee appraisers, banks, loan companies, fire departments, and service districts. This office is required by State law to keep current plat maps on the front counter for public use and provide copies of these maps, at cost.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** COMPUTER TRAINING

**Findings:**

With the installation of a new computer system, office personnel had the opportunity to take special computer classes at Yuba College. This was very beneficial to all office employees and will increase office production.

**No Recommendation**

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** OFFICE COMPUTER

**Findings:**

The new computer system will inter-link the Assessor, Controller, Tax Collector, and County Clerk offices to better serve the public and increase office production.

**No Recommendation**

**Commendation:**

This computer system was a wise investment and should prove more than justifiable in the future.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**Introduction:**

The County Administrator is responsible to the Board of Supervisors and serves as chief advisor on all administrative matters. The County Administrator is also responsible for coordinating the activities of all county departments, preparing, and recommending to the Board of Supervisors the annual county budget.

As Clerk of the Board, he attends all regular or special meetings of the Board of Supervisors, and other agencies as directed by the Board of Supervisors, for the purpose of maintaining official records of those meetings.

The County Administrator is also the Executive Officer to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

**AREA INVESTIGATED: SPECIFIC PLANNED AREAS**

**Findings:**

Long range financial planning and county goals are being constantly reviewed. Planning for bringing in private industry is a priority concern.

**No Recommendation**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: LOW INCOME HOUSING**

**Findings:**

This is a difficult area to deal with due to the low median income of Yuba County residents.

**Recommendation:**

This office should investigate all State and Federal Aid programs to help the developers of Specific Planned Areas to include a percentage of low income housing.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**COUNTY CLERK - RECORDER/REGISTRAR**

**Introduction:**

This office is the custodian of permanent official records pertaining to real and personal property, marriages, births, deaths, and adoptions. This office collects fees and deposits them on a daily basis with the Treasurer/Tax Collector.

This office is also responsible for maintaining a registrar of voters, conducting elections and counting the votes.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: GENERAL OFFICE OPERATIONS**

**Findings:**

The public was still being adequately served even though this office is in the process of setting up at a new location.

**No Recommendation**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: CASH HANDLING PROCEDURES**

**Findings:**

A computer system is now in use for all money transactions.

**No Recommendation**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

**Findings:**

Employees in the top grade/step level are not receiving written performance evaluations annually.

**Recommendation:**

Supervisory personnel should complete performance evaluations in a timely manner.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

**Findings:**

There was an enthusiastic response from employees that an incentive program should be established.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that an employee incentive program be pursued.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**GENERAL SERVICES - PRINT SHOP**

**Introduction:**

The Yuba County Print Shop provides a full line of typesetting, design, and printing to all County agencies at a cost averaging 37% below the commercial print shops. Last year the Print Shop produced over six and one half (6 1/2) million impressions, included were various carbonless forms, letterheads, posters, brochures, envelopes, business cards, and various other printed materials.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: GENERAL OFFICE OPERATIONS**

**Findings:**

Effective July 1990, the print shop was moved from the Department of Social Services to General Services, creating the opportunity to do work for other government agencies, such as the Cities of: Marysville, Yuba City, and Wheatland, as well as Yuba County Water Agency, County Office of Education, Yuba/Sutter Mental Health, Foster Parents Plan, and the Head Start Program. These agencies are billed at the same rate as county agencies and all monies go into the Yuba County General Fund.

**No Recommendations.**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: OFFICE CLERK POSITION**

**Findings:**

Work is accomplished with three (3) full time employees, plus part time Yuba County trusty help. One office position is classified as a clerk, but involves many aspects of the Print Shop operations.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that this clerk position be reclassified to include Printer Trainee/Technician.

**Commendation:**

The Grand Jury wishes to thank all the personnel in the Print Shop for all the added help and co-operation in publishing the 1990-91 Grand Jury Final Report.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Findings:**

Printing chemicals and equipment cleaning supplies are being used with little ventilation.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that the Print Shop coordinate with the County Health Department to see if a ventilation system is needed.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: SAFETY**

**Findings:**

Office and work space is being used for storage of paper and printer forms.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that the Print Shop coordinate with the Fire Department to insure compliance with all fire procedures. A separate storage facility is needed.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

The Planning division provides for thorough and accurate information and assistance to the public in all matters related to land development and conservation. In addition, they assist appointed and elected officials in reaching decisions and formulating policy in regard to land use in Yuba County.

The Building division provides review and inspection services required by the Health and Safety Code, California Administrative Code, and Yuba County Ordinances, including building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, energy, substandard, and dangerous buildings.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: SPECIFIC AREA PLANS**

**Findings:**

Specific Area Plans will be a major concern for the County, the school districts, and other special districts. Financing for public facilities will be one of the major concerns for all of Yuba County residents.

**Recommendation:**

Close coordination with all school districts, and all other special districts, and agencies involved, be constantly reviewed throughout the development of the Specific Area Plans.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: STATE HELD LAND FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

**Findings:**

A property owner could conceivably not know that the land is under a State hold until the owner wishes to develop the land. The notification policy in effect now is inadequate.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that policies and procedures be examined to upgrade the notification of all affected property owners.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: MOBILE HOMES WITH METAL ROOFS**

**Findings:**

A Property owner cannot get a permit for a mobile home with a metal roof, but can build a house with a metal roof.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that this procedure be clarified and made equally applicable to mobile homes and houses.



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**PERSONNEL DIRECTOR/RISK MANAGER**

**Introduction:**

The Personnel Department is the official record keeper for personnel files on all County employees. This includes processing applications and status forms for hiring, merit increases, pay raises, classification changes, pre-employment medical information, transfers, address changes, name changes, status change, demotions, promotions, and performance evaluations. This department is also responsible for all labor relations under the County Employer/Employee Relations Ordinance.

Risk Management function involves the administration and processing of the health insurance, life insurance, deferred compensation, retirement, State Disability Insurance Programs, and Employee Assistance Program.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: COUNTY WIDE EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

**Findings:**

There is no employee training for first aid or CPR. Sexual harassment training was offered to supervisory personnel only.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that sexual harassment training be offered to all county employees on a voluntary basis. Any county employee who deals daily with the general public should be given CPR and first aid training on a voluntary basis.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: COUNTY EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

**Findings:**

Some county employees, upon reaching the top grade/step of their career field, are not given their annual performance evaluation in a timely manner. There is no formal procedure for supervisors or appointed department heads who do not complete employee performance evaluations in a timely manner.

