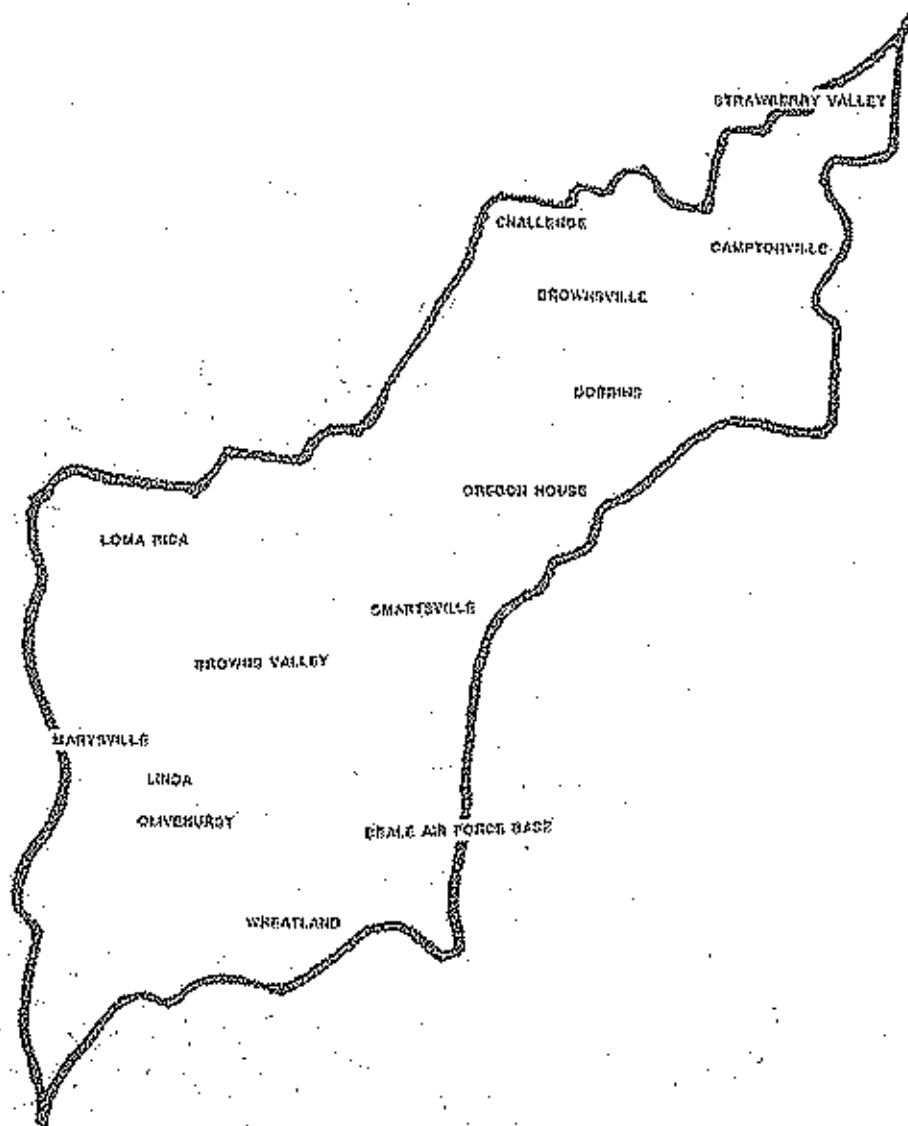


# YUBA COUNTY

## GRAND JURY



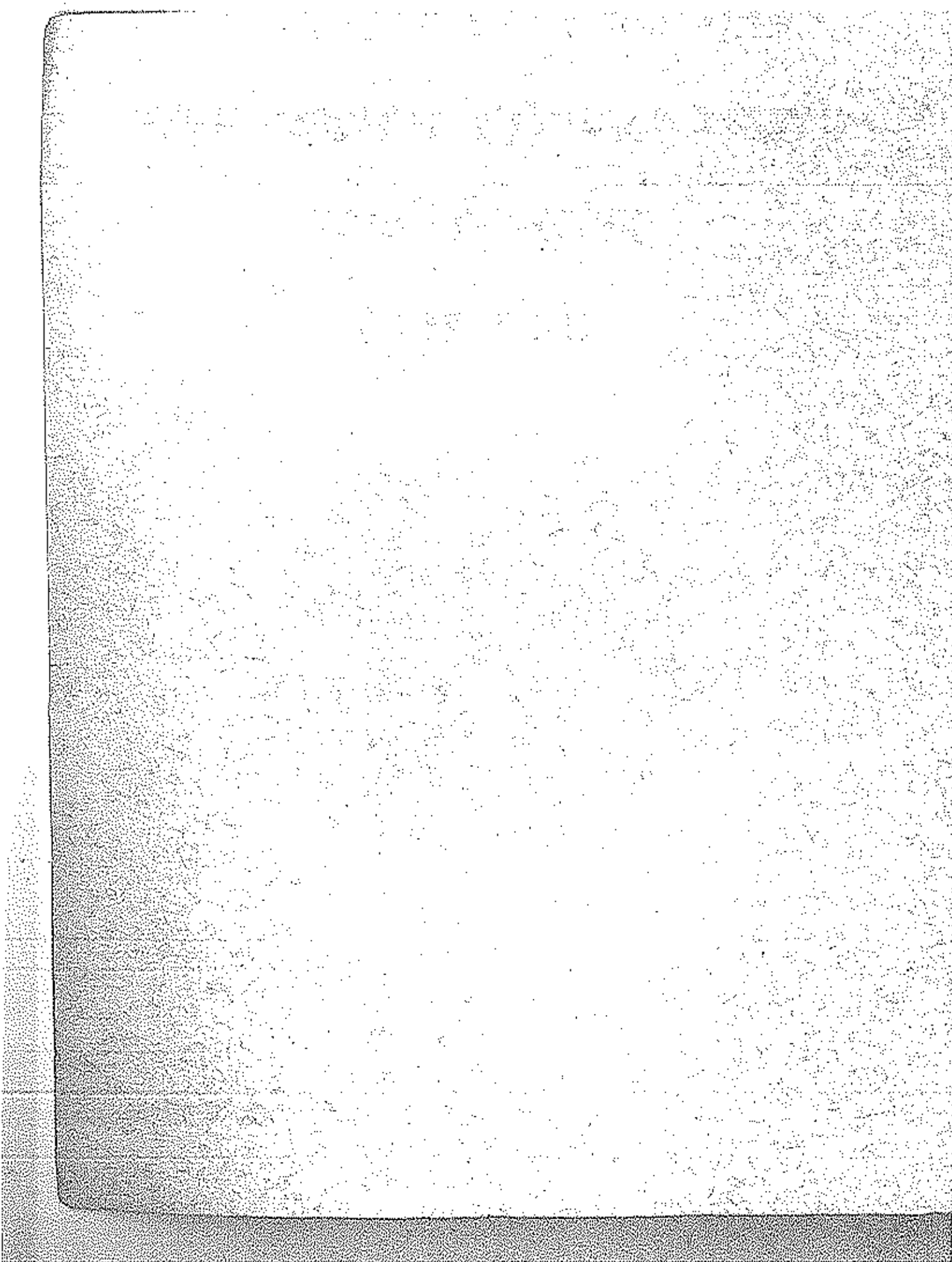
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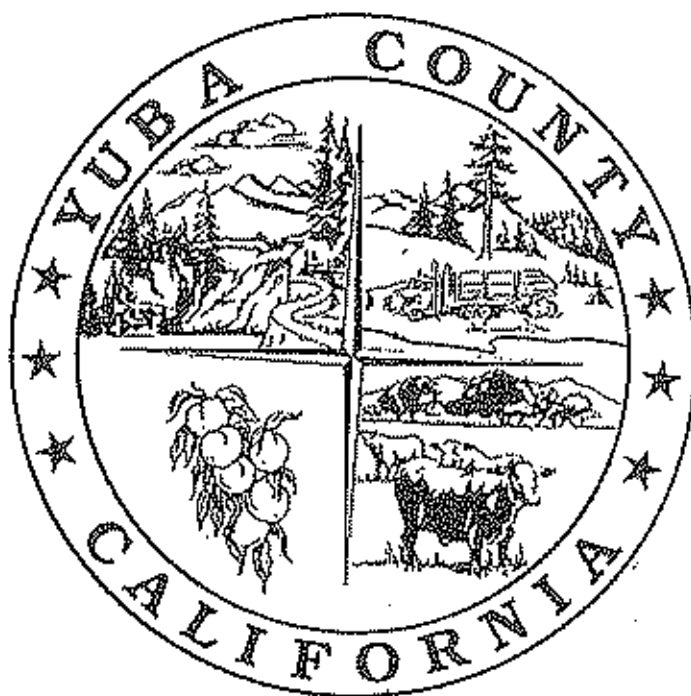
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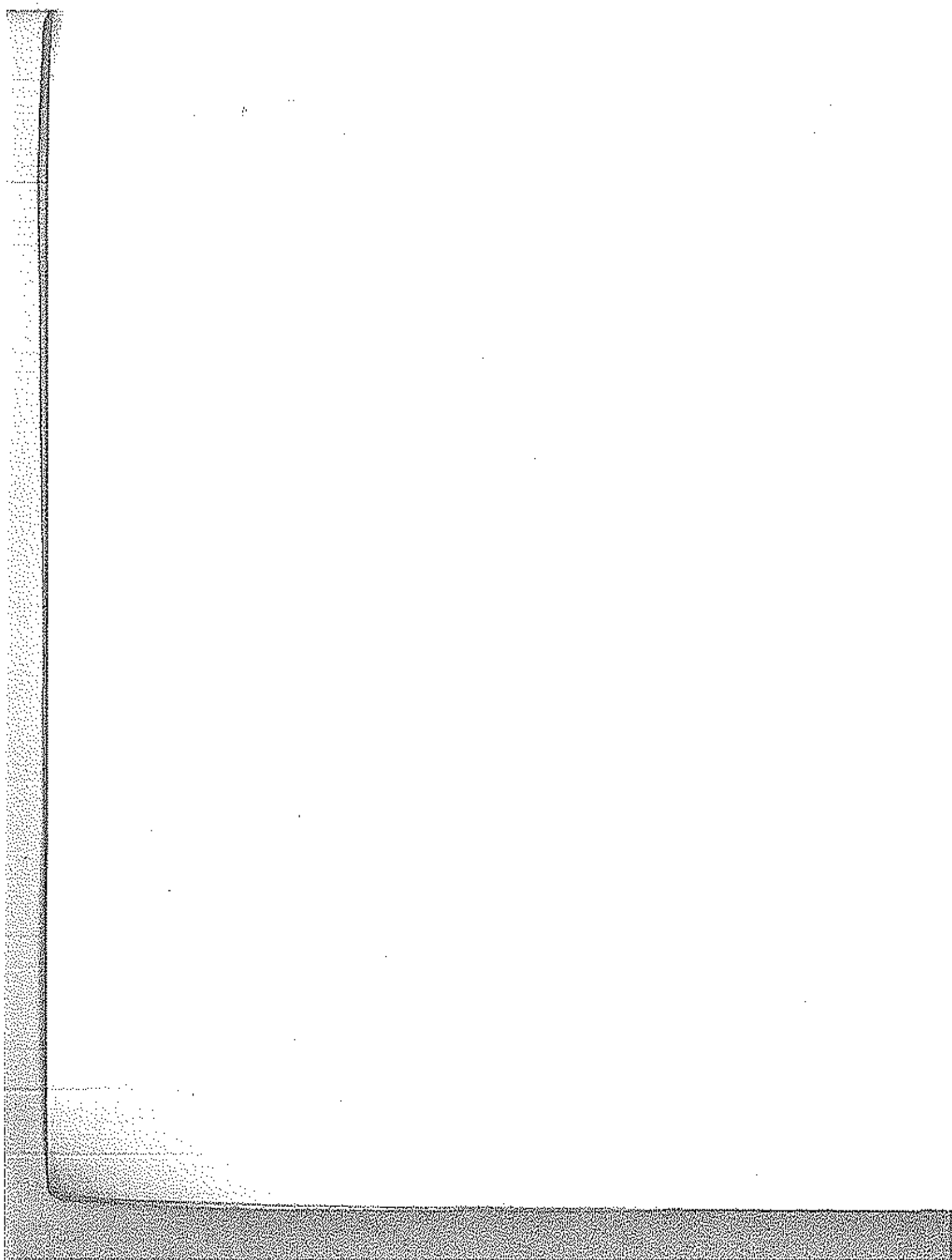
# YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY

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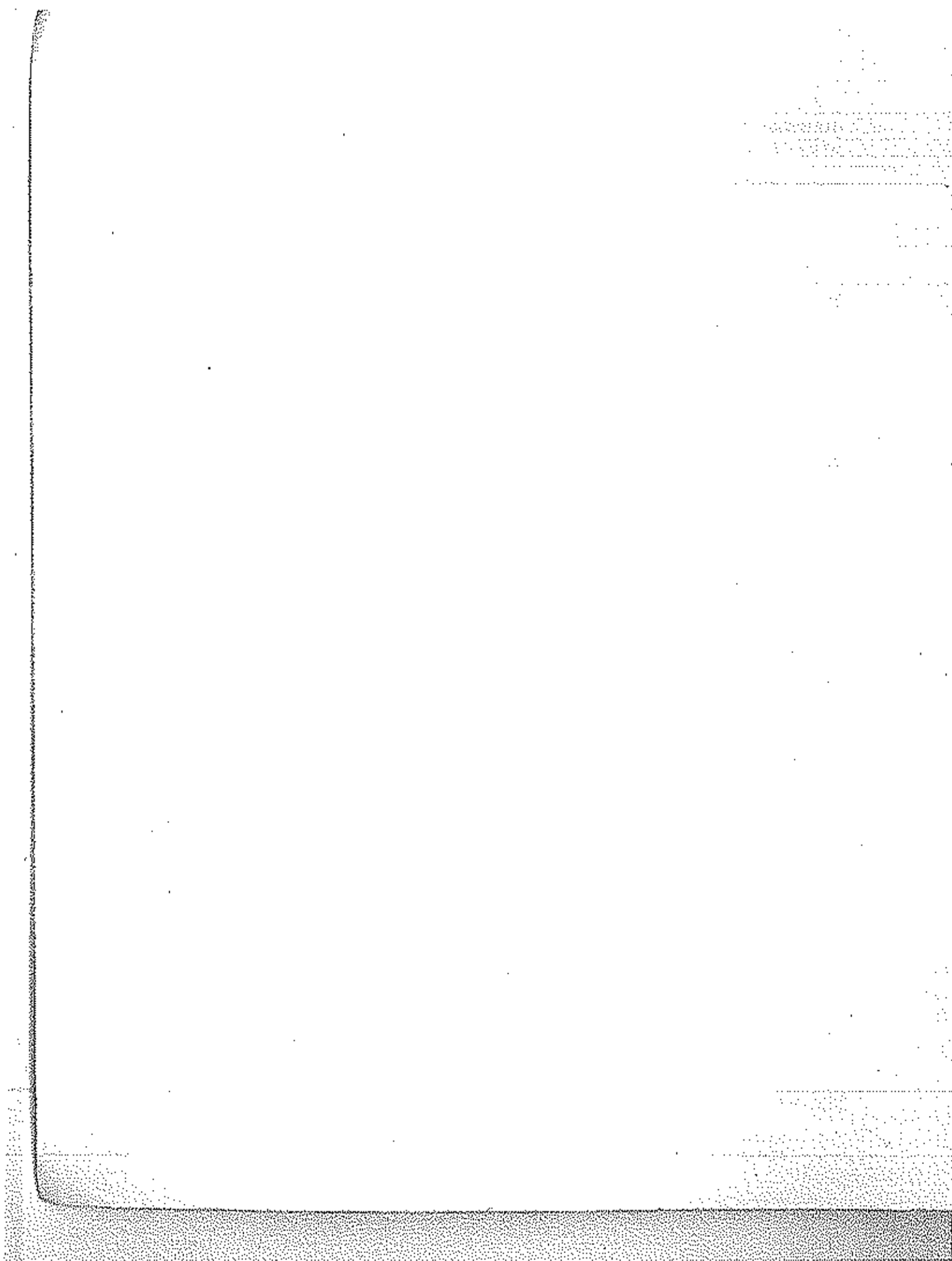
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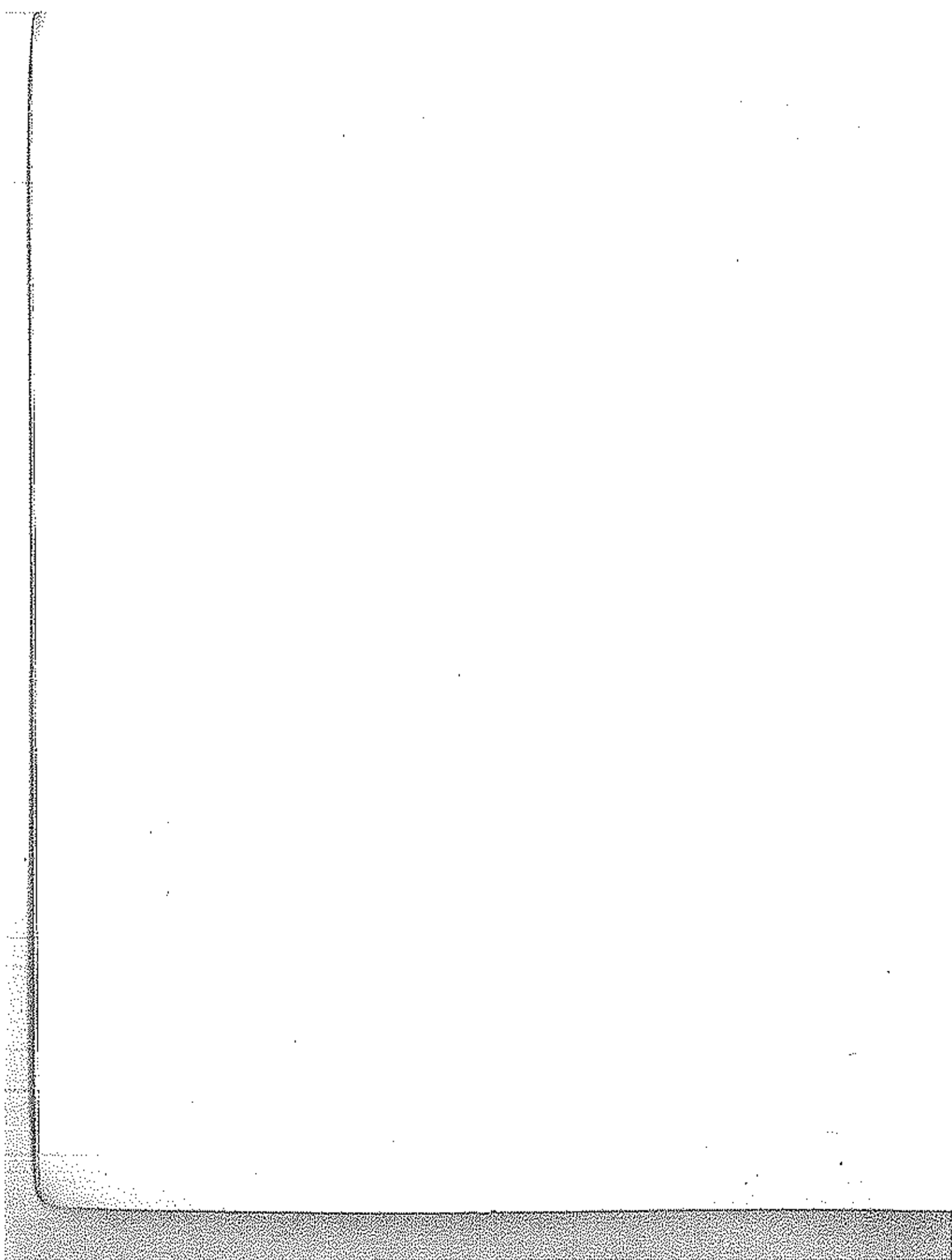
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July 1, 1992

The Honorable Robert C. Lenhard  
Presiding Judge  
Yuba County Superior Court  
215 Fifth Street  
Marysville, CA 95901

Dear Judge Lenhard:

As Foreman of the 1991-92 Yuba County Grand Jury and in compliance with the California State Penal Code, I respectfully submit the Grand Jury Final Report to you, the Board of Supervisors, and to the citizens of Yuba County.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the additional 18 members of the Grand Jury who have given so freely of their time in discharging their duties. They have been perceptive, reliable, and dedicated individuals.