**Recommendation:**

Performance Evaluation Forms (PER 17/18) should be completed on all county employees on their permanent employment anniversary date. The Grand Jury recommends that the Personnel Director and the Board of Supervisors draft a formal procedure enforcing the timely completion of all employee performance evaluations.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

**Findings:**

There are no employee superior work performance incentive programs.

**Recommendation:**

The Personnel Director with other department heads should adopt an employee performance incentive program.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: DEPARTMENTAL OFFICE VISITS BY PERSONNEL STAFF**

**Findings:**

There is no formal or informal check by the Personnel Office on other department offices to insure employees personnel folders are being kept up to date.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that the Personnel Department with approval of the Board of Supervisors establish an inter-departmental procedure for the Personnel Department to spot check for discrepancies in employee records. The 1991-92 Grand Jury should consider this an item for review.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: OFFICE SPACE**

**Findings:**

At this time there is not adequate office space for administering written and oral tests, or interviewing current or prospective county employees.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that consideration be given to adding a conference room to the Personnel Department Office.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

**Introduction**

The Office of Veterans Service is a bi-county department responsible for assisting veterans, their dependents, and their survivors in preparing and presenting claims for compensation or pensions and in obtaining other benefits to which they may be entitled. This department is also responsible for providing information regarding all available benefits to those individuals seeking that information.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: GENERAL OFFICE OPERATIONS**

**Findings:**

This office consists of a Veterans Service Officer, a Veterans Service Representative, two (2) clerk positions and one (1) part time work study student from Yuba College. The Veterans Service Representative position is vacant at this time.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that the Veterans Service Representative position be filled at the earliest possible date.

**Commendation:**

This office shows a positive attitude and a well run department.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: COMPUTER SYSTEM**

**Findings:**

This Department handles approximately one thousand (1000) to twelve hundred (1200) cases per month and is in need of a computer system. This computer system would need to be secured for clients records. Due to bi-county funding of this office this seems to create a problem.

**Recommendation:**

With over ten thousand (10,000) veterans in the bi-county area the purchase of a computer system would be more than a wise investment. With a stand alone system and communications capabilities, this system could access numerous information centers.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: DISABLED/HANDICAP RAMP**

**Findings:**

This was addressed in the 1989-90 Grand Jury Report and is still a concern. With this office scheduled to be moved this situation still needs to be solved.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that Federal/State/County regulations or policies for the Disabled/Handicap ramp be enforced. This should be a high priority for the new office.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** DEPARTMENTAL INTER-OFFICE VISITS

**Findings:**

This office has not been visited by the Board of Supervisors, (with one exception), or the Personnel Office over a long period of time.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board of Supervisors and the Personnel Director conduct unscheduled office visits with this department.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** EMPLOYEE'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

**Findings:**

One employee had no performance evaluation in the prior eight years. The new Veterans Service Officer has already corrected this situation.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors initiate a county wide investigation regarding performance evaluations to see if this was an isolated case. The 1991-92 Grand Jury should consider this as an item for review.

**Commendation:**

The new Veterans Service Officer is commended for a positive change in the office. Office employee's are commended for their positive attitude while working under prior office situation.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Introduction:**

The five (5) member County Board of Supervisors are elected to their positions by the voters of Yuba County. They are responsible for both the legislative and executive functions of county government. Their ultimate responsibility is to assure that adequate services are provided to Yuba County residents.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** CONCERNS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COUNTY

**Findings:**

Only one new supervisor was interviewed at this time. Needs, problems, and future requirements for Yuba County are a major concern. Long range planning, economic development, and growth are primary concerns.

**No Recommendation**

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** DEPARTMENTAL VISITS

**Findings:**

The Board of Supervisors do not visit departmental offices on a routine basis.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends the members of the Board routinely visit all departmental offices.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

**Findings:**

Written performance evaluations are not being done in a timely manner.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recognizes the verbal contact Board members have with each appointed department head, but due to the turn over of Board members written performance evaluations are needed.

**COURT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement in all unincorporated areas of the County, with the exception of the military reservation of Beale Air Force Base. Routine traffic law enforcement and accident investigation within the Sheriff's jurisdiction is handled by the California Highway Patrol.

The new sheriff was sworn into office on January 7, 1991. Under the new sheriff's direction minor revisions have been made in the Department's organizational structure. Administrative Services: including budget, grants, revenue, and feasibility studies were placed under the direct supervision of the new Sheriff. The detective functions were removed from the Operations Division and established as a separate division. Civil functions, including bailiffs and civil processes, were eliminated as a separate division and placed under the Special Services Division.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: BOOKING FEES**

**Findings:**

Senate Bill (SB 2557) authorized counties to pass ordinances imposing fees on City Police Departments for the booking into the County Jail of prisoners arrested within City jurisdictions. The Yuba County Board of Supervisors authorized the imposition of a fee in the amount of forty three dollars and fifty cents (\$43.50) per booking, effective January 1, 1991. While providing a means to recoup a portion of operating expenses of the jail, this burden is passed on the the City agency. The impact of the imposition of this fee has been compounded by the fact that it was not foreseen nor included in City Police Department budgets. Concern has been expressed as to both the fiscal impact and the impact upon arrest and booking statistics to be experienced by the imposition of the booking fee. Due to the recent initiation of this fee, adequate information is not available to provide an accurate statistical base for comparison.

**Recommendation:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury may wish to consider the impact of the booking fees on City Police Departments for investigation during their tenure of office. Should dramatic impacts be realized upon the fiscal operation of City Police Departments, or upon arrest statistics, alternative solutions or a reduction in the booking fee amount may be warranted.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: LEVEE PROTECTION**

**Findings:**

Many properties within Yuba County are protected from floodwater by levee systems on the Yuba and Feather Rivers. The levee failure experienced in February of 1986 has produced litigation to determine liability for one billion five hundred million dollars (\$1,500,000,000) of damage. The impact of this damage is felt by all county residents, not just those physically damaged by flood waters. The integrity of Yuba County levees is of paramount importance to all county residents.

The protection of these levees becomes a matter for law enforcement involvement when county ordinances are violated regarding operation of motor vehicles upon the levees. Motor vehicles can create ruts on the levees, leading to erosion and localized weakened areas in the levee. The levee system is geographically large, access is poor, and violations many times involve motorcycles or all terrain vehicles, thus cost-effective law enforcement efforts are extremely difficult.

**Recommendation:**

A public awareness program intended to education local citizens of the importance of the levee systems should be initiated. Sheriff's Department presentations at public schools would instill the import of this matter to young and still impressionable children. A community action effort in the spirit of neighborhood

watch programs may help law enforcement to more effectively apprehend and prosecute violators. Cooperation and communication between law enforcement and levee maintenance personnel must be continued.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICERS

**Findings:**

Non-sworn personnel have been utilized by other local law enforcement agencies to better utilize patrol officer's time and manpower. Non-sworn personnel are assigned tasks such as cold burglary reports, investigations, and other routine, non-emergency responses. Salaries for these positions are lower than for patrol officers, resulting in cost savings for work performed by the public service officers. The utilization of non-sworn personnel has allowed other agencies to make economic and efficient utilization of available manpower and resources.

**Recommendation:**

The Sheriff's Department should consider establishing a non-sworn officer program.



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**YUBA COUNTY JAIL**

**Introduction:**

The Yuba County Jail is operated by the Special Services Division of the Sheriff's Office. The Special Services Division is one of four (4) main divisions of the Sheriff's Department and is responsible for bookings at the jail, the work furlough program, inmate medical and food services, the jail commissary, inmate transportation, and an inmate trusty program. The jail provides confinement of individuals arrested by law enforcement agencies and awaiting trial or extradition, and those committed to jail time by the court process.

Originally designed to house a majority population of misdemeanor inmates, due to the state wide shortage of jail and prison space, nearly all county jail inmates are felon violators. Under current operating procedure felon and misdemeanor prisoners are being commingled.

The current population of the Yuba County facility is approximately one hundred forty five (145) inmates, of which thirty (30) are women. Plans are nearing approval and funding has been secured to renovate the jail and court building to provide nearly double the existing jail capacity. The expanded jail is anticipated to provide adequate space to allow separation of felon and misdemeanor prisoners.

The escape of an accused murder suspect being held in the Yuba County Jail generated considerable local publicity during January of 1991.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: ESCAPE RISKS**

**Findings:**

Repairs and modifications to the area of the jail that has historically been targeted by inmates for escape attempts were completed immediately after the escape. These improvements were determined to be grant fundable under the Propositions 52 and 86 renovation project and represent a substantial security improvement over previous conditions.

**Recommendation:**

Inmate transportation procedures should be modified to provide for direct visual supervision of inmates at all times. Those inmates known to be high escape risks should be transported to and from the exercise area in leg shackles at all times.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FOOD SERVICES**

**Findings:**

The Yuba County Jail provides three (3) hot meals daily meeting all nutritional requirements at the cost of eighty six cents (\$.86) per meal. This economy can only be realized through careful planning and bulk purchasing. At this time the jail is renting freezer space in Sutter County to allow storage of bulk food purchases and must transport food between the storage freezer and the jail kitchen.

**Recommendation:**

The renovation and expansion of the jail and courtroom facility should allow adequate freezer space to allow on-site storage of bulk food purchases by the jail.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Probation Department has a total of sixty two (62) full time and three (3) part time employees. Of these, thirty three (33) are assigned to Juvenile Hall and twenty eight (28) to the Probation Office. The Department's functions include administration of the bi-county juvenile hall facility, preparing sentencing recommendations to the courts (Probation Reports), implementing and enforcing court orders, administering work programs, and providing services to victims and witnesses of crimes.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** PROBATION REPORTS

**Findings:**

Probation Reports are prepared by the Department for each defendant sentenced in the county courts. These reports require in-depth investigations into the defendants social history, employment background, financial situation, and other considerations. Based upon the findings of these investigations, the report contains information to the court as to circumstances surrounding the case and recommended sentences for the violation. The Department prepared over one thousand four hundred (1400) such reports during the 1989-90 fiscal year.

**No Recommendations.**

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** TRI-COUNTY DRUG IMPACT PROGRAM

**Findings:**

This program provides intensive supervision and frequent drug testing of defendants convicted of illicit drug sales or usage. The Program is a part of the Office of Criminal Justice Planning.

**No Recommendations.**

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** WORK PROGRAMS

**Findings:**

The Probation Department oversees both adult and juvenile offender work programs. These programs provide an alternative to jail and juvenile hall placements while providing constructive punitive sanctions against crime.

Work programs include road patching, brush cutting, weed removal, and other public services. A total of one thousand nine hundred thirty two (1932) hours of work were performed by persons referred to the program during the 1989-90 fiscal year.

**No Recommendations.**

**Comment:**

The Department has been extremely successful in obtaining grants from federal and state levels. These grants have allowed the Department to provide to the citizens of Yuba County a level of service normally found in more affluent counties. The county must be committed to maintain this present level of service in the event state and federal grants become more difficult to obtain.

The Grand Jury was very impressed with the professionalism and organization of the Probation Department. The Department is efficiently managed and provides excellent service to the residents of Yuba County. A high level of regard and respect for the Department was noted by other local criminal justice agencies.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**WHEATLAND POLICE**

**Introduction:**

The Wheatland Police Department is responsible for law enforcement within the city limits of Wheatland. Staffed by one (1) chief, seven (7) full-time officers and three (3) reserve officers, the department finds itself in the awkward position of having jurisdiction over one of the smallest; yet fastest growing communities in the Sacramento Valley. While making substantial improvements over historical conditions, the department must prepare for big city law enforcement problems that will accompany the growth predicted for this community.

Growth will also bring financial concerns to the Department. In order to maintain the present level of service as the population grows, the Department will be forced to grow also. Financial planning is critical to assure the ability to fund needed future growth.

The fiscal impact of the county booking fee is a sincere concern of the Police Department.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FACILITIES**

**Findings:**

The existing facilities of the Wheatland Police Department are adequate for present needs. Future needs of the department will be directly dependent upon the amount of growth realized in the community. Growth estimates based upon Planning Department development applications would imply rapidly changing and expanding needs. A Specific Plan has been prepared for fire and police services addressing the anticipated needs of the departments through the year 1995. Collection of developer fees to fund needed improvements will be based upon the recommendations in the Plan.

**Recommendation:**

The City of Wheatland Police Department must communicate closely with the City Administrator to continually monitor the assumptions, as well as the implementation of recommendations contained within the Specific Plan. Relocation of the Department to a larger, more permanent, and more easily expanded location will be required in the near future.