A special thanks should also be given to the Jury Commissioner, Bonita Marqua, and to Myra, "Sam", and Jerry of her office for their support of the Jury.


Also, a special thanks is extended to you, Judge Lenhard, for your guidance and for having an "open door" to members of the Jury.

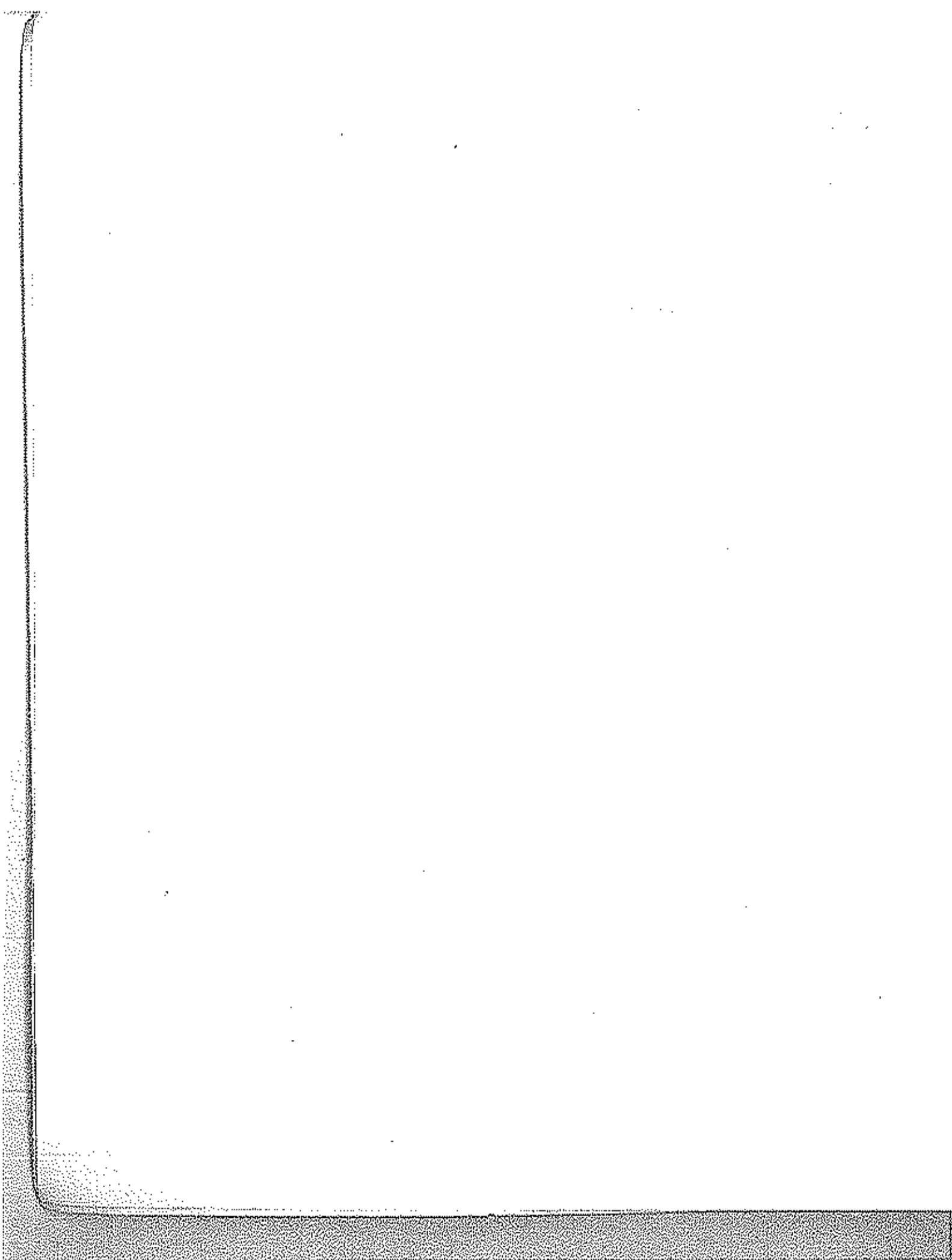
The standing committees have made visits to various County, City, Schools, and Special Districts as they found necessary. Their findings, recommendations, comments, and commendations are found in the Report.

In addition, the Jury has established a special committee this year which is entitled "Continuity and Resources." Two of the main purposes of the committee were to find ways to educate the citizens of the County about the functions of the Jury and to prepare documents and retain reports which will assist future grand jurors in discharging their responsibilities. I highly commend the committee's efforts and recommend that this committee become a standing committee of the Jury.

This has been both an educational and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

  
GERALD D. ARNOLD  
Foreman



# 1991-1992 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY

## SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

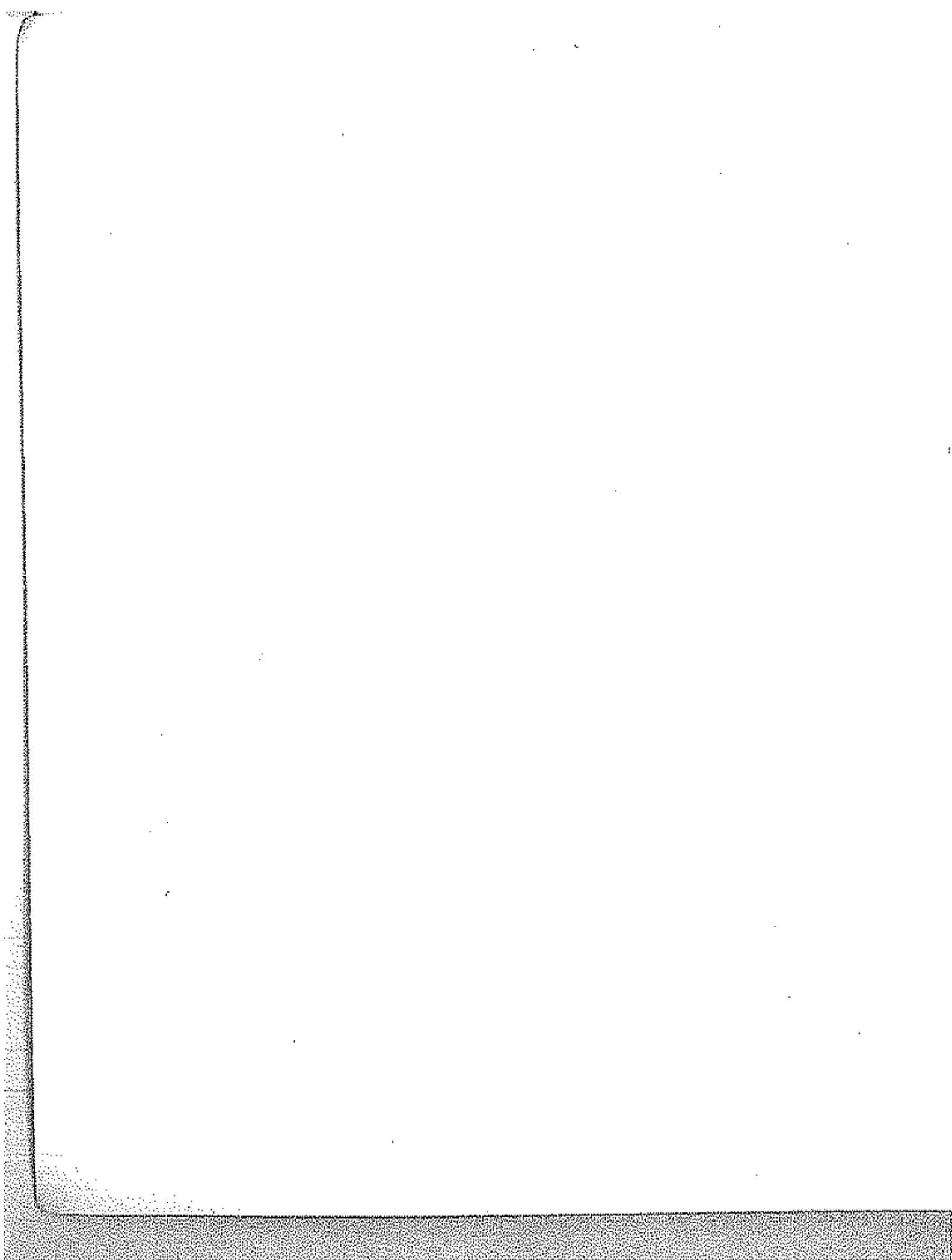
ROBERT C. LENHARD - PRESIDING JUDGE

DENNIS C. BUCKLEY

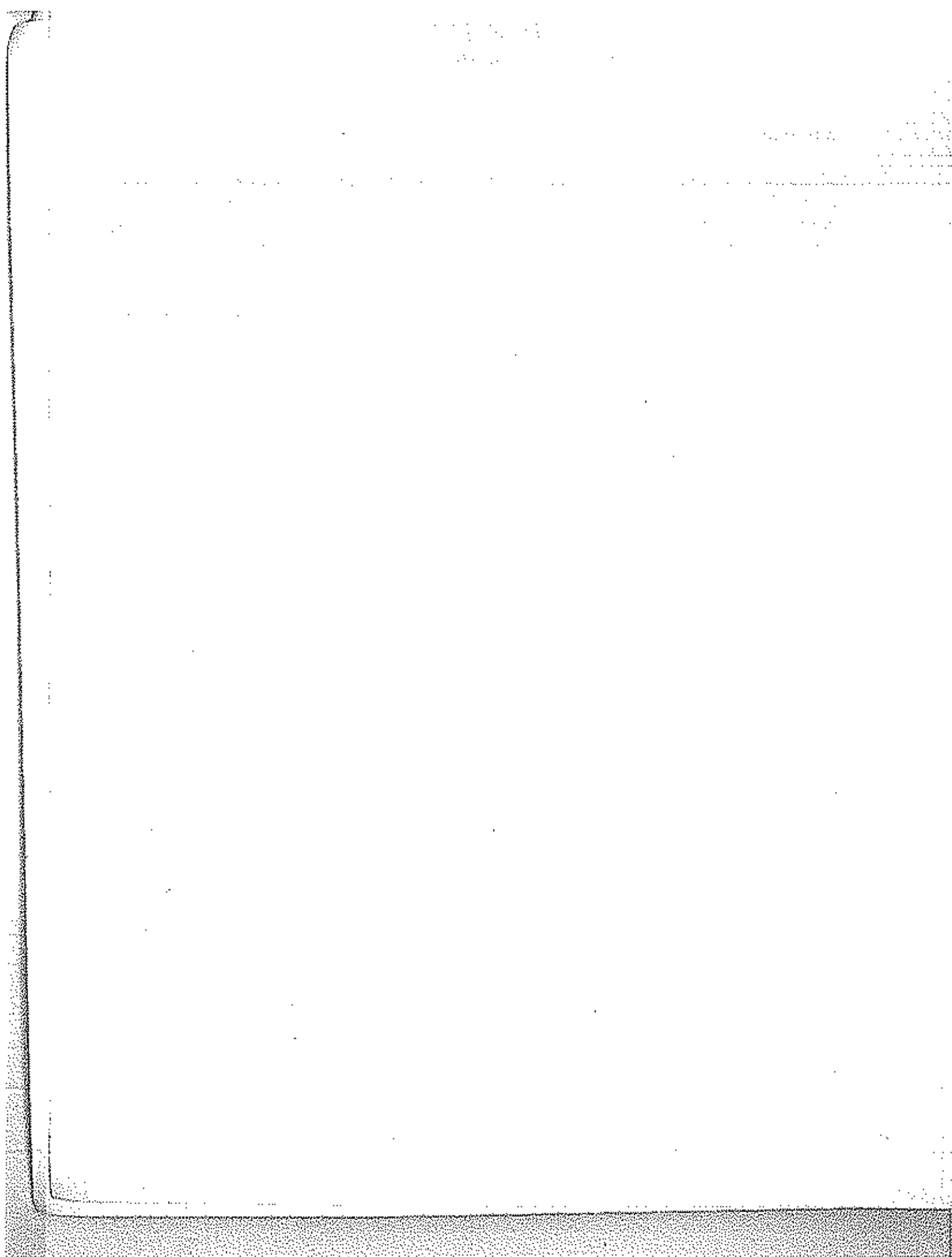
THOMAS P. MATHEWS

## GRAND JURY MEMBERS

GERALD (JERRY) ARNOLD - FOREMAN	WHEATLAND
DOTTIE ALASKIN	WHEATLAND
AL AMARO	MARYSVILLE
GORDON BOGUSCH	BROWNS VALLEY
BILL BRANUM	MARYSVILLE
KELLEY D. CARTER	MARYSVILLE
GLENN C. COCKRELL	MARYSVILLE
EMMETT (RAY) COOK	MARYSVILLE
BRENDA DeWOODY	MARYSVILLE
PAUL L. JOHNSON - SGT-AT-ARMS	OLIVEHURST
JERRY MILLER	MARYSVILLE
JOSEPH MOHR, JR.	MARYSVILLE
WM. (BILL) MORRIS	WHEATLAND
WM. (BOB) MULLINS - FOREMAN PRO-TEM	MARYSVILLE
BARBARA MAE MYERS	MARYSVILLE
JOHN E. PASK	MARYSVILLE
PATRICIA (PATTY) PHILLIPS - SECRETARY	MARYSVILLE
RENEE D. PROTHERO	MARYSVILLE
BYRON (BUD) SHANNON	MARYSVILLE



**CITY  
COMMITTEE**



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**CITY OF MARYSVILLE**

**Introduction:**

The City of Marysville was originally chartered in 1851 and is operated under the rules governing a "Charter City." It is administered by the City Administrator and five council members. The City Administrator acts as Chief Executive Officer, handles finance, personnel, purchasing, and city operations. 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 council members. The Vice-Mayor is responsible for Mayor Pro-Tem duties. Each of the council members are assigned by the Mayor to serve on various committees which oversee city operations. These appointments are approved by majority vote of the council.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**Findings:**

1. By unanimous vote of the City Council, the Interim Administrator was appointed as the City Administrator on January 30, 1992.
2. The organizational structure of the city is well aligned and serving the city's best interest.
3. Due to the recent appointment of an Administrator and subsequent reassignment of personnel, the job assignments no longer agree with the existing job descriptions.

**Recommendation:**

The City of Marysville list of "Job Descriptions" be updated to reflect any new positions or job assignments so as to be consistent with the actual required duties of the city employees.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: CITY COUNCIL**

**Introduction:**

The City Council is comprised of five members who are elected to serve four-year terms. Terms are staggered and elections alternated every two years to maintain experience on the Council. The City Council is charged with the administration of city business and overseeing the performance of the city officials.



### Findings:

1. All City expenditures are closely reviewed to assure fiscal responsibility.
2. Committee operations are working in the overall interest of the city.
3. Two members of the council and two members from the Yuba County Board of Supervisors serve together on a special liaison committee for any activities which may affect both agencies.
4. The City started printing a bi-monthly bulletin this year to keep the public informed about the ongoing improvements taking place within the city.
5. The City maintains three emergency dispatch centers: Police Department, Fire Department, and Department of Emergency Services.
6. There is discord among the Council members which is having an adverse effect in representing the best interest of the city.

### Recommendations:

1. The City should consolidate all dispatch centers to reduce costs and improve the time and quality of response.
2. That discord among the Council members be resolved within the open confines of Council chambers, not aired in the public media.

### Comment:

The best interest of Marysville cannot be served amid a back-drop of public bickering and internal dissention.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: MARYSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT

### Introduction:

The City of Marysville is actively involved in extensive redevelopment.

This activity is singularly responsible for more time and attention than any other of the Council's responsibilities.

### Findings:

1. The basic plan has been carefully prepared and thoroughly reviewed.
2. All pertinent documents, reference materials, surveys and input from local residents have been considered.

3. Many improvements of city streets and facilities have been initiated during the past year and many are now complete.
4. The Council is now in the process of obtaining finances and private sector participation.
5. The Mayor and a councilman are members of the Redevelopment Committee and serve to monitor ongoing activities and to keep the full Council apprised of current redevelopment status.

**Recommendation:**

That continued input from both local residents and outside investors be kept open by keeping the public aware of any changes in the plan and soliciting their input prior to finalizing any major decisions.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**CITY OF MARYSVILLE EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

The Department of Emergency Services is responsible for providing safety and care to the residents of Marysville in the event of a local disaster.

The manpower for this department is drawn from the Marysville Fire Department. The total allocated 1991 operating budget was \$25,131.00.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** SERVICES

**Findings:**

1. This department was formed this year (1991), the first year that the city has been able to provide this service.
2. All personnel receive special training and are required to maintain specific levels of expertise and state certifications.
3. Services to Marysville residents have been expanded and costs reduced through exchange agreements with neighboring communities.
4. Disaster plans have been prepared and reviewed by appropriate government agencies.
5. The use of the Fire Department dispatch center is provided to this department and the California Department of Forestry (C.D.F.) from Grass Valley provides back-up as needed.

**Recommendation:**

That the City consolidate all city operated dispatch centers to reduce overall costs and improve services.

**Comment:**

Consolidation is imperative if the city should ever decide to implement computer aided dispatch.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**CITY OF MARYSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

As a city agency, the Fire Chief reports to the City Administrator and the annual budget is determined by the City Council. The staff consists of a Fire Chief, 13 Firemen, ten Volunteer Firemen, one full time Clerical, and a part time Clerical. The department is fully self-contained and staffed 24 hours a day.

The Fire Department is responsible to provide fire and rescue services within the Marysville city limits and is also contracted to provide services to District 10, Hallwood, and adjacent outlying areas. In addition to the fire and rescue services, the Fire Department is also responsible to perform fire inspections in all public buildings on an annual basis.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: SERVICES AND OPERATIONS**

**Findings:**

1. Recent 911 updates have enhanced services and caller identification, resulting in:
  - A. Reduction in response time
  - B. A quick determination of the type of emergency
  - C. Reduction of false alarms due to caller tracing
2. The Department owns, operates, and maintains its own communications equipment in the dispatch center. Since the equipment is getting old and outdated, the department has included cellular telephones as a back-up system.
3. The Department has recently implemented a new Hazardous Materials Response Program via a state grant of \$47,000.00.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the City consolidate all communications equipment into a central dispatch for all city dispatching requirements which will result in:
  - A. Replacement and upgrading of equipment, as required
  - B. A reduction in annual operating costs
  - C. Elimination of duplication and possible confusion
  - D. Enhanced response of proper personnel for specific emergencies
2. That the City expand utilization of trained "Hazardous Materials" crew via contractual or reciprocal agreements with other outside agencies.

**Commendation:**

This Department should be commended for its exemplary accomplishments in its first year of operation.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**CITY OF WHEATLAND**

**Introduction:**

Wheatland is a general law city governed by a five member City Council.

The City employs a City Administrator, full time clerk, and part time clerk.

The Fire Department is voluntary and is comprised of a voluntary chief and 20 fire personnel. Support is available from neighboring departments, as needed.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: CITY GOVERNMENT**

**Findings:**

1. Salary levels are commensurate with communities of similar size and population.
2. A city employee retirement plan is being researched but is not affordable at this time.
3. A Specific Growth Plan (1995) has been adopted and a consultant has been contracted on an "as needed" basis to be responsible for the development and implementation of this plan.
4. The City Council has a good working relationship with Marysville but has ongoing problems working with Yuba County.

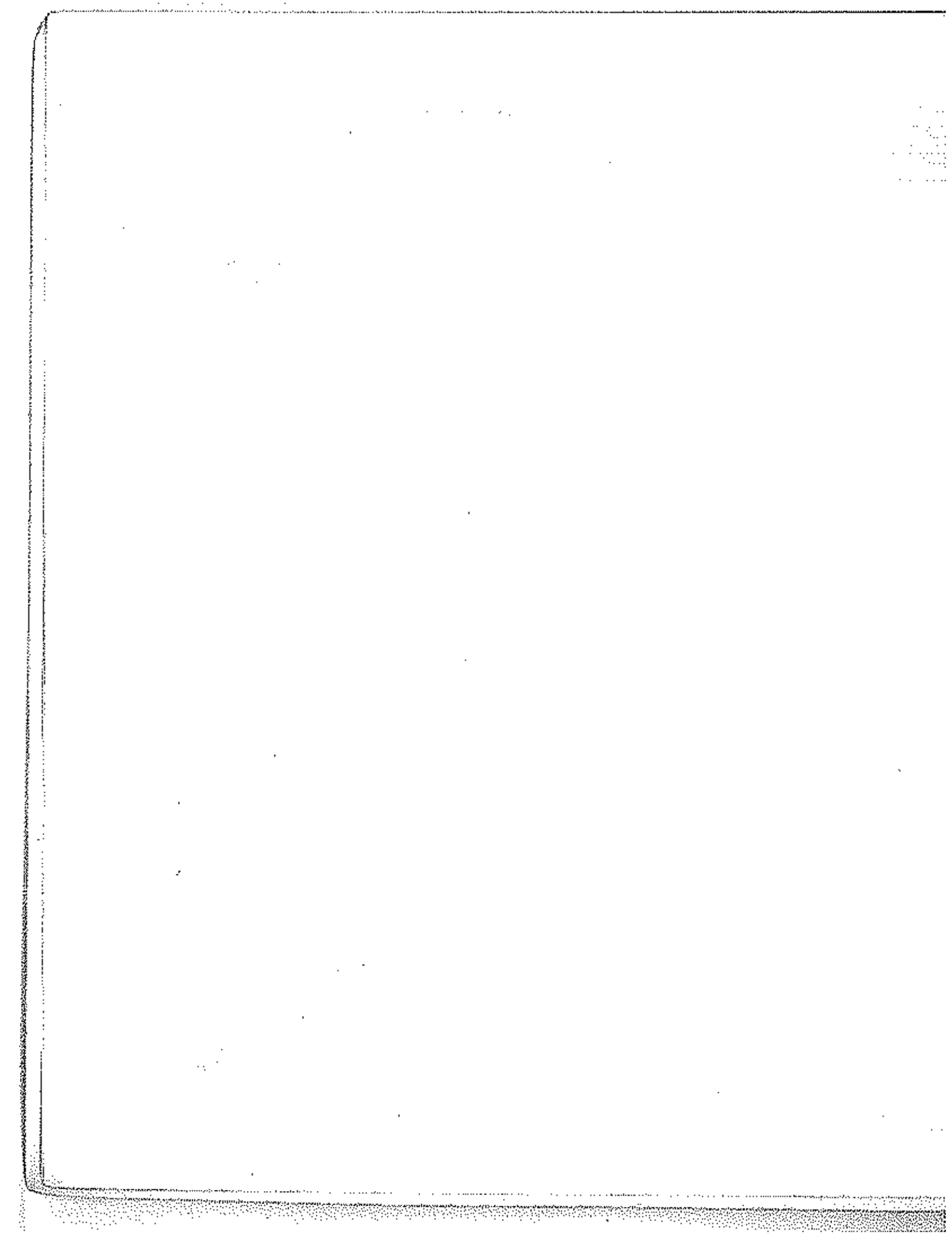
**Recommendations:**

1. The City should increase its efforts to provide a retirement plan for all city employees.
2. That the City Council resolve their communication problems with Yuba County.

**Comment:**

The best interest of the city can only be served through effective cooperation among all involved parties.

# COUNTY COMMITTEE



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**BOARD of SUPERVISORS**

**Introduction:**

The Board of Supervisors is the legislative and executive authority of the County. The entire legislative power of the County, except that reserved to the people by the initiative and referendum procedures, is vested in the Board of Supervisors. It exercises legislative functions in the enactment of County Ordinances.

The law provides that each County shall have a Board of Supervisors consisting of five members. A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. A majority of all the members must concur on any act of the board. An official act of the Board of Supervisors can only be performed in a regularly convened meeting. Individual board members have no power to act for the County merely because they are members of the Board of Supervisors.

The Government Code provides that the Board of Supervisors shall have various powers. Included in these are the following: supervise the official conduct of County officers and officers of all districts and other subdivisions of the County; direct the prosecution and defense of County litigation; make regulations governing its own procedure; do other acts required by law or which may be necessary to the full discharge of the legislative authority of the County government.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

**Findings:**

1. The Board of Supervisors establishes County policy through the adoption of resolutions and the enactment of County Ordinances at board meetings.
2. A resolution is a formal decision establishing policy of the Board of Supervisors, the legislative body of the County.
3. Resolutions adopted are vague in that they do not always assign which department(s) will be responsible to implement and to insure that County employees adhere to these policy statements.
4. There is no follow-up procedure to insure that County officials implement and that County employees adhere to these policy statements.
5. On January 2, 1980, in a legally convened meeting, the "YUBA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES MANUAL", by motion of the Board of Supervisors, was adopted as a County policy statement. The manual set Board administrative policy regarding, among others, such matters as Travel and Automotive Transportation. This manual was last revised and changes approved by the Board on February 18, 1992.



6. Section 921, of the manual, prior to revision, stated that, "a vehicle owned or maintained for the use or service of the County shall not be used for any purpose other than a County purpose or in or about the performance of a duty of a County official or employee."
7. Section 952, of the manual, prior to revision, stated that, "The authorization for a County employee to park a County vehicle at his/her home on an emergency stand-by basis is not intended to provide gratis use of the County vehicle and its fuel for transportation of the employee to and from the place of dwelling and the location of work."
8. Section 953, of the manual required that County employees reimburse the County of Yuba on a monthly basis at an established rate approved by the Board of Supervisors based on the mileage traveled between the point of work and the point of dwelling.
9. Section 954, of the manual stated that, "A County employee shall not be required to reimburse the County for any use of a County vehicle while being utilized for County business."
10. Section 955, stated that, "sections 952 and 953 do not affect vehicles under the direct control of the Sheriff's Department, or other vehicles specifically exempted by the Board of Supervisors."
11. There were no records available to show that any County vehicles were exempt from the requirement to reimburse the County.
12. The reimbursement rate for the use of County vehicles for other than County business was never established. Additionally, there are no records to indicate that reimbursement was ever made to the County between January 1980 and December 1991.
13. The recently revised manual no longer requires that monthly reimbursement be made by County employees to the County for the use of County vehicles based on the mileage traveled between the point of work and the point of dwelling.
14. An ordinance is a law or provision enacted by the Board of Supervisors for local application.
15. Ordinances were found to be out-dated. In some cases it was found that official's titles were changed, but the Ordinance was never updated to reflect the new titles of officials responsible to perform certain duties.
16. Some County officials were not aware that, because of their title changes, they were responsible to perform certain acts as required by County Ordinances.
17. Not all County Ordinances are being complied with nor are they being enforced.

### Recommendations:

1. That the Board of Supervisors cause the review of the procedures for the writing of resolutions (policy statements) to insure that policy statements are specific as to which County official is responsible for the implementation, and County employees are following the stated policy.
2. That in view of increasing budget constraints under which the County finds itself, the Board of Supervisors reinstate the policy that requires County employees to reimburse the County for the use of County vehicles, when not used for County business, in traveling to and from home and work.
3. That the Board of Supervisors cause the review of the procedures for making changes to County Ordinances to insure that department heads make timely recommendations to the County Counsel Office on changes to Ordinances of which they are cognizant.
4. That the Board cause the review of County Ordinances by cognizant department heads to insure compliance and enforcement in a timely judicious manner, and/or that changes be recommended and submitted where appropriate.
5. That the 1992-93 Grand Jury follow-up to insure that the policies as stated in the County Administrative Procedures Manual, have been implemented and are being followed.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: COUNTY SUPERVISORS TRAINING

#### Findings:

1. County Supervisors primary source of training is by attendance at seminars convened by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and orientation presentations by the County Administrator and County Department Heads.
2. CSAC, in the past, has conducted seminars in late November allowing newly elected Board members an opportunity to attend prior to taking office in January of the following year.
3. Yuba County makes available and authorizes attendance at the seminars for all Board members and, at times, the County Administrator and members of his staff that are in daily contact with members of the Board.
4. In the past, some incumbents, not reelected to the Board, have also been authorized to attend these seminars.

5. There is no County supervisors handbook or procedures manual, similar to that of the County Departments Supervisors Manual and the Grand Jury Handbook and Procedures Manual, that can be used by the County Supervisors as a ready reference.
6. That with the up coming County Supervisor elections to be held in November 1992, Yuba County could have three new Board members which would constitute a majority.
7. That not all Board members were fully aware of the Grand Jury process, the authority vested in the Grand Jury by state statutes and codes, and their responsibilities to the process.
8. That some Board members were not aware of their responsibilities, duties, and obligations incurred as sitting members of additional boards, councils, and commissions.
9. There is a need for more extensive orientation and training of new Board members, and supplemental training for incumbents.

Recommendations:

1. That the Board continue to authorize the attendance at the November CSAC seminars by newly elected and returning members of the Board.
2. That in the interest of conserving funds the Board not authorize incumbent members, not reelected, to attend the CSAC seminars.
3. That the board cause a County Board of Supervisors Handbook and Procedures Manual to be developed to serve as a ready reference for members of the Board.
4. That an orientation program for members of the Board be developed and presented by the various County department heads and members of the Grand Jury. That the orientation program include presentations by department heads on duties and responsibilities of the various boards, councils, and commissions in which they are knowledgeable.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**Introduction:**

The County Administrator (CA), under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, acts as the Administrative Office for the Board. He provides leadership to County departments and serves as the board's chief policy advisor on all administrative matters. Under the direction of the Board, he is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, controlling, and coordinating County activities. This includes serving in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors with respect to the functions of officials and boards not under their direct jurisdiction or control.

The CA is also responsible for coordinating the activities of all County departments, preparing and recommending to the Board the annual County budget. The CA acts as the Administrative Office for the Board to enforce all the directives of the Board not otherwise delegated by the Board.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

**Findings:**

1. Yuba County Ordinance Code Chapter 2,47 (revised), establishes the position of County Administrator and defines the nature, duties, and responsibilities of the position.
2. The CA acts as the administrative Office of the Board to enforce all directives and policies adopted by the board.
3. In January 1980, the Board adopted the "Yuba County Administrative Procedures Manual" which represents the Board's policy on County administrative procedures.
4. The policies stated in the above manual when implemented and followed can result in a more cost effective County operation.
5. Some department heads and employees were not aware of the Board's policies contained in this manual.
6. Not all policies of the Board as outlined in the procedures manual have been implemented nor are they being followed by County employees.
7. It is possible that some of the policies may or may not be implemented as there is insufficient documentation on which to make that determination.
8. The Administrative Procedures Manual was revised and adopted by the Board in February 1992.

9. As late as April 1992, some County employees were not aware of the revisions adopted by the Board.

Recommendations:

1. That the procedures presently in use to promulgate revisions and enforce compliance with Board policy be reviewed. That appropriate changes in the procedure be made to ensure that County employees are made aware of these revisions in a more timely manner and that established policy is being followed.
2. That as a minimum, any action requiring Board approval be recorded to verify that Board policy has been implemented.

AREA INVESTIGATED: INVESTIGATIONS

Findings:

1. Under Chapter 2.47.050(a), of the Code, the CA may make such investigations which he or she believes are necessary or desirable and shall make any study or investigation the Board requests.
2. Recently, the Board directed the CA to investigate a personnel matter and to report on his findings.
3. The CA has also been directed by the Board to conduct additional undercover investigations in the Social Services area.
4. These investigations have required that the CA at times conduct surveillance operations.
5. In order to effectively conduct these investigations, the CA concluded that unidentifiable (clear) plates on his permanently assigned County vehicle would be beneficial.
6. The DMV has an exempt program for the registration of County owned vehicles, where the County does not have to pay a registration fee.
7. The DMV under the exempt program, issues two types of vehicle plates, one with the recognizable "E" encircled in an octagon, the other is a clear plate similar to those issued to citizens of the state.
8. The request for clear plates, normally issued to undercover law enforcement officers, must be approved by the DMV upon receipt of proper justification.
9. The CA's vehicle, in order that it not be identified as a County vehicle by the "E" plates, was registered with the DMV outside of the exempt program requiring that a registration fee be paid.

### Recommendations:

1. In the interest of the most cost effective use of manpower, investigations requiring undercover surveillance and specially equipped vehicles, when possible be assigned to the appropriate County agencies.
2. That if investigations of the above nature continue to be assigned to the CA, the County avail itself of the DMV exempt program to preclude having to pay a vehicle registration fee.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

#### Findings:

1. Under Chapter 2.47.050(l), of the Code, the CA shall evaluate the on-the-job performance of each department head as directed by Board policy. The CA shall discuss the draft evaluation with the department head.
2. The 1990-91 Grand Jury addressed the subject of department head performance evaluations and concluded that written performance evaluations for department heads were needed.
3. Though Code chapter 2.47, addresses this subject, it does not state how often department head performance evaluations should be conducted.
4. There is no written procedure on how performance evaluations for department heads are to be conducted.
5. The County Personnel Department has developed and makes available a form PER 18A (DEPARTMENT HEAD PERFORMANCE EVALUATION) for the conduct of department head evaluations.
6. Some department heads that have been with the County for over five years have had only one performance evaluation during that time.
7. Some department heads have not had a performance evaluation in over two years and others have never had an evaluation.
8. The 1990-91 Grand Jury reported in its Final Report that department heads were not completing performance evaluations on employees in a timely manner and recommended that a formal procedure be drafted to assure the punctual completion of all employee performance evaluations.
9. The Board's response to the 1990-91 Grand Jury findings and recommendations was, "Failure on a department head's part to conduct evaluations in a timely manner may become a factor in the department head's own annual performance evaluation."

### Recommendations:

1. That procedures in place for the performance evaluation of County employees in Code chapter 3.05.190 be reviewed and that a similar procedure be developed to address department head evaluations.
2. That, in the interim, performance evaluations for department heads be conducted under the present system on an annual basis as per the Board's response to the 1990-91 Grand Jury Final Report.
3. That methods for the performance evaluation of the County Administrator be included in any procedures written and promulgated.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: GRAND JURY PROCESS

#### Findings:

1. Under Chapter 2.47.050(a), the CA shall coordinate the work of all elective and appointive County offices, departments, and institutions in such matters which are the concern and responsibility of the Board.
2. Each of the Board members expressed a desire and willingness to cooperate with all reasonable requests for public records by the Grand Jury and that, as policy, they expected as much from every employee of the County.
3. All Supervisors were in agreement that they expected to comply fully with Penal Code Section 933, which addresses the Boards responsibility in responding to the Grand Jury final reports.
4. Some of the records or documents delivered to the Grand Jury when requested, were found to be outdated and/or superseded.
5. Some departments hesitated to release documents to grand jurors because they judged jurors to be incapable of comprehending the language.
6. Full copies of the Grand Jury final reports have not always been available to all department heads.
7. Some Department heads receive only that portion of the final report which pertains to their department.
8. Up to and including 1988, responses prepared by department heads were forwarded as an attachment to the Supervisor's Grand Jury Final Report response submitted to the Presiding Judge.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the policy of the Board in responding to the Grand Jury process be conveyed to all employees of the County.
2. That in the interest of conserving the limited time of grand jurors, all reasonable requests for public records and documents be promptly addressed.
3. That all records or documents provided to the Grand Jury be the most up-to-date documents available.
4. That each department receive at least one copy of the entire Grand Jury Final Report and that department heads be encouraged to read the entire report.
5. That initial responses to the Grand Jury Final Report prepared by department heads be forwarded as an attachment to the Board's response submitted to the Presiding Judge.



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**COUNTY COUNSEL**

**Introduction:**

The County Counsel provides legal services to the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, and County Departments in the preparation of resolutions, ordinances, reports, contracts and in negotiations, civil litigation, administrative hearings, and in the preparation of Grand Jury Final Reports. County Counsel services also include preparation of formal opinions, provisions of advice to elected and appointed officials, and the undertaking of associated legal research.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE

**Findings:**

1. Chapters 1.05 through 1.30 of the Yuba County Ordinance Code describe how the Code is adopted, constructed, maintained, enforced, and published.
2. There are 39 copies of the Ordinance Code distributed to County departments and individuals.
3. Approximately 15% to 25% of the County Ordinance Code pages are revised every year.
4. There is no written procedure as to how revisions to the Code are to be assembled and distributed.
5. In the interest of cost effectiveness, revisions and additions to the Code are held from printing and distribution until a sufficient number are accumulated.
6. This method of issuing revisions has resulted in Ordinance Code Manuals being outdated by up to six months.
7. When revisions are distributed, instructions on how the revisions are to be entered are included with the updates.
8. Not all holders of the Code are entering the revisions that are received. Consequently, there are some copies of the Code that are not up to date.
9. The County Ordinance Code was reviewed in late 1991 by a consultant and a report on his findings and recommendations has been received by the County.