**Comment:**

Recent improvements in the form of upgraded equipment and uniforms, as well as increases in salary should do much to improve department morale, although it must be realized the Department should be prepared in the near future to compete with larger surrounding communities for competent and qualified personnel to staff their needed expansion.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**Introduction:**

The District Attorney's Office is comprised of two divisions: Criminal and Family Support. The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecution of criminal offenses within Yuba County, participates in Juvenile Court delinquency and dependency procedures, investigates and prosecutes consumer fraud matters, and pursues criminal actions against parents who fail to meet family support obligations. The Family Support Division represents children in all legal actions connected with determination of paternity, child support obligations, and enforcement and distribution of child and spousal support payments.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: OFFICE SPACE**

**Findings:**

Inadequate space in the District Attorney's Office was mentioned as a concern in the 1989-90 Grand Jury Final Report. Space limitations were immediately obvious during this year's visit. Lack of space was noted by the District Attorney as the limiting factor to hiring of additional personnel. Plans are nearing completion for the renovation of the Courthouse building and include additional room for the District Attorney's Office.

**Recommendation:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury may wish to review final plans for the Courthouse building renovation to assure adequate space is dedicated to the District Attorney's Office. Once provided with adequate room, careful consideration should be given to the District Attorney's request for additional personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: COMPUTERS**

**Findings:**

The main frame capacity of the County's computer system located within the Courthouse building has been expanded. System start up and training of the District Attorney's office staff has been given a low priority. The office finds itself in the frustrating situation of having tools available but finds itself in the frustrating situation of having tools available but unusable. In addition to being crowded and understaffed, the office is not able to utilize efficiency enhancing capabilities to improve its operations.

**Recommendation:**

A high priority should be placed upon the system start up and training of the District Attorney's office staff in order to fully utilize all available computer capabilities. Consideration may be given to contracting outside help in order to facilitate this recommendation.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**MUNICIPAL COURT**

**Introduction:**

The Yuba County Municipal Court presides over preliminary hearings for all felony matter, and adjudicates all misdemeanors, infractions, violation of local ordinances, civil suits and small claims. The Court is composed of two (2) judges, two (2) courtroom clerks, and twelve (12) support staff members.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** OFFICE SPACE

**Findings:**

Inadequate space in the Municipal Court Clerk's Office was immediately recognized during this year's Grand Jury visit. Plans are nearing completion for the renovation of the Courthouse building and include additional room for the Municipal Court and the Clerk's Office.

**Recommendation:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury may wish to review final plans for the Courthouse building renovation to assure adequate space is dedicated to the Municipal Court and Clerk's Office.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** COMPUTERS

**Findings:**

The main frame capacity of the County's computer system located within the Courthouse building has been expanded. Start up and training of Municipal Court office staff has been given a low priority. The office finds itself in the frustrating situation of having tools available but unusable. In addition to being crowded and understaffed, the office is not able to utilize efficiency enhancing capabilities to improve its operations.

**Recommendation:**

A high priority should be placed upon the start up and training of Municipal Court office staff to fully utilize all available computer capabilities. Consideration may be given to contracting outside help in order to facilitate this recommendation.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** FILE MANAGEMENT

**Findings:**

The Municipal Court processed over fifteen thousand six hundred (15,600) cases during the 1990 calendar year. The files for these cases must be maintained for up to ten (10) years. While computerization will aid in the filing and access to this information, the original paperwork must be maintained, creating an extremely large volume of files.

File storage has overflowed into jury rooms and other available space, compromising organization, confidentiality, and file security. Plans are nearing completion for the renovation of the Courthouse building and include additional room for file storage.

**Recommendation:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury may wish to review final plans for the Courthouse building renovation to assure adequate space is dedicated to the Municipal Court files.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**YUBA-SUTTER BI-COUNTY JUVENILE HALL**

**Introduction:**

The Bi-County Juvenile Hall provides for the detention of minors pending court hearings and sentencing, and rehabilitative programs for those juveniles sentenced to extended periods within the program. The Juvenile Hall is administered by the Chief Probation Officer of Yuba County, with a Superintendent being responsible for the daily operations of the facility. A Bi-County Juvenile Hall Committee meets quarterly to set policy, approve the distribution of costs and revenues between the two counties based upon county resident population, and oversee the general operation of the facility. Members of the Committee are drawn from both counties' Board of Supervisors, Probation Departments, and County Administrators.

The facility is staffed by a total of fifteen (15) full time employees, including the Superintendent and two (2) part-time positions. Extra help is available on an as needed basis. The 1990-91 fiscal year total budget for the facility is nearly eight hundred twenty nine thousand dollars (\$829,000).

Educational services are administered by the Yuba County Superintendent of School's office and health services by the Yuba County Health Department. Mental Health services are provided by the Bi-County Mental Health Department.

Providing capacity for forty five (45) persons, the facility is able to generate revenue by contracting extra bedspace to other counties.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: RECREATIONAL SUPPLIES**

**Findings:**

In January of 1990 a program designed to involve the local community in the facility's operation was implemented under the name of "The Community Cares Program". Corporate, small business, and individual donations of recreational supplies, furniture, and other equipment were solicited. The response has been overwhelming, to the point of being difficult to coordinate storage and distribution of items received. A substantial improvement in the quality and quantity of the facility's supplies are noted as a result of this program.

**No Recommendations.**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: PAINTING PROJECT**

**Findings:**

Through volunteer efforts the facility is being repainted in an attempt to minimize the institutional look and atmosphere. Colors and mural schemes have been selected with professional advice to promote a more soothing, pleasing, and less aggressive atmosphere. Detainees are allowed to participate in the painting, with particular interest expressed in the painting of the murals. A sense of pride in ownership is noted by the administration, helping to reduce vandalism and other destructive behaviors. In addition, occupation of particular rooms of higher appeal can be awarded on the basis of merit.

**No Recommendations.**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: CLOTHING**

**Findings:**

Providing adequate and appropriate clothing for the detainees continues to be difficult. Standard issue clothing has been considered in conjunction with a recommendation from the Sutter County Grand Jury. The use of colored T-shirts to denote wing status or program progress is an opportunity to promote affiliation with positive aspirations and accomplishments.

**Recommendation:**

"The Community Cares" program should be expanded or it's focus directed toward obtaining clothing for the Juvenile Hall detainees.

**Comment:**

The Grand Jury was very impressed with both the organization and function of the facility. Innovative ideas and extra effort are being applied to provide a continued sound economic base, as well as the best opportunity for rehabilitation of the juveniles. Rehabilitation of local juveniles is seen by the jury as a high priority, in an attempt to avoid future expense of judicial system time and money. Continued emphasis on vocational education, substance abuse, and family counseling remain priorities.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**MARYSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Marysville Police Department is responsible for law enforcement within the city limits of Marysville. The Department employs twenty two (22) sworn officers and ten (10) non-sworn personnel. One (1) sworn and one (1) non-sworn positions are vacant at the time of this report.

**AREA OF INVESTIGATION: POLICE SUPPORT AIDES**

**Findings:**

The City of Marysville has initiated use of non-sworn personnel in the position of Police Support Aides in an attempt to relieve the work load of patrol officers. The Police Support Aides perform functions such as burglary reports and fraud investigations. This allows sworn personnel more time to concentrate their efforts on patrol activities and urgent calls.

The Police Support Aide program has received positive response from all persons interviewed. The program allows economical and efficient utilization of available manpower and resources.

**Recommendation:**

The vacant Police Support Aide position should be filled.

**AREA OF INVESTIGATION: SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Findings:**

The City of Marysville has become the center of many social services and bi-county social programs. The congregation of these facilities in and around the Marysville area imposes a high demand upon the City of Marysville Police Department for law enforcement services. The relocation of the Yuba County Welfare Department to the Peachtree Mall has removed one of these offices from the Marysville city limits.

**Recommendation:**

During future planning for location of social service programs consideration should be given to the uniform distribution of these facilities within the area served. Equal consideration of both Yuba and Sutter County areas should be given for bi-county services.

**AREA OF INVESTIGATION: BOOKING FEES**

**Findings:**

Senate Bill (SB 2557) authorized Counties to pass ordinances imposing fees on City Police Departments for the booking into the County Jail of prisoners arrested within City jurisdictions. The Yuba County Board of Supervisors authorized the imposition of a fee in the amount of forty three dollars and fifty cents (\$43.50) effective January 1, 1991. This fee was not foreseen nor included within the City of Marysville Police Department budget for the current year. Concern has been expressed by city personnel and Grand Jury members as to both the fiscal impact, and the impact upon arrest and booking statistics to be experienced by the imposition of the fee. Due to the recent initiation of this fee, adequate information is not available to provide an accurate statistical base for comparison.

**Recommendation:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury may wish to consider the impact of the booking fees on the City of Marysville Police Department for investigation during their tenure of office.



**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

The Department of Social Services is governed by federal and state regulations in providing financial and social services to eligible Yuba County residents. They administer programs such as:

Aid to Families to Dependent Children (AFDC)  
Food Stamps  
Medical Cards  
Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN)  
Child Protective Services (CPS)  
Adult Services  
Indigent Burial  
Job Development and Training Department (JTPA)  
General Relief

Under each of these programs are a wide variety of responsibilities. The staff is required to keep abreast of the everchanging regulations, deadlines, eligibility requirements, and maintain a high standard of performance.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: NEW LOCATION**

**Findings:**

The Department of Social Services has been growing at such a rapid rate the different departments were being housed at various locations throughout the Marysville area.

The Administration was at a Second Street location. GAIN and JTPA were at the Peach Tree Mall. AFDC, Food Stamps, CPS, GR, and Adult Services were at 935 14th Street, Marysville. All closed files were stored in a separate building behind their 14th Street location. This made it difficult for the employees, the clientele and very costly for the county to operate in this manner.

In November 1990 all employees and programs were moved to a new location at the Peach Tree Mall. Yuba County will be meeting the needs of its eligible residents more efficiently by being in one location. They are also utilizing their space with future growth in mind.

In designing the lay out of the department they also kept in mind the safety of the employees. The doors are secured with a security system. The interview booths are also secured with an intercom and numbering system in which the clients can enter and exit only from one direction.

CPS and Adult Services have their own entrance, lobby, and reception area. This helps the flow of people through their office.

The Department of Social Services is responsible for providing supervised visits from many Yuba County residents. At their new location they have three visiting rooms. Each one is set up for a different age group. One is for newborns to toddlers, the second for adolescents, and the other for teenagers to young adults. The rooms are equipped with furniture, toys, and games for each age group to give the visit a home style atmosphere.

GAIN is also located at the Peach Tree Mall. They were there prior to the move of the other major departments.

The Department of Social Services is required to keep all closed files for seven years. Previously they had been stored in a building behind the Department's 14th Street address. When the Department secured the Mall as their new location along came 3,000 square feet of basement that the Department is now using for their closed files, storage for forms, and supplies. In this area they have also provided a work area for

General Relief clients to work off their GR grant.

**No Recommendations**

**Commendations:**

The Grand Jury commends the Department of Social Services in continuing their high standard of service. They are also to be commended on planning for the future growth of Yuba County.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**MENTAL HEALTH**

**Introduction:**

Sutter and Yuba Counties currently have the only Bi-County Mental Health Program in California. The two counties created this Joint Powers Agency in 1969 to respond to the mental health, drug abuse, and alcohol abuse service needs of the two counties.

The Program is a department of both Yuba and Sutter County governments with Sutter County being the lead county for administrative purposes.

The Department has a budget of five million (\$5,000,000) dollars and employs a staff of seventy five (75) of which; seven (7) are psychiatrists under contract, fifty eight (58) are full-time county employees, and ten (10) are extra help, primarily in their twenty four (24) hour care unit.

The Department also contracts for service with other agencies such as; Juvenile Hall, Pathways, residential hospitals, private hospitals for minors, school offices, State Hospital at Napa, Tehama Recovery Program, skilled nursing facilities, and board and care homes.

Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services & The Alliance for the mentally ill of Yuba and Sutter Counties provide services for adults and children for drug and alcohol abuse. Their Emergency Services offers screening and referrals. The Case Load Management Staff provides assistance to local residents with their lives outside the hospital such as housing, Social Security applications, transportation, and medical appointments. Sutter-Yuba Mental Health offers Adult Inpatient and Adult Outpatient treatment.

The facility can house eighteen (18) inpatient adults. They cannot house any minors due to State laws that require minors to be kept separate from adults.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** OUT PATIENT CARE

**Findings:**

Sutter-Yuba Mental Health serves approximately thirty six hundred (3600) to four thousand (4000) patients per year. The majority of their patients are children. Many of the calls that they receive are turned away and referred to other community organizations due to lack of staff and funding. Mental Health recognizes that they can only treat the worst Mental cases. Many of the people that are given referrals never follow through with them and therefore never get the treatment that they need.

The Director is sad to report that many of the children are there for treatment due to suicide attempts.

**No Recommendations**

**Comments:**

After speaking with the Director, the Grand Jury emphasizes to the public that Mental Health treatment is not to be feared. It is a necessary part of the health of the community. It is just as important to have mental health as well as physical health to have prosperous and happy residents of Sutter and Yuba Counties.