### Recommendations:

1. That the Ordinance Code be reviewed and updated.
2. That a procedure be written and implemented to insure that all copies are reviewed, updated, and maintained in a current status by individual Code holders.
3. That the 1992-93 Grand Jury follow-up on the findings and the implementation of the recommendations in the consultant's report.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: COUNTY COUNSEL OFFICE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

### Findings:

1. The County Counsel staff consists of the County Counsel, a Chief Deputy Counsel, two Deputy Counsels, and two Legal Secretaries.
2. The work load and different areas of law are distributed so as to provide for an efficient and effective response to the legal needs of the County.
3. The County Counsel and his staff are readily available to provide legal advice to the grand jurors on state laws and statutes, county ordinances and resolutions, and to provide judicial review of letters and reports.
4. A reading file is circulated to keep everyone in the office informed of incoming and out-going correspondence. The 1990-91 Grand Jury Final Report and the response to it were the exception as not everyone in the office read these documents.
5. Performance evaluations, which are a prerequisite to merit salary increases, promotions, and some disciplinary action, are not being conducted in a timely manner.
6. Job performance criteria on which to base the assessment of employee work performance, as required by the Merit System Ordinance (Chapter 3.05.190), have not been developed for the various staff positions.
7. Legal secretaries do not have an Office Procedures Manual to assist and guide them in the performance of their duties. Lack of a Procedures Manual has resulted in loss of productivity while instructing new employees and temporary help on how to perform tasks that could have been easily learned from a manual.

Recommendations:

1. That a reading file procedure be established to insure that the entire staff has an opportunity to read all documents and correspondence circulated.
2. That the department develop reasonable job performance criteria on which to base the assessment of employee work performance and that performance evaluations be conducted in a timely manner.
3. That an Office Procedures Manual be written to assist new employees and temporary help in quickly becoming productive members of the staff.

Commendation:

The County Counsel and his entire staff are commended for their professional and timely response to the many Grand Jury requests for interpretations of law and judicial review of letters and reports.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**GENERAL SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

The General Services Department is responsible for the centralized control and administration of internal services to all County departments. The functions include purchasing, stores and warehousing, mail and messenger services, telecommunications, and surplus property management and disposal. This department also administers the operation of a print shop which provides printing and photocopying services to County departments.

The Information Services unit of the General Services Department is responsible for coordinating all County automation, and provides technical assistance in planning, purchasing, installing, utilizing, and maintaining all County computer systems.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**      PRINT SHOP

**Findings:**

1. The 1990-91 Grand Jury, in its final report, listed findings and recommendations regarding "Health and Safety" in the print shop.
2. The 1990-91 Grand Jury recommended the print shop coordinate with the County Health Department to see if a ventilation system was needed to address the problem of poor ventilation.
3. The County in its response to the Grand Jury Final Report stated, "With respect to ventilation, a large exhaust fan has been installed, and is performing to the satisfaction of print shop personnel."
4. The response to the Grand Jury recommendations did not address whether the fan installed met the requirements of the County Health Department or standards of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.
5. The County Printer and the Department Head response, dated August 6, 1991, to the Grand Jury's recommendation stated, "As of this date a large exhaust fan with 1870 C.F.M. has been installed, is working, and should eliminate the airborne chemical smell and ventilation problem."
6. A professional survey has not been conducted to ascertain whether a ventilation problem exists in the print shop and if the installed fan is of the proper type and size.
7. The County Risk Manager, who is responsible for evaluating and minimizing risk, was not aware of a possible Health and Safety problem at the Print Shop. He was not aware that the 1990-91 Grand Jury had addressed this problem in its final report nor that the County had responded to the report.
8. Existing law requires every employer to furnish employment and places of employment which are safe and healthful for the employees therein.

### Recommendations:

1. That the County ascertain whether a ventilation problem exists in the County print shop and, if necessary, take the proper steps to insure a safe and healthful environment for print shop personnel.
2. That County procedures be reviewed and, if necessary, revised to insure that the Risk Manager is immediately apprised of possible health hazards in County workshops.
3. That the Division of Occupational Safety and Health standards for print shops be made available to Print Shop supervisory personnel.

### Comment:

Existing law permits the Division of Occupational Safety and Health to investigate any place of employment whenever the Division learns, or has reason to believe, that the place of employment is not safe or is injurious to the welfare of any employee. Existing law also requires the Division, upon request, to provide a full range of occupational safety and health consulting services to an employer or employee group.

### Commendation:

Print Shop personnel are commended for the actions taken in addressing the Grand Jury findings and recommendations. It is apparent, by their draft response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations, that serious consideration was given to the Grand Jury's concerns.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: INFORMATION SERVICES UNIT (ISU)

#### Findings:

1. This unit is staffed by the Data Processing Systems Coordinator, a Computer Systems Specialist, and a Program Analyst.
2. This unit is the focal point for County data processing needs and supports a variety of stand-alone data processing systems and the expansion of micro-computer applications throughout the County.
3. There is an established Data Processing Committee, consisting of approximately ten members, that makes all decisions and recommendations to the Personnel/Budgeting Committee and the Board of Supervisors on County data processing equipment and support personnel needs.
4. In response to a complaint, the Grand Jury found that some County departments question the size of the ISU staff and the unit's ability to properly support the County's data processing needs.

5. Three departments visited felt that they had lost considerable production time because the ISU was not able to respond to their requests for support in a timely manner.
6. Due to the large number of trouble calls received, and with only three support persons available, the ISU is not able to respond to all requests for support in a timely manner.
7. There is insufficient documentation to determine what areas of data processing (training, hardware, or software) generate the largest percentage of trouble calls.
8. The ISU has recently started using a Work Order system to more accurately record time spent when responding to trouble calls.
9. ISU staff indicated that they felt the majority of the trouble calls received were attributed to lack of operator training in the proper use of their systems and the associated software.
10. The County has directed the ISU Program Analyst to write programs. After writing these programs, a considerable amount of his time is required to debug the programs and to train operators in their use.
11. Due to the high demand for the Program Analyst's time, there is insufficient documentation of the programs which he has developed. This further compounds the need for his services in assisting and training operators in the use of these programs.
12. All ISU staff members are presently working an abnormal number of hours. Some members of the ISU staff have accumulated the maximum number of overtime and compensatory hours allowed.

Recommendations:

1. That the Board of Supervisors cause a detailed study be conducted to determine if the ISU staff size is adequate to support the present data processing needs of the County. That the study further address the impact on the County's ability to meet its obligations to the citizens of the County should any, or all of the present ISU staff elect to terminate their association with the County.
2. That the criteria, on which the Data Processing Committee based its recommendations for the present ISU staff size, be reviewed and, if necessary, revised to insure that the County is not placed in a position of having inadequate support for the existing and planned computer systems.
3. That the 1992-93 Grand Jury follow-up on the above findings and recommendations and that it also conduct an in depth study of the County's Data Processing Program.

Comment:

It is perceived by numerous County employees that some members of the Data Processing Committee and Board of Supervisors, as expressed in the complaint received by the Grand Jury, are not fully committed to establishing an adequately manned ISU. There is concern by the same County employees that some of the ISU staff are nearing burnout and may elect to terminate their association with the County. The Data Processing Systems Coordinator, by virtue of his educational background and position, is probably the most knowledgeable person on County staff in the area of data processing. It is because of his expertise and knowledge in this field that his recommendations on staff size be considered over those with less knowledge.

Commendation:

The General Services Director and his staff, particularly the ISU staff, are commended for their efforts and many long hours worked in addressing the data processing needs of their fellow County employees. Their efforts and the conditions under which they have been asked to work, have not gone unnoticed by those they have served. It is through efforts such as these that others are better able to serve the citizens of Yuba County.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

It is the mission of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to coordinate planning and implementation of the County's disaster preparedness and Civil Defense Programs to protect public health and safety through the enforcement of state and County mandated programs. The OES has the responsibility to implement and operate three independent and separate programs.

The first program is the integrated management of emergency services, prior to, during, and after a large scale emergency occurs.

The second program is the Hazardous Materials Program, also known as AB 2185/2187/2189. This program deals with training and product identification, safety, environmental issues, investigative procedures, and lab sampling of hazardous materials.

The third program is the Underground Storage Tank Program, also known as the Sher Bill (AB 1362). The Sher Bill calls for the local implementing agency to identify existing tanks within their jurisdiction and establish a permitting process.

The Office of Emergency Services is staffed by the Director of Emergency Services (DOES), two Hazardous Materials Specialists, and one Secretary.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:    DISASTER COUNCIL**

**Findings:**

1. The Board of Supervisors in May 1971, adopted the Disaster Council Ordinance (Chapter 4.20 of the Ordinance Code).
2. The purpose of the Ordinance is to provide for the preparation and carrying out of developed plans for the protection of persons and property within the County in the event of an emergency.
3. The Ordinance establishes the office of Director of Emergency Services (DOES), the Director to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The present Director was appointed after the 1986 flood.
4. The Ordinance also established the office of Assistant Director of Emergency Services (ADOES) to be appointed by the DOES.
5. Funds have never been allocated for the position of ADOES in the County budget, consequently, no one has been appointed to this position.



6. As the appointment of the ADOES is not in writing, confusion exists as to who fills this position and who assumes the responsibilities of this office.
7. In the OES Program Description, it states, "The County Administrator is designated by County Ordinance as the Assistant OES Director and assumes the role of Director when the Program Manager is not available."
8. The above statement is interpreted by some to mean that the County Administrator is first in succession to the position of DOES and not that he is the Assistant Director.
9. The DOES under the Ordinance is also tasked to designate the order of succession to that office, to take effect in the event the director is unavailable to attend meetings and otherwise perform his duties in the event of an emergency. Said order of succession is to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.
10. As the order of succession to the office of DOES is not in writing, there is confusion as to who is next in the order of succession to the office of DOES.
11. The Disaster Council Ordinance further establishes who shall sit as chairman and members of the Council.
12. The Council, as part of its duties and responsibilities, is to develop and recommend for adoption by the Board of Supervisors, emergency and mutual aid plans and agreements, and such Ordinances or resolutions as are necessary to implement such plans or agreements.
13. The Disaster Council shall meet on the call of the Chairman or, in his absence from the County or inability to call such a meeting, on call of the Vice Chairman.
14. There are no records or minutes of meetings to indicate that the Council has ever met or that the membership of the Council has ever been established.
15. That though the Disaster Council has not met to develop plans to respond to a declared emergency as required by the County Ordinance, the OES staff has developed the plans necessary to respond to a declared emergency.
16. That in mid March of 1992, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors directed the DOES to review the Disaster Council Ordinance and make appropriate recommendations to insure compliance and/or revisions to provide the best possible protection to persons and property in the County.

### Recommendations:

1. That the DOES establish the order of succession to his office as an interim measure, while carrying out the directions of the Board and while the revised Ordinance is going through the judicial review and legislative functions process.
2. That the Disaster Council meet at the earliest opportunity to insure that higher priority sections of the existing Ordinance are being addressed, thereby providing the best possible protection to persons and property in the County.
3. That the 1992-93 Grand Jury follow-up to insure that the revised Disaster Council Ordinance has been implemented.

### Comment:

It is perceived that the Director of OES is one of the most, if not the most, knowledgeable person in the County in the area of emergency services. That by virtue of his position he keeps himself current on the latest techniques and changes in the emergency services field. In view of this, it follows that County officials would seek his advice in this area and allow him to appoint or designate those persons whom he deems to be best qualified for the positions of Assistant Director and who is to succeed him in his absence. Self appointment and appointments made by other County officials serve no useful purpose and can only detract from the effectiveness of this department.

### Commendation:

The Director of OES and his staff are commended for their exhibited loyalty to the citizens of the County by taking the initiative and developing the necessary plans and procedures to enable the County to provide some protection to persons and property in the County. It is through this type of performance that employees of the County earn the respect and admiration of the citizens whom they serve.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: OES COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

#### Findings:

1. While investigating a citizen's complaint in November of 1991, the Grand Jury found that the Office of Emergency Services (OES) had two hand-held radios for use at the OES site and the mobile unit for use at the emergency site for responding to a proclaimed emergency.
2. The OES was relocated to the present 14th Street location because of the planned courthouse remodeling.
3. Prior to the relocation and while at the courthouse, the OES had the use of its base station radio equipment and the antennas located on the roof of the courthouse, and was, therefore, able to adequately meet its radio communication requirements.

4. As early as November 1990, the DOES communicated to the appropriate County officials that careful consideration be given to site preparation prior to relocating the OES. This communication specifically addressed the base station radio equipment and associated antenna tower.
5. The OES was moved before the required radio antennas and supporting tower were installed at the new site.
6. The OES has been without base station radio communications since May 1991, for lack of the proper antennas and supporting tower.
7. During the above time, the OES has had two hand-held radio units as replacements for its base station. Although these units were recommended because of tests conducted by a vendor, they lacked the necessary range for all-points communications to a base station. These units, because of their low power output, were never intended as a primary means of communications.
8. In November 1991, the OES staff began work on obtaining the necessary tower and antennas to support the base station equipment.
9. In March 1992, the Board transferred and made available the funds to purchase the necessary tower and antennas.
10. Resolution of this matter was deferred until consideration could be given on options to meet the communication needs of all County departments.
11. The matter of the base station equipment was to be resolved by April 1992, when the installation of the tower and antennas was to be completed and the equipment tested satisfactorily.

**Recommendations:**

1. That in the future, more careful consideration be given to the concerns expressed by department heads in areas which, by virtue of their appointment, have demonstrated their expertise in their field, and base their recommendations on sound judgement and input from their staff.
2. That the 1992-93 Grand Jury follow-up on this matter to ensure that the OES has the proper equipment to more readily respond to declared disasters.

**Commendation:**

The Staff of Emergency Services is commended for their candor in answering all inquiries regarding the complaint in question. Their personal concern and initiative demonstrated in attempting to rectify the situation with the limited resources available is also worthy of note.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

**Findings:**

1. Yuba County Ordinance Chapter 7.08 was enacted by the Board of Supervisors in response to the Sher Bill (AB 1362) and establishes the Emergency Services Department, meaning the Office of Emergency Services (OES), as the department responsible for administration and enforcing this chapter.
2. The Ordinance establishes the procedures pertaining to the application for permits, the terms and fees for the operation, and ownership of underground storage tanks.
3. The Ordinance further outlines the responsibilities for the operation, testing, and abandonment of underground storage tanks.
4. Civil penalties to be assessed against operators that are found to be in violation of the Ordinance are also addressed in this chapter of the Code.
5. Though the Emergency Services Department is charged with the enforcement of this chapter of the Code, the enforcement powers of the department are limited to the issuing of citations to those operators found not to be in compliance with the Code.
6. Any further enforcement of the Code and citations issued by the OES then rests with the Office of the District Attorney and the Courts.
7. The 1989-90 Grand Jury reported in their final report that 20 facilities had not submitted applications for a permit to operate as required by the Code.
8. The same Grand Jury recommended that the County take the necessary steps to bring all tank facilities into compliance with the state law and the County Ordinance, which was adopted in September 1986. All facilities were to have permits by June 1988.
9. The 1989-90 Grand Jury further recommended that, in the interest of health, the Board of Supervisors establish priorities for compliance with the existing law and Ordinance.
10. Some operators found to be in violation of the state law and County Ordinance by the 1989-90 Grand Jury are still not in compliance.
11. The OES, to date, has met its Code enforcement responsibilities.
12. Further enforcement of the Code on operators who are still not in compliance now rests with the Office of the District Attorney and the Courts.

13. Section 2620(a) of the California Underground Storage Tank Regulations states, "The regulations in this chapter are intended to protect waters of the State from discharges of hazardous substances from underground storage tanks."
14. Section 25299 of the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.7, addresses the actions specific officials and the courts may take against underground storage tank operators not in compliance with state and County Codes.

**Recommendations:**

1. That in the interest of protecting ground waters and thereby insuring the health and safety of citizens of the County, the Board of Supervisors cause that the current enforcement procedures be reviewed, revised, and implemented to resolve the long standing problem of operators not in compliance.
2. That the revised enforcement procedures specifically outline the steps to be taken and by whom, so that the end results will be a more timely resolution of cases not in compliance.
3. That the Board investigate the legality of declaring it to be an unlawful act to be in non-compliance with certain sections of this Ordinance and, if finding it legal to do so, revise the Ordinance accordingly.

**Commendation:**

Again, the OES staff is to be commended for its outstanding performance, dedication to the people who they serve, and certainly for their perseverance in attempting to solve a long standing problem. This department is well organized, constantly displays a high level of morale, and is highly enthusiastic. The department has an excellent set of files with all actions carefully documented and easily retrievable.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**PERSONNEL/RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Personnel Director is responsible for the administration and supervision of the personnel office functions and programs. He is the chief negotiator for the County in the "meet" and "confer" process with employee organizations. The Personnel Director is the official record keeper for personnel files on all County employees. This includes merit increases, pay raises, classification changes, demotions, promotions, and performance evaluations.

In addition to personnel management functions, as Risk Manager, he is responsible for the County Risk Management functions. This includes evaluating and minimizing risk and administering the insurance plans designed to economically protect the County in the event of loss.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:    OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

**Findings:**

1. Senate Bill 198 (SB 198, B. Greene Bill) required that every employer establish, implement, and maintain an effective written injury prevention program including specified elements and to provide specified training of employees in general safe and healthy work practices.
2. SB 198 was signed into law in October 1989, and required that the injury prevention program be fully implemented by July 1991.
3. Prior to passage of SB 198, the County had in effect a health and safety program.
4. SB 198 being the most comprehensive on-the-job safety legislation in many years, created many new requirements, revisions, and additions to the existing County Health and Safety Program.
5. In order to meet the requirements of SB 198, one of the department's Personnel Analysts has been assigned as a full time Safety Officer.
6. In December 1991, the Board of Supervisors adopted by resolution an amendment to Article Twenty-one of County Resolution 1989-140. This amendment relates to the "Injury and Illness Prevention Program" and the requirements of SB 198.
7. The new program provides the guidelines and specifies the responsibilities of all County employees from the Board of Supervisors to the newest employee. The implementation of this program continues to be an ongoing process.

### Recommendations:

1. That all appointed and elected officials, to include the Board of Supervisors, continue to support and fully commit themselves to the full and timely implementation of this program.
2. That the 1992-93 Grand Jury follow-up on this program to insure that the full implementation of the program is achieved.

### Comment:

Though this program was not fully implemented by July 1991, as required by SB 198, the program developed and now in the process of being implemented is considered to be worth the delay. A more hastily developed and implemented program meeting the July 1991 deadline may not have been in the best interest of the County.

### Commendation:

The Personnel/Risk Management Department and all County employees that have worked in the formulation and implementation of this comprehensive program, are to be commended. Their diligence toward this effort and the many hours which they have put into this task, have not gone unnoticed.

### AREA INVESTIGATED: PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

#### Findings:

1. County Ordinance chapter 3.05, adopted by the Board of Supervisors, established a merit system for the County.
2. The provisions of this chapter apply to all employees of the County.
3. The Personnel Director is responsible for the administration of this chapter.
4. Section 3.05.130 of this chapter provides the procedures for employee salary adjustment based on merit.
5. Section 3.05.130.2(a) states that an employee shall be advanced to the next higher step of his/her salary range provided the employee receives an acceptable evaluation of job performance and his/her job development meets department standards.
6. The appointing authority or department head shall develop reasonable job performance criteria on which to base the assessment of employee work performance and to determine work performance standards.
7. Most County departments have developed job standards, copies of which are in the master file in the Personnel Office.

8. Not all departments have developed reasonable job performance criteria on which to base the assessment of employee work performance.
9. The appointing authority or department head shall complete the evaluation of performance on a form authorized by the Personnel Director. The evaluation form is to be submitted to the Personnel Director at least 20 days prior to the employee's anniversary date.
10. Department heads are now submitting timely performance evaluation for employees until they reach the highest step in their salary range, commonly referred to as the "E" step.
11. Performance evaluations are also considered in defining ability in cases of lay-off, demotion and displacement in lieu of lay-off, and disciplinary action.

Recommendations:

1. That the Personnel Director continue to follow-up to ensure that appointing authorities and department heads continue to develop work performance standards and reasonable job performance criteria on which to base the assessment of employee work performance.
2. That the Personnel Department continue to follow-up to ensure the department heads are submitting performance evaluations for all permanent employees on an annual basis and in a timely manner.

Commendation:

The Personnel Department staff is to be commended for the initiation of a procedure to insure compliance of the timely submission of employee performance evaluations by department heads. The follow-up procedure initiated has resulted in all performance evaluations now being submitted 20 days prior to the employee's anniversary date as required by the Merit System Ordinance.



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

The Planning and Building Services Department controls and coordinates the development and location of housing, commercial and industrial activity within the County. The Department analyzes economic and demographic information and trends, and develops plans for the County to respond to current and projected development throughout the County.

This Department provides technical staff support and policy guidance to the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, the Local Agency Formation Commission, and other County departments involved in decisions regarding land use, development, and conservation in the County.

In addition, this Department is allocated County funds to support inspection and enforcement activities to insure the safety, durability, convenience, and energy efficiency of all new construction within the unincorporated areas of the County.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**    **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS**

**Findings:**

1. County Ordinance Chapter 12.10 addresses the administration and enforcement of Conditional Use Permits (CUP's) for the use of land in the County.
2. The Ordinance presently in use by the County states, "This Ordinance shall be administered by the Community Services Director." The title of Community Services Director was changed to Planning and Building Director on December 3, 1985.
3. Ordinance Code Chapter 12.10 has never been revised to reflect this change in title.
4. Copies of some CUP's requested were not available. Copies of Planning Commission meeting minutes were made available in lieu of the requested permits.
5. Documentation made available to the Grand Jury in late 1991, verified that a permittee was still operating under a permit that had expired in July of 1990.
6. According to department personnel, this same permittee had consistently been in non-compliance under another CUP and had continued his operations.
7. The same CUP permittee has been allowed to continue operations while consistently not in compliance with State environmental health statutes.

8. Enforcement proceedings have been ongoing on this particular permittee for over a year, with resolution of this matter now expected in 1992.
9. Section 12.10.270 of the Code allows for the revocation of CUP's when, in the opinion of the Community Services Director (Planning and Building Director), the conditions of the CUP are not being complied with.

**Recommendations:**

1. That all ordinance chapters, applicable to the Planning and Building Department, be reviewed by department personnel. That recommended revisions insure that the Code reflects the existing organization and procedures, be submitted to the County Counsel to bring the Code up to date.
2. That the procedures for documenting and tracking of CUP's be reviewed, revised, and implemented to insure that operators are in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Ordinance.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: BUILDING PERMIT COUNTER PERSONNEL**

**Findings:**

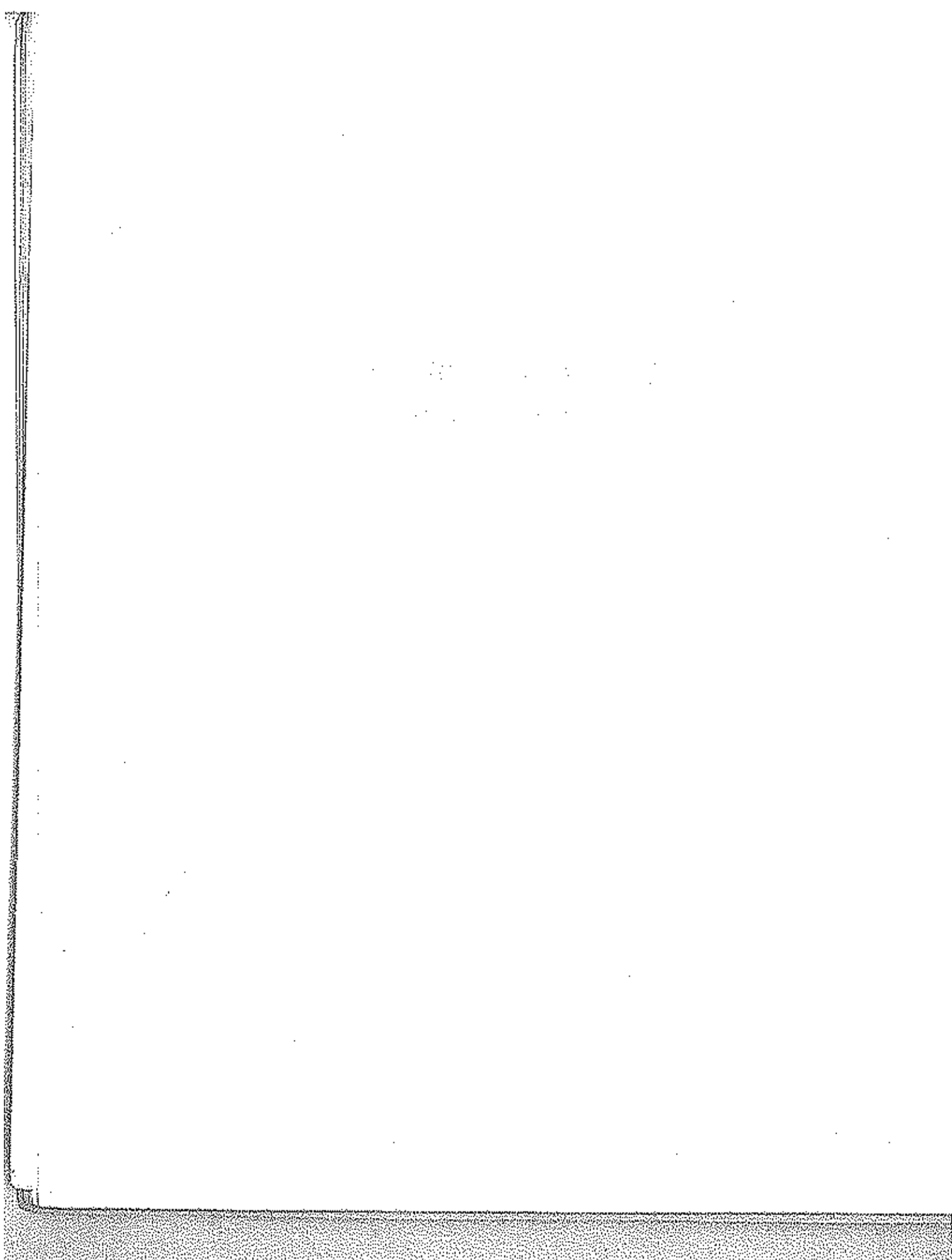
1. Some County officials expressed their concern to the Grand Jury of the conduct of Building Inspectors when dealing with building permit applicants.
2. A random survey conducted of 30 building permit applicants revealed that 90% of those responding to the survey were completely satisfied and felt they were treated fairly by Planning and Building Services personnel.
3. One respondent was dissatisfied with the high cost of mitigation and impact fees, but was fairly satisfied with the conduct of the department personnel.
4. Sixty percent of those responding to the survey were not aware of the Building Board of Appeals and its function.
5. The majority of the respondents felt that permits were approved in a timely manner. One respondent who had applied for and received several permits, thought 60 days was too long a period for approval of a permit.

**Recommendation:**

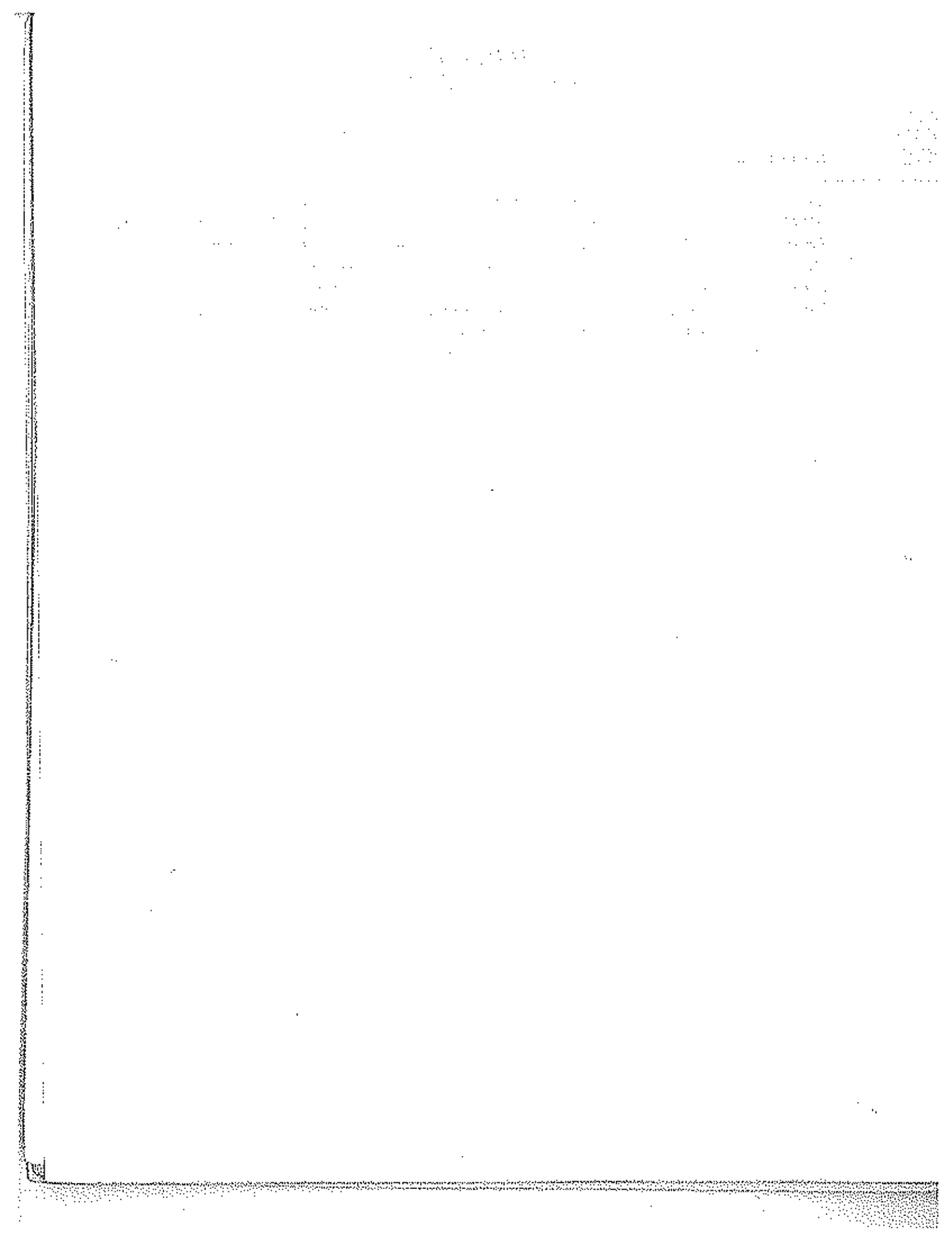
That the Deputy Director of Building continue to follow-up on the performance of personnel to ensure that Building Inspectors and other counter personnel continue to provide quality and courteous service to the citizens of the County.

**Commendation:**

The Deputy Director of Building and personnel under his supervision are commended for their performance and the level of service that they are providing to citizens of the County.



**COURT AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
COMMITTEE**



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL**

**Introduction:**

Yuba County Animal Control operates on an annual budget of approximately \$220,000.00. The personnel consists of one Department Head, five Animal Control Officers, one clerk, two kennel attendants, and on occasion trustees from Yuba County Jail. In 1990, the City of Marysville was absorbed into the Department's district. There has been a 23-24% increase in volume since that time. The City of Marysville receives a percentage of the license fees from this increased volume. The Department offers a Spay/Neuter Program. If an animal is spayed or neutered within a year from adoption from the Department and the owner provides documented proof of the operation, the owner will receive \$35.00 toward the cost of the operation.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** FACILITY

**Findings:**

1. The facility has greatly improved over the past few years. Since the annexation of the Marysville City Shelter in 1991, the work load has increased 24%.
2. An addition of six more runs has been constructed.
3. The older runs have paint chipping from the concrete walls. In addition, a gutter leading to a drain in the floor does not drain properly. The exposed concrete absorbs the animal waste and moisture, causing fungus and bacteria to spread and resulting in an unhealthy environment.
4. Outside the facility there is no lighting on the sides or rear of the kennel.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the older runs be repainted.
2. That adequate lighting be installed at the sides and rear of the kennel. This would reduce the possibility of vandalism and the risk of injury to personnel.
3. That the concrete floor drainage be repaired to allow water to drain properly.

**Commendation:**

The facility is clean and odor free, excepting the above noted drain.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**BI-COUNTY JUVENILE HALL**

**Introduction:**

The Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall is the only bi-county juvenile detention facility in the state. It is a partnership between the counties of Yuba and Sutter, operated pursuant to a joint powers agreement established in 1975. It is interesting to note that within the last two years, the multi-county regional center concept, which has been in place in the bi-county area for approximately 14 years, is being put forth by the State as the preferred, most cost-efficient means of meeting local juvenile correctional needs.

The Bi-County Juvenile Hall is administered by the Chief Probation Officer of Yuba County, with the Superintendent being responsible for the daily operations of the facility.

The Bi-County Juvenile Hall Committee is composed of two members of each County's Board of Supervisors, the County Administrators, and Chief Probation Officers of both counties, and the Facility Superintendent. The Committee meets quarterly to set policy, approve the budgetary pro-rata fiscal percentages, and oversee the general operation of the facility.

Educational services are administered by the Yuba County Superintendent of Schools, and health services by the Yuba County Health Department and General Clinic. Mental health services are provided in the facility by staff of the Bi-County Mental Health Department.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**      FACILITY

**Findings:**

1. The facility is antiquated, but has modern surveillance equipment which serves the purpose of both security and safety for the youths.
2. The facility consists of a large dining area, clean showers, a small library, and each cell is painted with a theme or pleasant outdoor scene.
3. Educational classes are held in a portable classroom on the grounds.
4. Students are taught to their individual educational levels.
5. There is concern for the need of a maximum security wing. A youth held in juvenile hall for adult crimes is not separated from youths detained for lesser offenses.

**Recommendation:**

That a separate maximum security area be provided.

**Comment:**

The staff personnel of the Bi-County Juvenile Hall are well trained and conduct themselves in a professional manner, yet show deep concern for their charges.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**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 absentee parents who fail to meet family support obligations.

The Family Support Division represents children in legal actions connected with determination of paternity, child support obligations, and enforcement and distribution of child and spousal support payments.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** STAFFING AND OFFICE SPACE

**Findings:**

1. Additional personnel in the Criminal Division are required to help meet the current and projected work load.
2. The inadequate space in the District Attorney's office still remains a limiting factor to the hiring of additional personnel.

**Recommendations:**

1. Additional staff members be hired.
2. Adequate office space needs to be provided to allow for additional personnel.
3. The final plans for the Courthouse building renovation be reviewed by the District Attorney and Board of Supervisors to assure that the needed space be provided.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** COMPUTERS

**Finding:**

The new computer system is still not completely operational. System start-up began in August of 1991 and is not yet fully operational.

**Recommendation:**

That the District Attorney's Office coordinate with the County's Data Processing Committee to assure that the computer system is fully operational and the personnel be fully trained to meet the District Attorney's Office needs.



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**JUVENILE TRAFFIC COURT**

**Introduction:**

Juvenile Traffic Court is held in the Yuba County Courthouse in association with Superior Court. Juvenile traffic offenders are seen in this court by a Hearing Officer, who is also an appointed Deputy Probation Officer. Matters heard in this court, other than traffic violations, are curfew violations, vandalism, graffiti, and fish and game offenses. The Hearing Officer is authorized the use of any number of actions against an offender such as suspension or revocation of licenses, fines, community services, traffic school, counseling, probation, or referral to the juvenile division of Superior Court.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** OFFICE SPACE

**Findings:**

1. Juvenile Traffic Court handles approximately 1,000 cases a year.
2. These cases are tried in a small office in the Yuba County Courthouse, which is also limited in space due to boxes of files being stored there.

**Recommendation:**

That adequate space be provided for the traffic court in the remodeling plans of the courthouse.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** CLERICAL STAFF

**Finding:**

No clerical staff is provided for the Juvenile Traffic Court.

**Recommendation:**

Clerical staff of the Yuba County Courthouse should be extended to the traffic court as is necessary.

**Comment:**

With the projected future growth of population in Yuba County, there will be an increase in case load for the Juvenile Traffic Court.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**MARYSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Marysville Police Department is responsible for providing law enforcement of the City of Marysville. The Department's sworn personnel consists of one Chief of police, one Captain, four Sergeants, four Corporals, and 13 Police Officers. Non-sworn personnel consist of one Administrative Division Manager, one Records/Communications Supervisor, one Secretary/Stenographer, six Communications Operators, and two Police Support Aides. The organizational structure of the department is as follows:

1. Chief of Police
2. Secretary/Staff Aide
3. Operations Division
4. Investigations
5. Enforcement
6. Administrative Division

**AREA INVESTIGATED: BOOKING FEES**

**Findings:**

1. Bookings have dropped drastically since the imposing of booking fees in January of 1991.
2. Arresting officers must now be cognizant of booking fees when they make an arrest.

**Recommendation:**

That an alternative solution be explored.

**AREA INVESTIGATED: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1990-91 GRAND JURY**

**Finding:**

The recommendations regarding Police Support Aides made by the 1990-91 Grand Jury have not been addressed or met as of this report.