**Commendation:**

The Grand Jury commends Mental Health on their ability to serve both Sutter and Yuba Counties with the mountainous challenge of drug abuse and the lack of funding and staff.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** PAINT AND HOBBY SHOP

**Findings:**

One of the goals of Mental Health is to keep all the patients active and productive. The able patients participate in different projects. Some of the projects are money making. They man the vending machines, sell their ceramic and wood making wares, and paint signs. They participate in local bazaars and fairs.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that the paint and paint cleaning supplies be stored separate and apart from the wood materials and wood supplies.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

**Introduction**

Environmental Health focuses on the preservation and improvement of environmental factors affecting the health and safety of our community. Their priority is to protect and maintain the quality of our air, water, land and food.

Environmental Health educates the community on Environmental Health issues and enforces environmental and public health laws.

Environmental Health investigates and enforces laws, ordinances and regulations relating to:

Hazard and toxic substance control  
Hazmat emergency response  
Solid and liquid waste management  
Infectious waste management  
Water supply protection  
Land use and development  
Food and beverage protection  
Milk and dairy sanitation  
Radiological protection  
Occupational health  
Vector control  
Air quality and noise control  
Housing and insulation safety  
Sanitation of recreational water  
and Swimming pool safety  
Disaster sanitation  
Animal facilities

**AREA INVESTIGATED: STAFFING**

**Findings:**

Environmental Health is a division of Yuba County Health Services. It is staffed by the Director, six (6) field workers, and two (2) clerks; one of which is employed with them through GAIN, a division of the Department of Social Services.

Environmental Health is governed by state mandated and local programs. Due to the rapid growth in Yuba County, Environmental Health finds it sometimes necessary to shift their staff from these mandated programs to meet the needs of the local community. Environmental Health may find it necessary in the future to increase their permit fees to generate revenues to hire more staff to fulfill the requirements of the mandated programs and to meet the needs of the Yuba County residents.

**Recommendation:**

The Grand Jury recommends that a full-time field worker and a clerk be added to their staff to meet the needs of the local community and to enforce and comply with all mandated programs that are set by state and local government.

**Commendation:**

The Grand Jury commends Environmental Health for maintaining a good public service record.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

The Department of Health Services has two complete operations. They are the Public Health Department which has the primary function of preventive care and education, and the Peach Tree Clinic offers medical treatment for people who are in need.

The Public Health Department Services available include the control of communicable diseases through health education, inspection and immunization, home care programs, children and parenting services, operation of a well baby clinic, pregnancy screening, birth control, family planning, Women Infant and Children Program, California Children Services Program, Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, tobacco counseling, and AIDS testing.

The Peach Tree Clinic is a self-sufficient operation at no cost to the county. Patients can be seen on a walk-in basis and by appointment. The Clinic has an on site pharmacy and lab. They will be installing a full X-ray lab in the future.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FUNDING**

**Findings:**

The Health Department is funded seventy (70) percent by the state and thirty (30) percent by the county. The county recoups some of its funds from the services they provide. Many of the clientele's fees are determined by using a sliding income chart and many others use their medical cards.

The Department is hoping that the new location will attract more Yuba County residents to come to them for their services and in turn increase revenues to their department.

The Clinic is a self funded department. They generate funds from medical treatment, lab, pharmacy, and pre-employment testing that they provide to all people who wish to use their services. Their revenues derive from seventy (70) percent Medical, eight (8) percent Medicare and twenty two (22) percent cash and insurance covered patients.

The Clinic has changed their name to the Peach Tree Clinic. With this change in name and location they are hoping to create a new look and are looking forward to bringing in new patients. They would like to draw in more cash paying and insurance covered patients.

The Peach Tree Clinic wants to continue maintaining the status of being self-sufficient, therefore they have brought in a consulting firm to reorganize the Department and stream line their expenditures. With the high cost of medical treatment and the low return that the Clinic was getting on their medical card patient's bills they were finding that their revenues/expenditures cushion was getting thin. They feared that the cushion would get so thin as to require using the General Fund to continue to provide services to Yuba County residents. The goal of the Clinic, the Yuba County Administrator, and the Board of Supervisors is to insure that Department remains self-sufficient and does not draw monies from the General Fund.

**No Recommendation**

**Commendations:**

The Grand Jury commends the Health Department and the Peach Tree Clinic for being patient in the long wait for a new location.

The Clinic, the County Administrator, and the Board of Supervisors are to be commended on reacting to the dilemma that the Clinic was facing and acting accordingly.

**PUBLIC WORKS/WATER AGENCIES COMMITTEE**



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**BROWNS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

The Browns Valley Irrigation District (BVID) is administered and operated by a five (5) man board of directors, general manager, a secretary, and eight (8) employees. Policies, finances, purchasing, service and maintenance, and planning for future development are the responsibilities of the Board of Directors. A full-time General Manager is responsible to the BVID Board of Directors. A Consulting Civil Engineering firm has been hired in the past and now is being used by the District as needed.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: MANAGEMENT AND GOALS**

**Findings:**

During the course of its term, the Grand Jury received significant input from BVID members. Areas addressed and investigated demonstrated that there are strong and diverse opinions in the District on subjects ranging from the manner in which meetings are conducted to the sale of water outside of the District. Long-term goals and projects, as well as District policies, need to be developed and made as certain as practicable, so that District members not only know what the District is planning, but also the reasons for such planning decisions.

**Recommendation:**

Because of the existing divided opinions of the present members of the District the Grand Jury feels that it is up to the people themselves to settle their disputes peacefully and intelligently.

**Comments:**

The Grand Jury feels that BVID has a good base on which to continue to develop an outstanding Water District. Intelligent cooperation among members will be necessary. The Grand Jury feels that the Browns Valley Irrigation District has a bright future.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**RECLAMATION DISTRICT #784**

**Introduction:**

The administration of the District is handled by an elected Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members. The District hires a working manager, a part-time secretary, one (1) full-time employee and other part-time help including inmates from the county. A lawyer and engineer are employed as needed. The State Reclamation Board, which is accountable to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, makes four (4) district inspections a year. The District is responsible for fifty two (52) miles of levees. It is also responsible for the drainage system of the area south of the Yuba River and west of the Interceptor Canal.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** LEVEE SYSTEM

**Findings:**

Levee maintenance appears to be very good. However, many problems continue to plague and hamper the management.

1. Trespassing, vandalism and illegal dumping is an increasing problem. Theft of copper wire from district pumps, destroying gates and fences and general abuse of the levee by 4-wheel drive vehicles are also an increasing problem.
2. Wild-life damage to the levee is an ongoing problem and a dangerous one.
3. Shortage of equipment and man power. A minimum of equipment is added each year which is far too little.