**Recommendation:**

That the vacant Police Support Aide position be filled.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**MUNICIPAL COURT**

**Introduction:**

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

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**    COMPUTERS

**Findings:**

1.    The only available computer program at this time is Word Perfect (program used for word processing).
2.    The County has contracted to purchase AGS software and anticipates installation in the near future.
3.    The County has purchased additional hardware to support the AGS system to allow interdepartmental usage.
4.    The storage of case files at various locations in the Court House is a problem for security of confidentiality and takes space that is already limited. When a case file is needed, it is time consuming and difficult to find.

**Recommendations:**

1.    That the Court coordinate with the County's Data Processing Committee to assure that the Court's computer system is fully operational and personnel be fully trained to meet the Court's needs.
2.    That the files be stored in an orderly and easily accessible manner in a secured area.
3.    That the 1992-93 Grand Jury consider this as an item for review.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**WHEATLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Wheatland Police Department provides law enforcement for the City of Wheatland. The personnel consists of one Chief of Police, one Captain, four Police Officers, five Reserve Officers, and one Dispatcher/Secretary.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** GENERAL OPERATIONS

**Findings:**

1. The City of Wheatland Police Department has hired an additional full time police officer and one reserve officer, thereby increasing the staff to eight full time officers and four reservists.
2. The City has provided a medical plan.
3. The City purchased a new squad car equipped with radar and video camera.
4. The Police Department and City Administration are communicating and striving to enable the Police Department to expand as the community grows.

**Recommendation:**

None.

YUBA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92  
YUBA COUNTY JAIL

Introduction:

The Yuba County Jail is administered by the Yuba County Sheriff's Department under the supervision of the Special Services Division. The jail house both male and female inmates. The majority of the population are felon violators. Few misdemeanants are detained due to space shortages. Inmates are provided with work furlough programs, trusty programs, medical services, food services, and two law libraries. Plans for renovation of the Courthouse and jail will allow space to house both felons and misdemeanants.

AREA INVESTIGATED:   ESCAPE RISK

Finding:

There have been no escapes since repairs and improvements were made in the problem areas of the jail facilities.

Recommendation:

None.

AREA INVESTIGATED:   LAW LIBRARY

Finding:

Some inmates wishing to use the law library for reading and research purposes are bothered by other inmates who choose to socialize rather than study. A holding room has been converted into an extra library and inmates may use this room when they wish to do reading or research in private. This room is also used as a holding room, as well as a room for inmate/lawyer consultation. However, the room is prioritized as a law library.

Recommendation:

That the remodeling plans provide space for a law library that will provide a quiet environment for study, reading, and research.

Comment:

The staff of the Yuba County Jail has gone to great lengths to insure that Title 15.1064, the fundamental constitutional right to access to a court library, is upheld for each and every inmate of that facility.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**YUBA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Yuba County Probation Department is a functional unit of the County justice system. This Department investigates and prepares reports for the Superior, Municipal, Civil, and Juvenile Courts. The Department enforces court orders by use of the following services and programs:

1. Field Service Unit
2. Informal Probation
3. County Drug Impact Program
4. Adult/Juvenile Offender Work Program
5. Community Service Work
6. Juvenile Community Service Work Program
7. Recovery/Collections

The Yuba County Probation Department provides youth detention at Bi-County Juvenile Hall or Non-Secure Detention as required by law. The Department also provides the following community services:

1. Youth Project
2. Truancy Program
3. Probation and Schools Assistance
4. Victim/Witness Assistance Program

**AREA INVESTIGATED: REVENUE RECOVERY/COLLECTION**

**Finding:**

Recovery and collection of fees, fines, and restitutions as ordered by the court, or pursuant to contracted agreement, is conducted by one Revenue and Recovery Officer and one Account Clerk. This unit has proven to be successful in the collection of revenues well above budget.

**Recommendation:**

None.

**Comment:**

The success of the Recovery and Collection Unit insures the continued operation and justifies the programs it administers.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**YUBA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The Yuba County Sheriff's Department is responsible for providing law enforcement for unincorporated areas in the County with the exception of the military installation of Beale Air Force Base. The Department consists of several divisions, such as the Detective, Operations, and Special Services Divisions. Traffic accidents and traffic law enforcement are provided by the California Highway Patrol.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** BOOKING FEES

**Finding:**

Since the January 1, 1991 legislative mandate of imposing booking fees on the various city police departments, booking fees have dropped 60-70%. This is a dramatic reduction in the collection of expected fees. This causes concern that fewer arrests are being made.

**Recommendations:**

1. Funds be made available to law enforcement agencies to help defray the cost of required booking fees.
2. The renovation of the jail provide adequate space for detention of misdemeanants.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** NON-SWORN OFFICERS PROGRAM

**Finding:**

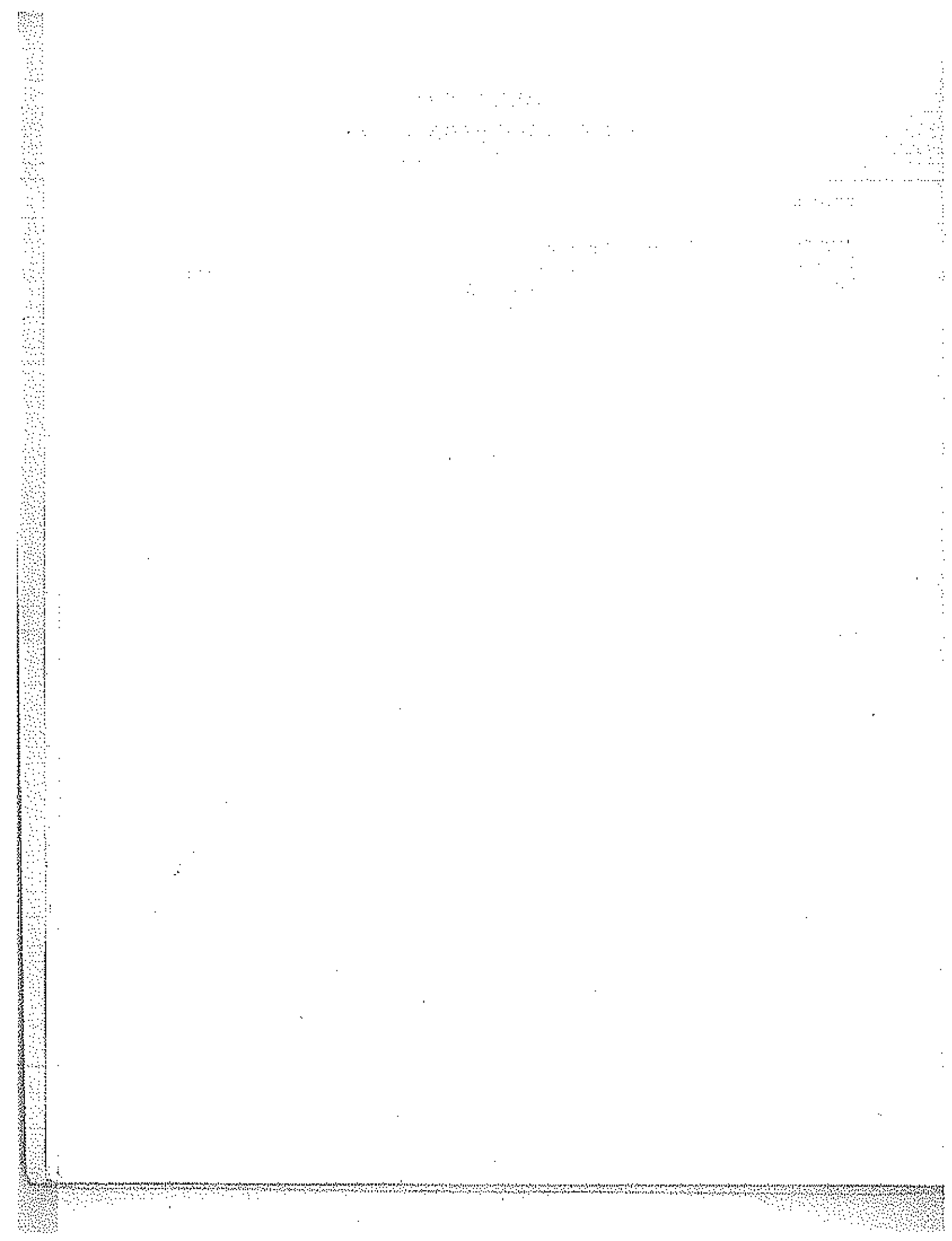
The Yuba County Sheriff's Department has applied for a state grant to fund this program. A program call "SECAP" would qualify reservists as regular officers. The candidate would receive minimum wages and work approximately 80 hours a month with restricted responsibilities.

**Recommendation:**

That the department continue to explore this program and monitor its progress.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
SERVICES  
COMMITTEE**





**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

The Department Of Social Services is charged with operating a variety of programs established by the State and Federal government. This department is responsible for administering mandated programs that are intended to provide financial or social services to eligible residents of Yuba County. These programs include, but are not limited to:

1. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
2. Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN)
3. Medical Cards
4. Food Stamps
5. Child Protective Services (CPS)
6. Adult Services
7. Job Development and Training Department (JTPA)
8. General Relief
9. Indigent Burial

The staff is required to be aware of all rules and regulations governing these programs to assure strict compliance with the law. They are to determine eligibility, provide assistance, monitor programs, and maintain a high standard of performance.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** GAIN

The Greater Avenues of Independence (GAIN) Act was established in 1985 under AB 2580, Chapter 1025. GAIN is a state-wide employment program for AFDC applicants and recipients.

This program is funded by federal, state, and county monies.

**Findings:**

1. That GAIN participants desire to work, and will do so, when given the opportunity of basic education and job training.
2. That GAIN provides teaching, training, counseling, and helps AFDC recipients find jobs.
3. GAIN provides supportive services such as; child care, transportation, and work or training related expenses.
4. A thorough fire inspection of the entire facility was made just prior to occupancy. All inspected areas passed fire codes.

Recommendation:

None.

Commendation:

We wish to commend the GAIN staff and personnel for their eager cooperation, candor, and professional response to the Yuba County Grand Jury.

AREA INVESTIGATED: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Findings:

1. In 1986 when the program was first implemented, 350 adults were receiving services. As of 1992, the case loads have increased to over 525, yet there has been no increase in the staff size.
2. The main concern of the department is how to best provide the same level of services amidst the present trend of budget cuts.
3. At this time there is no 24 hour phone number for emergency calls. They must be routed through the sheriff's office or the police department.

Recommendations:

1. That more case workers be hired to reduce existing individual case loads.
2. The case load of each worker be closely monitored to avoid overloading of personnel and that salaries should be commensurate with job performance and services rendered.
3. That a 24 hour phone number be installed.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**CASA DE ESPERANZA**

**Introduction:**

Casa De Esperanza is a shelter for battered and abused women and children. Casa provides temporary facilities and counseling and services as listed below.

1. Domestic Violence Counseling
2. Job Club and Pre-employment Skill Training
3. Adult and children Sexual Assault Service, (24 hour response)
4. Child Assault Prevention
5. Ident-A-Child (24 hour response)
6. Provides basic food, shelter, clothing and financial aid

**Findings:**

1. Casa provides services for residents of Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties and is funded through a variety of State, County, and private sector agencies. A majority of the people served are Yuba County residents, yet Yuba County provides an average of only \$2.64 per person per day.
2. The average daily stay is 20 days, maximum 45 days.
3. There are ten full time employees.
4. All on-site residents have assigned tasks.
5. Over 1,800 area residents are estimated to be served in 1991/92.
6. Admission to Casa is via:
  - A. Court referral = 2 %
  - B. Law enforcement = 30 %
  - C. Personal request = 68 %

**Recommendations:**

1. That the funding provided by Yuba County be commensurate with the percentage of Yuba County residents receiving services.
2. That Yuba County increase its public relations effort to publicize what Casa is, its function, and its availability to local residents.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**MEDICAL SERVICES**

**Introduction:**

Medical services are provided by two providers. (1) The Peach Tree Clinic is the County operated facility which provides general medical treatment. (2) The Rideout Emergency, a division of United Community Medical Services (UCMS), provides 24 hour emergency medical treatment.

**SITE INVESTIGATED:**     PEACH TREE CLINIC

**Findings:**

1.    The County contracted with the Robert Phillips Group on March 18, 1991 to review and act as the administrator of Clinic operations, resulting in:
  - A.    Improved medical services to patients
    - I.     Decreased patient waiting time
    - II.    Increased daily numbers of patients
    - III.   Expanded quality of medical staff
    - IV.    Added a radiology facility
  - B.    Enhanced Clinic operations
    - I.     Established new Policies and Procedures including a new manual for operating both the Clinic and Radiology
    - II.    Established standards of performance for all employees
    - III.   Defined objectives and goals for medical services
    - IV.    Determined requirements to be financially self-sufficient
2.    The Robert Phillips contract (6 months) has been extended by the County on a monthly basis and is expected to terminate by mid year 1992.
3.    The County and Clinic have joined with the Staff of Rideout Hospital in an effort to find a mutually agreeable means of meeting the medical needs of Yuba County. All parties involved in this venture recognize the importance of finding a means of resolving the current problems in the medical services for Yuba County residents. A preliminary agreement has been reached and the final stages of negotiations are nearing completion. At this time, both Yuba County and Rideout personnel expect to implement the new program in June or July of 1992.
4.    Staffing the Clinic is an ongoing problem that must be resolved in order to meet the 110 patient per day goal. A medical staff of three physicians and two physician's assistants will be required in order to be completely staffed and operating at full capacity.
5.    The Clinic will become financially self-sufficient as soon as they are able to maintain an average of 110 patients per day. As of March, they passed the 100 patients per day and should exceed their goal of 110 as soon as the third physician joins the staff, which is expected by mid-May. The addition of the second physicians assistant will be addressed as needed.

6. The addition of the Radiology facility has improved the medical services and is also helping defray operating costs. As of March this department became financially self sufficient albeit there were only an average of twelve patients per day which is less than originally projected.
7. The Clinic does not have an adequate working relationship with the private sector practitioners or local hospitals due largely to problems between the County and U.C.M.S.
8. Staffing of clerical personnel is hampered by the lack of adequate employment practices used by the County. A complete listing of all job descriptions with the necessary qualifications is not available which makes it impossible to advertise and hire qualified employees.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the County continue its efforts with Rideout Emergency (UCMS) until a satisfactory agreement is achieved and implemented.
2. That the County establish and make public a complete listing of all county employee job descriptions by job title, qualifications and job requirements such that adequate employment notices and performance standards may be adopted.

**Commendation:**

The way that the general public perceives the Clinic has been steadily improving as the physical needs of the patients are being met.

**SITE INVESTIGATED:      RIDEOUT EMERGENCY**

**Introduction:**

The Rideout Emergency Clinic is a private sector medical care facility. The Emergency Room is a division of Rideout Hospital which is owned and operated by United Communities Medical Services (UCMS). This emergency care facility is the only provider of 24-hour medical services in Yuba County thereby responding to all Yuba County residents who require immediate medical attention. The desire of the Rideout facility is to provide emergency and odd hour health care for everyone in need after which the established County health care provider would assume the patient's ongoing medical care.

**Findings:**

1. The Rideout Emergency Room is operated under federal S.S. Title 22 as a class II medical provider.
2. Rideout Hospital is contracted with Yuba County to provide "emergency" health care to Yuba County residents and is reimbursed for indigent care. Rideout Hospital is to:
  - A. Provide emergency care, then refer to the County facility
  - B. Direct non-emergent and non-paying patients to County facility
  - C. Provide non-County medical services as needed

3. There is an ongoing problem between Rideout and the County in determining the qualification status of indigent patients (legal actions are in process).
4. Rideout and Yuba County are currently negotiating a means of providing health care to all Yuba County residents, in the best interest of all parties involved.
5. Rideout Emergency operates under a clearly defined and thorough manual of policies and procedures.

Recommendation:

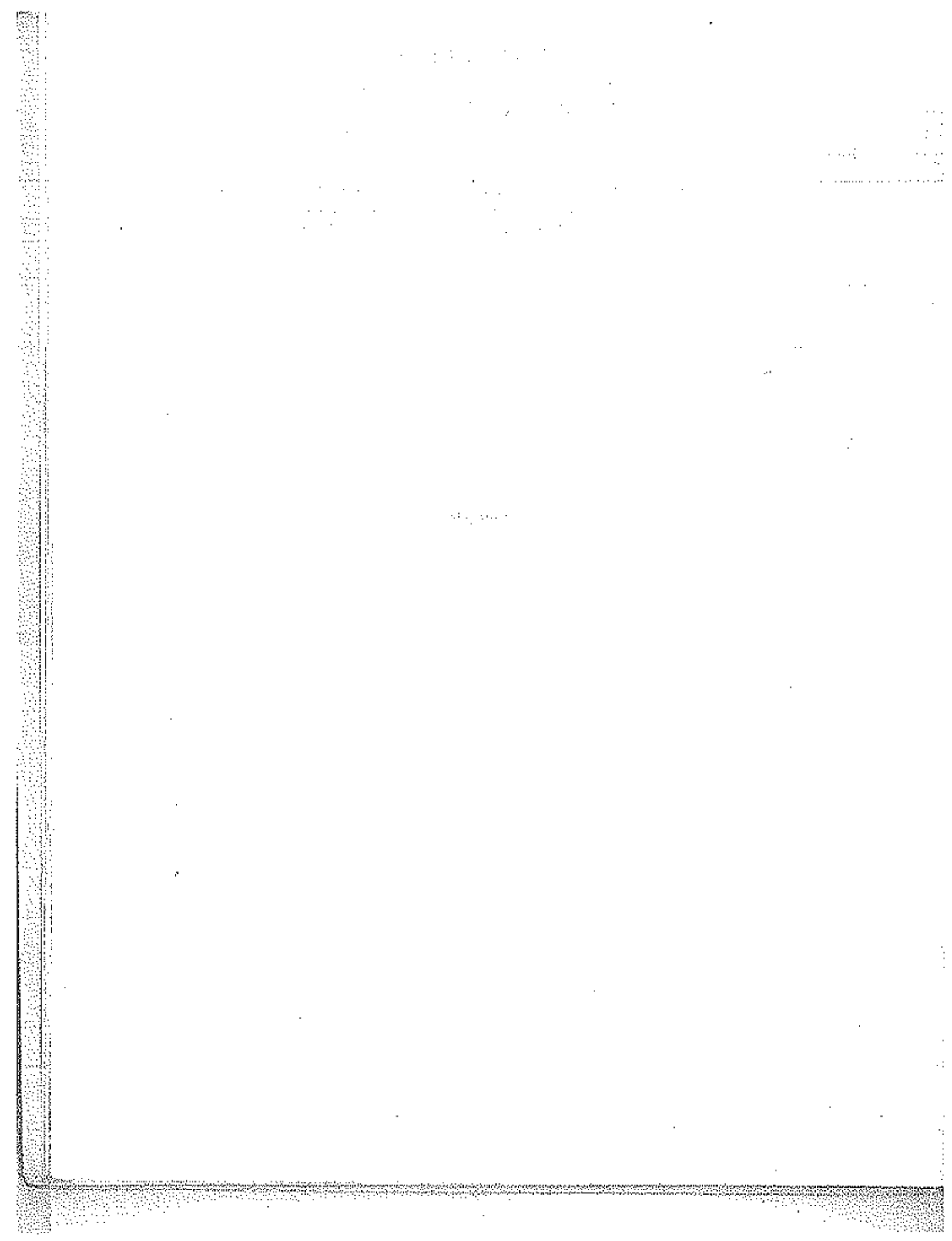
Resolve the ongoing problem of determining a patient's status, during initial registration, regarding the ability to pay for services rendered.

Comment:

At this time the County and U.C.M.S. are working to find an equitable solution and are in agreement as to the need to improve their working relationship. Both entities are committed to achieving a long-term solution and expect to present their joint proposal for approval within the next couple of months.

**PUBLIC WORKS / WATER  
AGENCIES  
COMMITTEE**





**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**MARYSVILLE LEVEE COMMISSION**

**Introduction:**

The Board of Levee Commissioners was originally established by a Special Act of Legislature in 1876; today that commission is made up of three appointed commissioners, one of whom serves as President, and a Levee Foreman. The commission is charged with maintaining approximately 13.4 miles of levee in a constant state of preparedness. The levee system is divided into three units; Unit 1 is the north levee along Simmerly (or Jack) Slough; Unit 2 is the west levee along the Feather River; Unit 3 is the east levee along the Yuba River. The Marysville Levee Commission has an annual budget of approximately \$61,000.00.

The President of the commission and the Levee Foreman jointly conducted an informative briefing of the past and present levee development. Made available to the committee members were historical documents which diagrammatically displayed the development of the Marysville levee system with respect to size and constructional content.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**      **ADMINISTRATION**

**Findings:**

1. The commission, in the exercise of meeting its responsibilities, has adopted the "Slow Rise Flood Plan", in addition to the California Department of Water Resources manual, entitled "Levee Patrolling and Flood Fight Methods."
2. Records of past state inspections strongly support the faith and confidence shown by the Levee Commission in their levee system.

**Recommendation:**

None.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**      **MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

**Findings:**

1. Shovels and other hand tools were hung on the wall, adjacent to thousands of burlap bags, awaiting emergency usage.
2. Generator-driven flood lights, mobile generators, a small boat, tractor, and other vehicular items were stored nearby in the maintenance facility and yard.
3. The locations of additional sand and bag sites throughout the levee area were charted, as were other pertinent facilities.

**Recommendation:**

None.

**Commendation:**

The Marysville Levee Commission is to be commended for the willing cooperation and the invaluable information it openly shared.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**OLIVEHURST PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

The Olivehurst Public Utilities District (OPUD) is responsible to provide water, sewage, fire protection, public parks, and recreation facilities to the district residents. To achieve these goals, a five member board is elected to serve a four year term and is charged with the overall accountability for the administration and management of the Utilities District. The Board of Directors contracted a full-time General Manager to supervise an administrative office and the four departments providing the required services.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**      MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT

**Findings:**

1.     The OPUD is self-supporting, operating efficiently without local taxes, bond issues, and public loans, thereby avoiding the incurring of debt. All water and sewage maintenance and improvements are accomplished by a frugal and careful allocation of funds, obtained solely from monthly customer service charges.
2.     A recently completed sewage plant is now in operation and plans are underway to construct a water purification plant in the near future.
3.     Self-help projects are evident throughout the district. An above-ground fuel storage facility, complete with a reinforced concrete spill retainer, has been built in the maintenance yard and another is under construction in the sewage compound. Additionally, an obsolete sewage digester-tank at the sewage plant compound was saved from destruction and, after a thorough cleaning and extensive modification, was converted into a very sizeable storage facility.
4.     Six fire-fighting vehicles, which date from about 1965 on, are maintained in immaculate condition; district vehicles and servicing units are freshly painted and maintained in an outstanding manner.
5.     Morale appeared to be extremely high and, without exception, each person encountered by Grand Jury members was courteous, helpful, and appeared to be very content in his or her job.
6.     There was no approved facility for storage of hazardous materials.

**Recommendation:**

That an approved storage facility be utilized for all short- and long-term storage of hazardous materials.

**Commendation:**

The District General Manager, presently in the third year of a four year contract, appears to be an extremely capable "hands-on" type of manager. He is very knowledgeable of every facet of the utilities operation and obviously proud of his position, his personnel, and his district. The Grand Jury members are of the opinion that he has every right to be so.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**RECLAMATION DISTRICT 10**

**Introduction:**

Reclamation District 10 is governed by a three member Board of Trustees/Landowners, who fulfill the duties of chairman, secretary, treasurer, etc. The Board employs a part-time Foreman to patrol, inspect, and assist in the maintenance of the 23 miles of levee encircling the district. This position is presently vacant due to the recent death of the former employee. The district extends from Simmerly Slough (more commonly referred to as Jack Slough) north to Honcut Creek and from the Feather River east to the Western Pacific Railroad embankment. The district receives approximately \$8,000.00 per year from a 1% assessment fee, plus an additional \$17,000.00 augmentation fund from the state to Yuba County. All funds are held in trust by the County Auditor and necessary expenditures are made by warrant. The levees are inspected twice a year by the State Reclamation Board, usually in the spring and again in the fall.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**      **ADMINISTRATION**

**Findings:**

1.     The Board related that all district farmers and/or ranchers have long ago accepted the fact that the levee system is a crucial part of the livelihood and willingly contribute their fair share to its upkeep.
2.     The Board members expressed their satisfaction and confidence with the operations and achievements of their district:

**Recommendation:**

None.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**      **LEVEE SYSTEM**

**Findings:**

1.     A tour of the south-western portion of the levee system confirmed the "Good" ratings given to the district on past inspections by State Inspectors.
2.     All levees visited were well maintained, free of trash and litter, crowns were graveled, bases were broad and free of brush and weeds.
3.     Numerous test bores over the years have verified the excellence of the original construction.

**Recommendation:**

None.

**Commendation:**

The Reclamation District Board of Trustees is to be commended for their willing cooperation and assistance.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**RECLAMATION DISTRICT 784**

**Introduction:**

Reclamation District 784 encompasses the area of southwest Yuba County, bounded by the Yuba River on the north, the Bear River on the south, the Feather River on the west, and by 40 Mile/Griffith Roads on the east. Within this area are approximately 38 miles of levee and 60 miles of drainage ditches, sloughs, and creeks. The Reclamation District is charged with the responsibility for flood control, levee maintenance, and drainage canal upkeep. Administration of the District is performed by an elected five member Board of Directors who, in turn, employ a full-time working manager, a full-time assistant, and a part-time secretary. Professional services (lawyer, engineer, auditor, etc.) are engaged as required. The District is inspected twice yearly by the State Reclamation Board, which is responsible to the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The annual operating budget is derived from county land assessments and is approximately \$180,000.00.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** ADMINISTRATION

**Finding:**

Reclamation District 784 office management is operating in an efficient and competent manner.

**Recommendation:**

None.

**Comment:**

Upon request, the Grand Jury was immediately supplied with the minutes of board meetings, working hours of employees, pay records, and other like data.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** LEVEE SYSTEM

**Findings:**

1. Levee maintenance is satisfactory, but, as noted in previous Grand Jury visits, several problem areas remain unsolved:
  - A. Wildlife damage to the levees continues to be severe.
  - B. Equipment and manpower are inadequate for the assigned task.
2. Law enforcement agencies provide insufficient emphasis to assure the existing laws are enforced, thereby controlling trespassing, vandalism, and illegal dumping.

Recommendations:

1. That county law enforcement agencies be more aggressive in the apprehension and prosecution of violators.
2. That maintenance personnel of District 784 consult with the Marysville levee maintenance personnel who seem to have alleviated the wildlife damage by a procedure involving levee scraping.

Comments:

1. Until fiscal restraints imposed by ongoing 1986 flood litigation are alleviated, recommendations for equipment and manpower can serve no useful purpose.
2. The problem areas cited are a repeat of prior years.

AREA INVESTIGATED: VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Finding:

The maintenance facility was found to be clean and orderly, chemicals were stored safely, and equipment appeared to be in good operating condition, due in part to self-help efforts.

Recommendation:

None.

Commendation:

Despite operating under adverse financial conditions imposed by ongoing litigations, all personnel of Reclamation District 784 are to be commended for their willing efforts and their cooperative attitudes.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**RECLAMATION DISTRICTS 817 AND 2103**

**Introduction:**

The combined area of Reclamation Districts 817 and 2103 is bounded by the Bear River on the south, Dry Creek on the north, and extends from 40 Mile Road on the west, easterly to a north/south line approximately five miles east of the town of Wheatland, where the foothill elevation rises to that of the levees. Individual districts are created by Oakley Lane which divides the combined area into nearly equal parts, with 817 being on the west and 2103 on the east. Other than the physical boundaries, the two districts are virtually identical, sharing similar responsibilities, problems, and potential solutions. Each Reclamation District maintains approximately eight miles of levee and each is inspected twice a year by the State Reclamation Board.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**    LEVEE SYSTEM

**Findings:**

1.    Both districts are managed by a Board of three Trustee/Landowners. Each area, however, is primarily maintained by a single landowner.
2.    Each district operates on an annual budget of approximately \$7,000.00, of which roughly \$4,000.00 is expended for levee liability insurance.
3.    In each of the two districts, the persons contacted expressed the opinion that Reclamation Districts 817 and 2103 should be joined with Reclamation District 784 and so form a single South Yuba County District.

**Recommendation:**

That the Yuba County Board of Supervisors consider the feasibility and possible merits of unifying Reclamation Districts 784, 817, and 2103 into a common entity in order to consolidate maintenance capabilities, reduce the number of governing bodies, and unite all efforts under a single authority.

**Comment:**

The landowners contacted are genuinely concerned with their responsibilities toward levee maintenance. Both agree that it required more attention than they, as full time businessmen, could routinely provide. A comparison of past years' levee maintenance ratings with Reclamation Districts 784 and 10, and the Marysville Levee District seems to support this contention.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**YUBA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction:**

The mission of the Public Works Department is to design, construct, and maintain the Yuba County road network; to insure land development processes are in accord with state law; to maintain the serviceability of county storm water drainage systems; to obtain federal and state funding for capital improvement projects; and finally, to provide automotive fleet services to other county departments. To accomplish this mission, the Public Works Department is comprised of a staff of 45 persons and current annual budget of approximately \$3,682,000.00, of which \$3,056,000.00 is derived from the gasoline tax fund and the balance from the county general fund.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATION

**Findings:**

1. The South Yuba Drainage Plan is scheduled to be in full operation within five years.
2. The Ponderosa Landfill in Brownsville is nearing capacity and is scheduled for closure in the near future.
3. The planning possibilities of the Third Bridge/Highway 70 Bypass is being coordinated with the state.
4. The 900 section (Automotive Transportation) of the Yuba County Administrative Procedures Manual, dtd. January 1987, was reviewed with the Department Head and several areas of possible concern were uncovered and discussed.

**Recommendation:**

That the Department Head scrutinize each proviso of the 900 section of the Yuba County Administrative Procedures Manual and make appropriate recommendations for revisions and/or deletions, in writing, to the County Administrative Officer.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE

**Findings:**

1. Public Works maintains a staff of 29 individuals and a maintenance fleet of 23 vehicles to keep the overall condition of county roads in a satisfactory state of repair, despite at least two major problem areas.
  - A. The most obvious is the unavoidable wear and tear on these roads by heavy commercial vehicles and metal-treaded farming equipment.
  - B. The needless consumption of departmental time, equipment, and manpower required to clean up flagrant dumping and littering alongside county roads.
2. Cooperation and coordination with the County Probation Department allows some relief in the manpower area by the utilization of juvenile and adult offender work program personnel.



Recommendations:

1. In addition to the commendable actions already taken and/or planned by the Public Works Department to counter this problem, consideration be given to a public awareness program designed to publicize, by any means available, the wasteful expenditure of tax dollars by an uncaring and thoughtless few.
2. That increased effort be exerted toward the apprehension and prosecution of violators of anti-litter statutes already enacted into law.

AREA INVESTIGATED: PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLE MAINTENANCE YARD

Findings:

1. While fully aware of spending limitations imposed by budgetary constraints, the maintenance effort is somewhat handicapped by a few obsolete, but salvaged, small pieces of support equipment.
2. Housekeeping in and around the maintenance buildings requires attention.

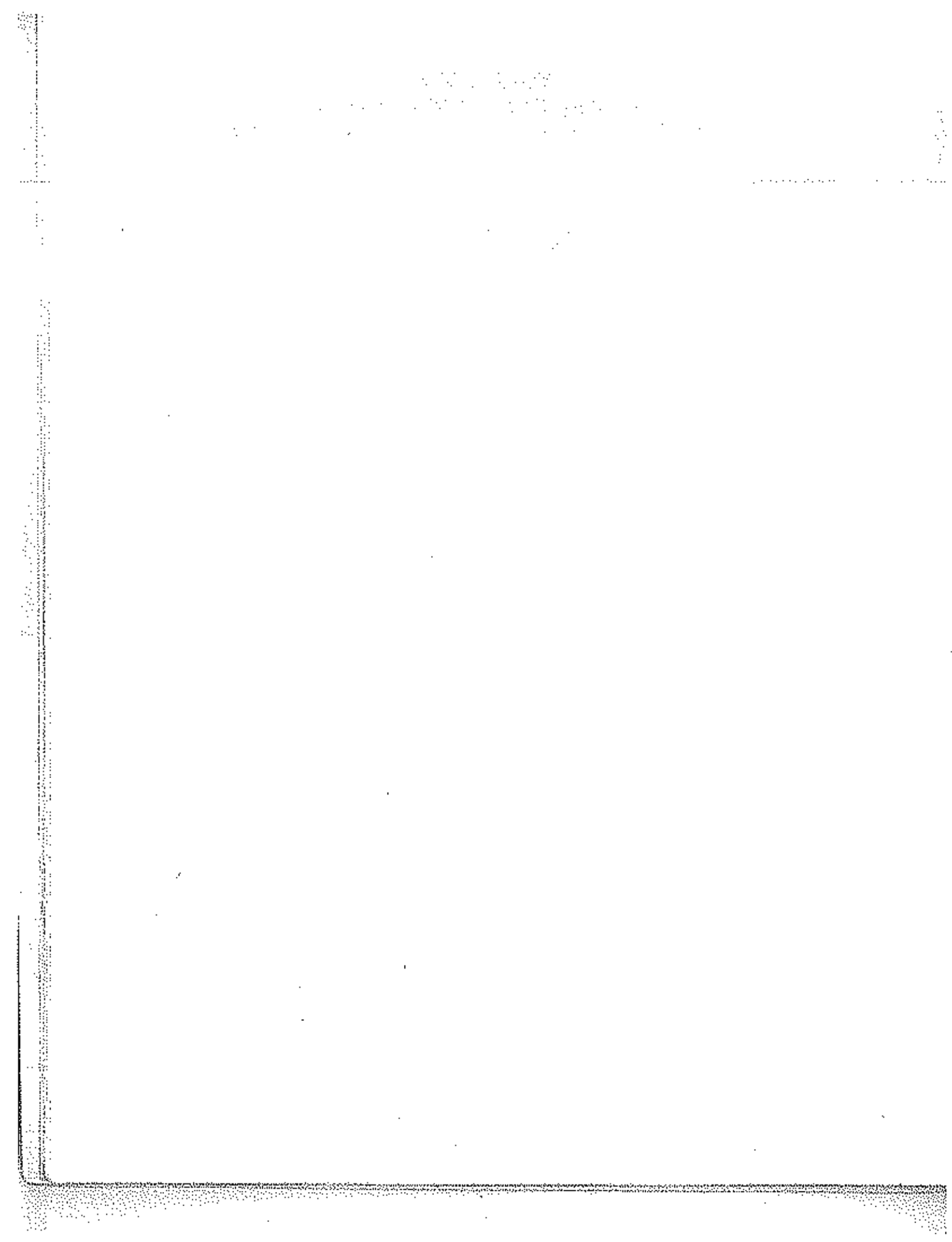
Recommendations:

1. That the upgrading of these pieces of support equipment with more up-to-date items, if and when funding becomes available and will allow such action.
2. That a general cleanup program be implemented to improve the overall appearance of this area as a Yuba County operated facility.

Commendation:

The Grand Jury found the Director of Public Works to be both knowledgeable and cooperative. He is acutely aware of his budgetary restrictions and attempts to get maximum value for each dollar spent. His resourceful efforts in the acquisition of a passenger-car servicing hydraulic hoist, at below market cost, is to be commended.

# **SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**MARYSVILLE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

This District provides education for more than 10,000 students in grades K-12. The District operates 18 school facilities spaced over 50 square miles, from the Feather River on the west to the Camptonville School District on the east. Marysville Joint Unified School District employs about 900 classified and certificated personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:**    IMPACT FEES

**Finding:**

The established impact fees with the District are insufficient to mitigate the impact of projected growth within the District.

**Recommendation:**

That the District continue to work with the County Board of Supervisors to establish a unified fee structure that will meet the needs of projected growth in the County.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**YUBA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OFFICE**

**Introduction:**

This office provides administration, specialists, and staff for seven special education schools, supplies an administrator for one elementary school, and staffs several board and advisory groups. It also offers various support activities to all Yuba County School Districts. The 1991 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) reports approximately 196 students attend special education schools. The County Superintendent of Schools Office employs 110 personnel.

**AREA INVESTIGATED:** SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Findings:**

1. Yuba and Sutter Counties share responsibilities where handicapped students are concerned.
2. There is concern about the rapid growth of special education students in the school population.
3. Year round special education classes will begin this summer at Cedar Lane.

**Recommendation:**

None.

**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**WHEATLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Introduction:**

Wheatland School District serves 1,700 students in grades K-12 on four separate campuses. More than 120 children from out of the District attend through interdistrict agreements. Staff consists of 175 classified and certificated personnel.