**Recommendations:**

1. The 1990-91 Grand Jury again recommends that the levees be blacktopped to allow the authorities easy access to patrol the levees to help curb vandalism and trespassing.
2. Additional effort and a more successful method of dealing with levee damage due to wild-life should be pursued.
3. The difficult situation the District finds itself in due to the law-suits of the 1986 flood results in a low budget. There also appears to be a misunderstanding between the County and the District as to where the territories and borders of each start and end. This must be resolved.
4. The Public Works Department continues to help resolve the illegal dumping problem.

**Comments:**

The District appreciates and needs the cooperation of the Sheriff, District Attorney, and the Judicial system in controlling trespassing and vandalism.

The Directors recognize and are quite knowledgeable concerning their District's problems. Their task is a difficult one. The coming of the Arboga Specific Plan, the probable change of the District boundaries, and an additional overburden of drainage water in heavy rainfalls are just a few of these problems. The Grand Jury feels that they are doing a good job and recommends other county entities give them their full support.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**YUBA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Public Works Department maintains and improves the county road system and provides specifications and inspection for private development and land divisions. The department is divided into four (4) major areas.

**Administration-** provides financial management, prepares budgets, processes grants, and prepares the Annual Road Report.

**Engineering-** prepares plans, specifications and cost estimates (PS&E's) for highway and bridge construction projects.

**Surveyor-** reviews engineering maps, plans and specifications for private development and land divisions. The surveyor interacts daily with the Planning and Building Department, County Recorder, and County Assessor's office as required.

**County Road Construction/Maintenance-** county road construction and maintenance is performed in accordance with the department's priorities, provides maintenance and improvement programs/plans and details present road system status.

Department activities are performed by forty-five (45) employees. Administrative functions are supported by an automated budget account control and cost system. Engineering is supported by design software and has a Computer Aided Drafting and Design System (CADD). The CADD provides the department greater labor efficiency.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: BUDGET REVIEW**

**Findings:**

The committee carefully reviewed the 1990-91 budget and found everything in order. Due to the fact that the Public Works Director is new to the department, budget priorities may be adjusted in the next fiscal year.

**No Recommendations**

**AREA INVESTIGATED: ROAD & BRIDGE CONDITIONS**

**Findings:**

There are several roads and bridges throughout the County that need to be up-graded by either resurfacing or repair.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended rural road and bridge maintenance plans be budgeted using five (5) year span for completion.

**Comments:**

The Department is moving into a new office and has implemented the CADD system.

The new director has familiarized himself with the many facets of the County and has been guided by the South Yuba Drainage Master Plan, to which he has added several intelligent suggestions. The Director has conducted studies of safety conditions on rural county roads and has found that speeds far in excess of the posted limits has created additional damage to these roads. The Grand Jury feels that a follow-up

study of the use of radar to assist in speed control be utilized.

**Commendations:**

The new Director is to be commended for his rapidity in familiarizing himself with Yuba County. In addition, he is commended for time spent in field operations.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**YUBA COUNTY WATER AGENCY**

**Introduction:**

The Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) was created by a special act of the State legislature in 1959. Recent change has eliminated the old Water Agency Council and the Agency now is governed by seven (7) members. Five (5) of the members are the members of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors. In addition one (1) member is elected from the area north of the Yuba River and one (1) member is elected from the area south of the Yuba River.

The YCWA is a self-supporting political subdivision of the state and not subordinate to the County. Operating revenues are derived from contracts with water districts and tax revenues. Tax revenues amount to one hundred thirty thousand (\$130,000) dollars per year. The Agency is bound to numerous contracts which include but are not limited to California Fish and Game, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Davis-Grundsky Recreation Facilities Act, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and temporary water sales contracts with the Department of Water Resources and other utilities/municipalities.

The Agency is staffed by one (1) full-time Engineer-Administrator, one (1) Project Secretary, and thirteen (13) other Bullard Bar power project employees.

Pacific Gas and Electric pays 60% of the project secretary's salary and 100% of the power plant employees salary.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: WATER SALES PRIORITIES**

**Findings:**

YCWA is negotiating throughout the year with other municipalities and with the Department of Water Resources for the sale of water. Water sales to date have generated as much as seventeen and one-half (17.5) million dollars for the Agency.

If all options are exercised the Agency could generate an amount in excess of fifteen (15) million dollars for the 1990-91 fiscal year. Priorities for water sales must be exercised by the Agency, keeping in mind how the use and sale of water affects Yuba County residents.

**No Recommendations:**

**AREA INVESTIGATED:- WATER SALE REVENUES**

**Findings:**

Water sale revenues have been spent to date, with the exception of a fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollar contribution required to receive a five hundred thousand (\$500,000) dollar Army Corps of Engineers South Yuba Flood Control Study, and several grants including the Camptonville Community Service District, City of Wheatland, and others.

The revenue derived from water sales cannot be used for any purpose other than flood control and the development of new water systems or improvements of old systems.

**No Recommendations**

**Comments/Administration:**

The YCWA Engineer/Administrator continues to impress the Grand Jury as a very capable, enthusiastic administrator. He has an extensive background in Hydro-engineering. his knowledge and experience provides the Board guidelines for a water agency which serves the County's best interest.

**Commendation:**

The YCWA Engineer/Administrator is again commended for his outstanding cooperation with the Grand Jury and commitment to the agency. Having again toured all of the facilities we continue to applaud the work and dedication of all employees of the YCWA.

**SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**YUBA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OFFICE**

**Introduction:**

This office provides administration, specialists, and staff for seven (7) special education schools, supplies administrator for one elementary school, and staffs several boards and advisory groups. It also offers various support activities to all Yuba County School Districts. The 1990 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) reports one hundred ninety six (196) students attend special education schools. The county superintendent's office employs one hundred ten (110) personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS

**Findings:**

Special education schools are located within the boundaries of existing regular school districts. Some students of the special schools are integrated into classes at the various school districts. The teachers employed by the county office are not tenured. Salary and benefits may fall below those offered in the school districts.

**Recommendation:**

Incorporate special education school's administration and staffing into the districts where physically located. This should allow program articulation, allow special student direct association with own age group, reduce administrative expenses, and allow staff to be tenured and fairly salaried.



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**MARYSVILLE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

This district provides education for more than ten thousand (10,000) students in grades K-12, utilizing eighteen (18) school plants spaced over fifty (50) miles, from the Feather River on the west to the Camptonville School District on the east. MJUSD employs about nine hundred (900) personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED GROWTH**

**Findings:**

Student population is increasing rapidly, especially in schools on the valley floor where projected growth could double population by the year 2000. The District has commissioned formal studies on projection of classroom demand, and also the establishment of year round classes.

**Recommendation:**

School officials work closely with county planners, developers, and community leaders, to insure sufficiently sized parcels at appropriate sites are set aside for school construction. The District should vigorously pursue collection of developer fees. Year round use of classrooms should be started in the fall of 1991 as needed. Investigate use of interdistrict agreements with adjacent districts as temporary relief.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FUNDING**

**Findings:**

Lack of funds is resulting in loss of personnel and curtailment of programs throughout the District affecting all grade levels. State funding appears inadequate for educational requirements, and certainly not in a District experiencing such growth. If the provisions of SB 2557 (property administration fee) are implemented, it will take away monies designated for educational purposes.

**Recommendation:**

Insure local and state officials, and the public, are fully aware of funding shortfall. Maximize purchasing discipline, strongly supervise areas where waste might occur, search for special sources of funds through private or governmental means, vigorously pursue developer fees, and utilize volunteers to assist with undermanned programs.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: VANDALISM/THEFT**

**Findings:**

Theft and/or destruction of school property appears unrestrained. Expenditure of school funds to replace equipment or repair damage consumes monies that would be used for educational purposes.

**Recommendation:**

Improve exterior lighting, install security fences, utilize alarm systems, organize community awareness and support through neighborhood watch. Schedule classified employees for night and weekend duty. Employ security patrols. Solicit increased assistance from law enforcement. Request vigorous prosecution of offenders.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**YUBA COLLEGE**

**Introduction**

Yuba College provides educational opportunities for six thousand (6000) students at it's Linda Campus. Classes are offered day and evening toward academic advancement, as well as vocational training. The College also administers campuses in Yolo and Lake Counties. Classes are also offered at Beale A.F. Base and local high school's facilities. It is noted that lack of funding of college level educational programs are also threatened by cutback of revenue.

**Commendation:**

Yuba College Administration and Staff are commended for their professionalism in presenting programs to provide educational opportunities for all elements of the community. The staff presentation and documentation made for the Grand Jury Committee is recognized and appreciated.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**CAMPTONVILLE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

Camptonville District is located in the extreme northeastern area of Yuba County, serving one hundred thirty (130) students in grades K-8. High School aged students are transported out of district and county to Nevada Union High School. Camptonville School District employs eighteen (18) personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FUNDING**

**Findings:**

Current level of state funding appears inadequate to support quality education programs. This district does qualify for U.S. Forest Service funds (1990 \$50,000). If the provisions of SB 2557 (property administration fee) are implemented, it will take away monies designated for educational purposes.

**Recommendation:**

Insure local and state officials, and the public, are fully aware of funding needs. Maintain reserves at maximum allowable levels. Explore special purpose funds and grants through government and private industry sources. Utilize volunteers to supplement undermanned programs.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES**

**Findings:**

Camptonville District 9-12 graders must attend high school out of District and out of County some distance away in Grass Valley. This circumstance presents a hardship for District Students, limits intergrade articulation, and may contribute to the dropout rate.

**Recommendation:**

Together with other Yuba County elementary schools located in the foothill area, petition for establishment of a high school facility to serve this area of Yuba County.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: DRINKING WATER**

**Findings:**

Potable water supply does not meet Health Department standards. This problem, first noted in 1987, is now being addressed by the Yuba Co. Water Agency which is supplying funds and guidance toward resolution.

**Recommendation:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury monitor District water quality improvement.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**WHEATLAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

This District provides high school (grades 9-12) education for four hundred ten (410) students from Plumas and Wheatland Elementary School Districts, and at present ninety (90) students from other Districts. The high school is staffed by fifty one (51) personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: FUNDING**

**Findings:**

Current level of state and federal funding appears inadequate to continue a quality education program. As with all schools in Yuba County, if the provisions of SB 2557 (property administration fee) are implemented, it will take away monies designated for educational purposes.

**Recommendation:**

Insure state and federal education officials, as well as the public, are kept informed of funding needs. Maintain reserves at maximum allowable levels, explore availability of special funding or grants for specific programs through government or private sources, utilize volunteers where permitted, to augment staff.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

**Findings:**

Wheatland Union High School District Boundaries are common with the boundaries of Plumas and Wheatland Elementary Districts. Three (3) Boards of Trustees and three (3) administrative staffs are presently in place to serve only two thousand two hundred forty (2240) students grades K-12.

**Recommendation:**

Unify the three districts. This is a repeat recommendation by the Yuba County Grand Jury.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**Findings:**

Wheatland High students, together with staff and parents, are aware of the substance abuse problem permeating communities nation wide and are sponsoring programs to combat the scourge.

**Commendation:**

The student body leaders of Wheatland High School are commended for their active leadership in substance abuse abatement.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**PLUMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

Plumas is a small rural School District serving about forty (40) students in grades K-8, with a staff of seven (7). This District is located within the boundaries of Wheatland Union High School District.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

**Findings:**

Plumas School is located six (6) miles from Wheatland Elementary Schools. About one-fourth of Plumas District's K-8 children attend Wheatland under interdistrict agreements. Wheatland Elementary District provides cafeteria service to the Plumas School site. Wheatland High School District provides the bus service for Plumas District. The Plumas School Administrator is provided through the Yuba County Superintendent of Schools office.

**Recommendation:**

Unify Plumas Elementary District with Wheatland Union High School District and Wheatland School District. This unification has been recommended by past Grand Juries.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1990-91**  
**WHEATLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

Wheatland School District serves seventeen hundred (1700) students K-8 on four (4) separate campuses. More than one hundred twenty (120) children from out of District attend through interdistrict agreements. Staff consists of one hundred seventy five (175) personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** GROWTH

**Findings:**

The Wheatland School District is not overcrowded, however, Wheatland Elementary (K-3) is. Several housing developments are underway or being planned in widely separated areas of the District. Beale A.F. Base bisects this School District which affects access of students and parents to the various schools.

**Recommendation:**

District officials secure formal understanding with U.S. Government regarding transit of students through Beale A.F. Base, to whichever school assigned, and to facilitate access of parents as needed. Planning should be advanced to provide relief of overcrowding at Wheatland Elementary.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

**Findings:**

Wheatland School District and Plumas School District have a common boundary with the Wheatland Union High School District. Shared services already include student transportation and cafeteria. About twenty five (25) percent of Plumas K-8 and all grades 9-12 attend Wheatland schools.

**Recommendation:**

Unify Plumas, Wheatland, and Wheatland High School Districts. This is a repeated recommendation of Yuba County grand Juries.

**Commendation:**

The Wheatland School District is commended for its advanced curriculum development at all four schools and for the excellent condition of buildings and grounds.