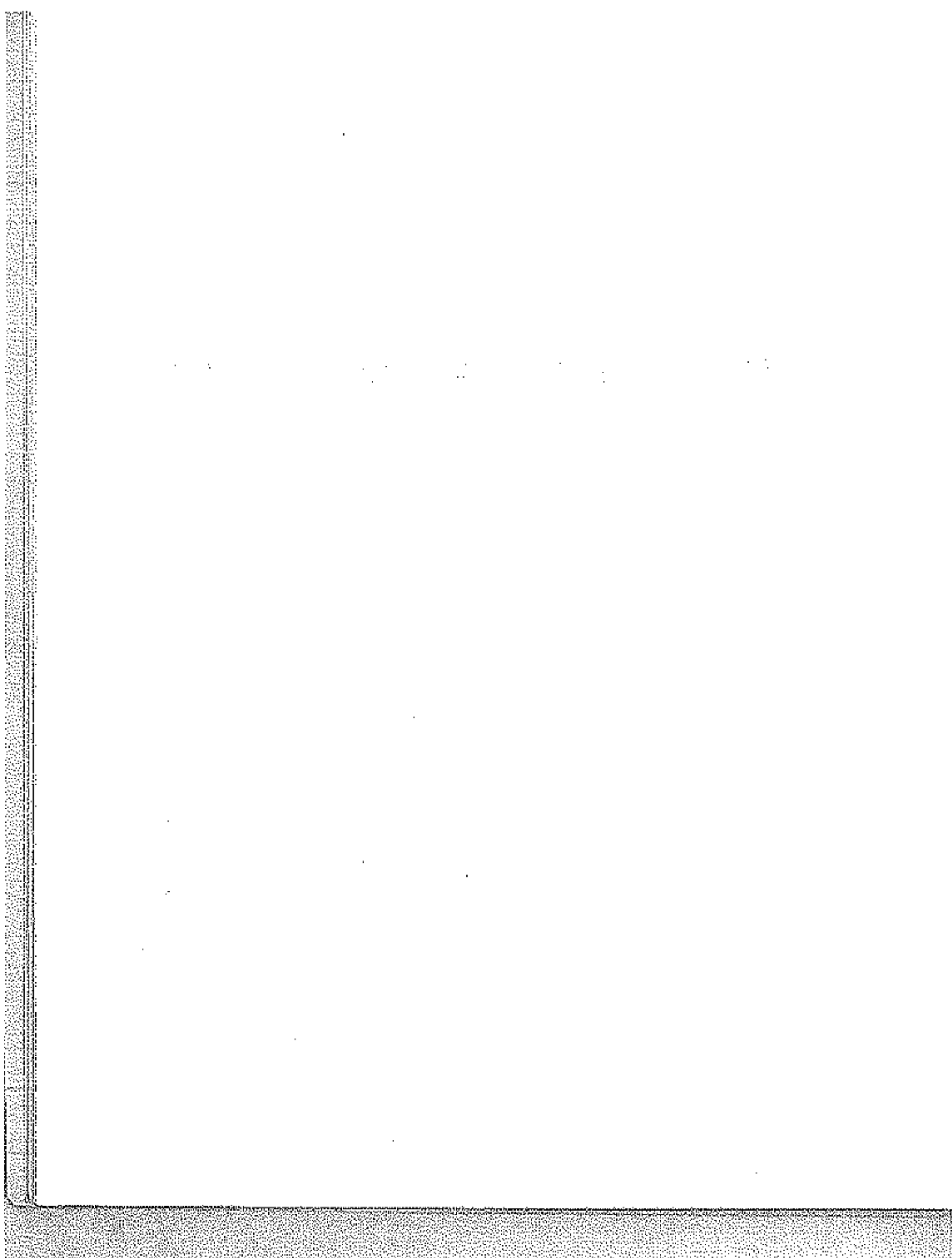
**AREA INVESTIGATED:**    IMPACT FEES

**Finding:**

The established impact fees with the District are insufficient to mitigate the impact of projected growth within the District.

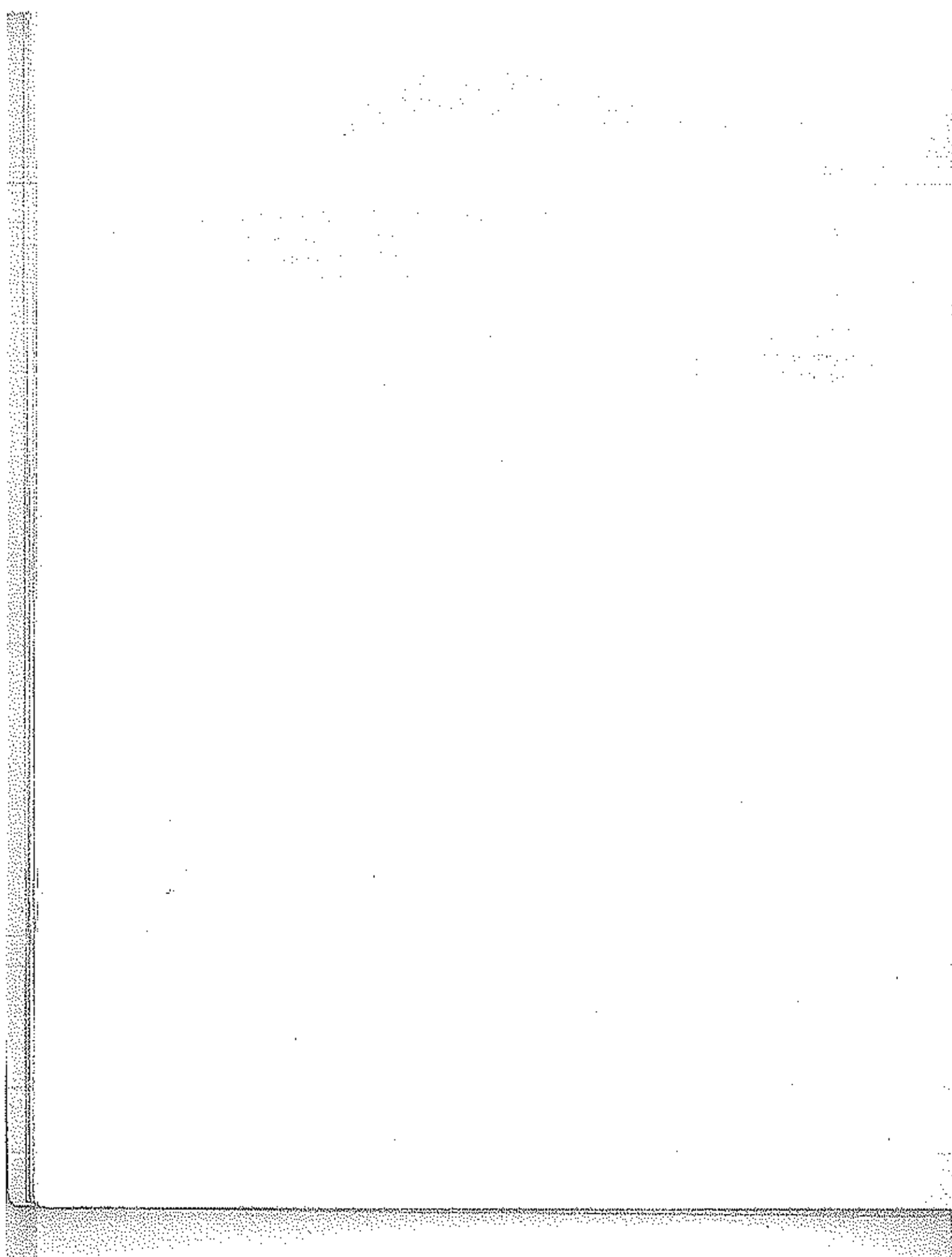
**Recommendation:**

That the District continue to work with the County Board of Supervisors to establish a unified fee structure that will meet the needs of projected growth in the County.



# **CONTINUITY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**





**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**DEMOGRAPHICS STUDY AND SURVEY OF PAST GRAND JURORS**

**Introduction:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury conducted a study of the Yuba County Grand Jury System. Information was gathered from a number of sources, including a survey of the past 11 years of jurors. Sixty-one, or 38%, of past jurors polled responded to a questionnaire. One hundred eighty-one questionnaires were mailed. Nineteen were returned, 17 by the postal service because of no forwarding address and two by family members because juror was deceased.

The aim of this study was to improve the local Grand Jury process, to address the needs of the Grand Jury to better accomplish its goals, and to provide past Grand Jurors the opportunity to contribute input.

**Findings:**

1. Median age of Grand Jurors is 59 years.
2. Few citizens under the age of 40 years serve on the Grand Jury. Of jurors responding to the survey, only three of the 56 that gave their age were 40 or less years of age.
3. Younger citizens rarely have time to serve on the Grand Jury or cannot because of employment constraints.
4. The composition of past grand juries averaged 58% men and 42% women.
5. The average years of residence in the County for Grand Jurors was 33 years.
6. The Grand Jury make-up consisted of 97% caucasian and 3% minority membership, which is not equal to the County ethnic ratio.
7. According to the survey, 33% of Grand Jurors were employed full time while on the jury, 16% were employed part time, 46% were retired and 5% did not respond to this question.
8. According to the survey, 39% of Grand Jurors impaneled were recommended by judges; 5% were recommended by past jurors; 3% independently volunteered; 25% were recommended by others (i.e., supervisors, city councilman, jury commissioner, etc.). There were 25% who had no idea how they were selected and 3% did not respond to this question.
9. Approximately 72% of the representation on the Grand Jury were from the Marysville area, comprising 60% of the County's population.
10. The Brownsville-Camptownville-Challenge areas are proportionally under represented.
11. As distance to the courthouse in Marysville increases, the demographic representation of the respective outlying communities declines.

12. Grand Jurors felt that limiting compensation to one-way travel discriminates against Grand Jurors and discourages citizens residing in the outlying areas of the County from serving on the Grand Jury.
13. Grand Jury duty, on the average, requires at least two meetings per month throughout the year, whereas the Grand Jury budget provides compensation for only one meeting per month throughout the year.
14. County employees and officials receive \$0.28 per mile round trip for use of private vehicles on County business with no limit on the number of trips.
15. All Grand Jurors are paid \$0.28 per mile one way while attending Grand Jury meetings.
16. Of those responding to the survey, 61% scored juror compensation as "poor" to "fair."
17. Of those responding to the survey, 58% scored the adequacy of the Grand Jury budget as "poor" to "fair."
18. Of those responding to the survey, 69% felt ill prepared for their role as Grand Jury members.
19. Effectiveness of past grand juries has been hampered by lack of training, orientation, and continuity.
20. Most past jurors stated that there is a need for orientation and training of new Grand Jurors.
21. Past Grand Jurors generally believed that they should have received more comprehensive training to better prepare them for their Grand Jury service.
22. Of those responding to the survey, 26% indicated that citizen complaints played a significant role in their Grand Jury agenda.
23. Other counties have reported that up to 90% of survey respondents indicated that citizen complaints played a significant role in their Grand Jury agenda.
24. Up until this year, Yuba County citizens have not had a "Grand Jury Complaint Form" on which to submit complaints. Additionally, citizens have expressed concerns with the mail routing in the courthouse and the possible compromise of the confidentiality of their complaints.
25. Of those responding to the survey, 60% felt "good" to "excellent" about their personal contribution to the Grand Jury process.
26. The civil watchdog duty of the Grand Jury is felt by past Grand Jurors to be the most important role of the jury.
27. Of those responding to the survey, 75% of survey respondents believed that the supervisor's responses to their final reports were "poor" to "fair."
28. Past grand juries have expressed their inability to properly perform jury business for lack of an office and the necessary office equipment.

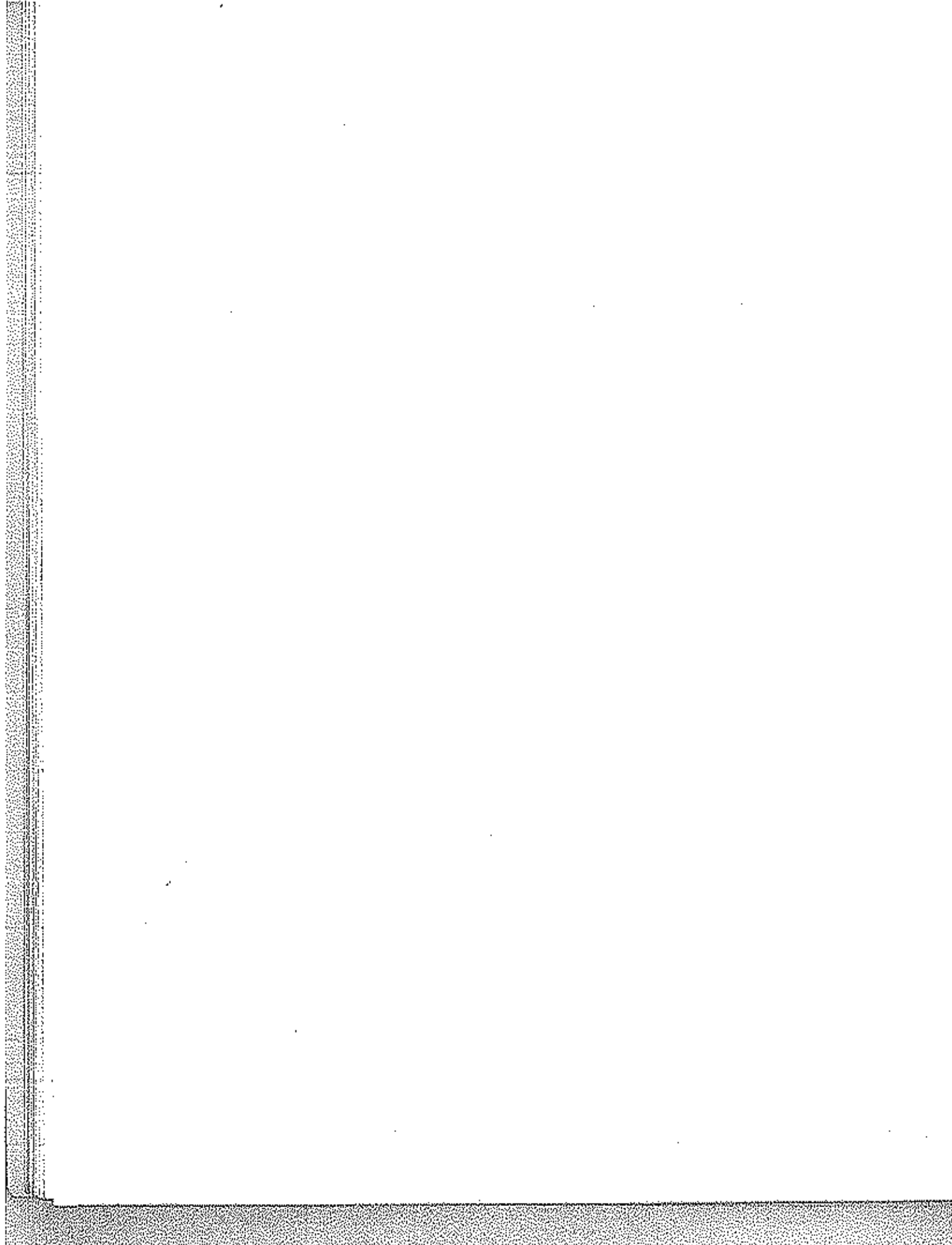
29. The grand juries, not having a permanently assigned County meeting room, over the past years have held meetings at local banks, medical clinics, County library and numerous other sites throughout the County.
30. Survey respondents felt that they received reasonably good cooperation from the Presiding Judges, the County Counsel, and the District Attorney.
31. Of those responding to the survey, 59% volunteered to serve as a resource person to a standing Grand Jury.
32. Of those responding to the survey, 51% indicated that they would be willing to serve as a Grand Jurors again.

**Recommendations:**

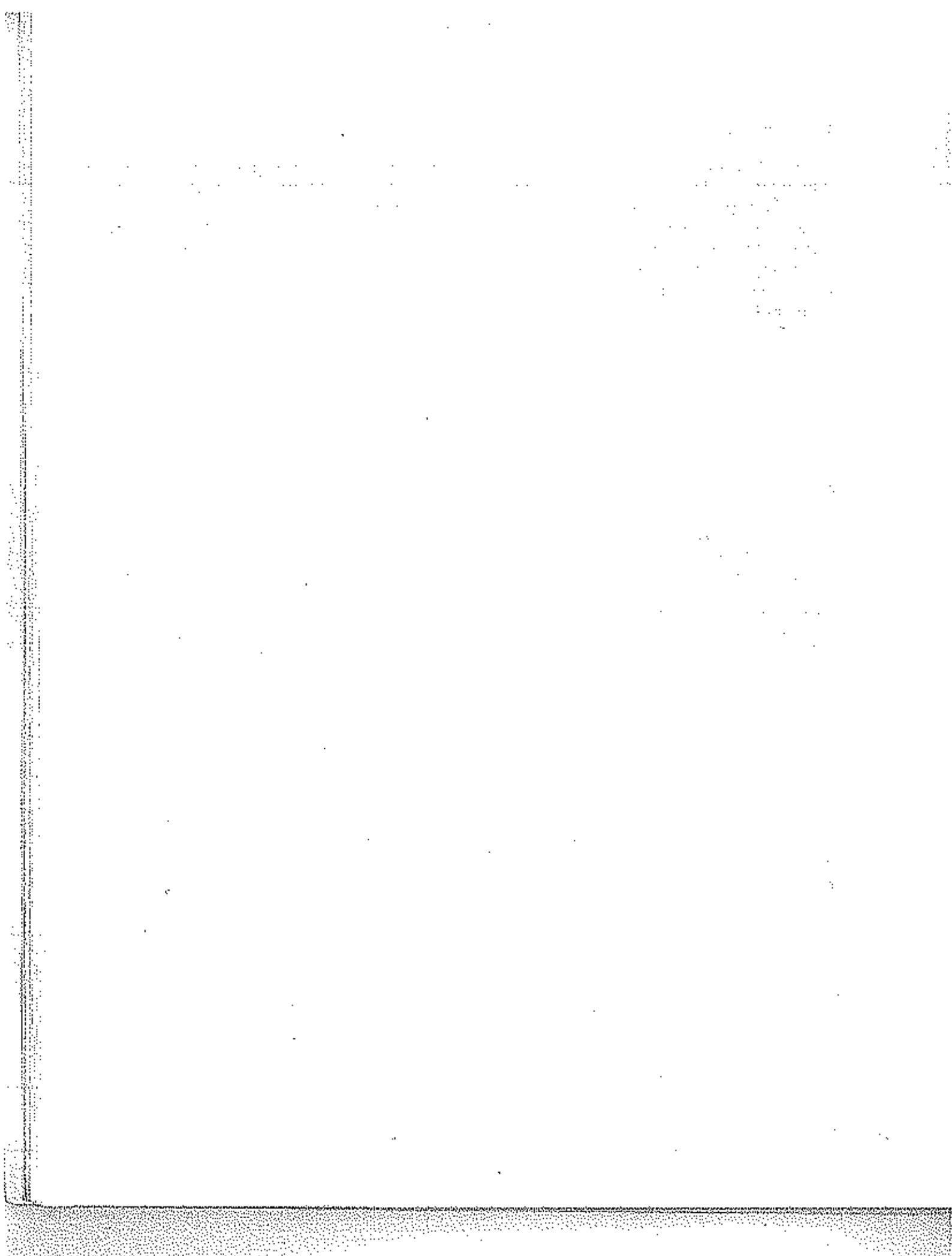
1. That the court encourage younger citizens to volunteer as candidates for the Grand Jury.
2. That the court encourage minority members of the County to volunteer as candidates for the Grand Jury.
3. That the court continue to encourage citizens of the outlying areas to volunteer as candidates for the Grand Jury.
4. That members of the Board of Supervisors representing the outlying areas of the County take a more active part to encourage citizens of their districts to volunteer for Grand Jury duty.
5. That the Grand Jury travel expenses be reimbursed at the same rate as other County employees.
6. That the County provide additional training funds in the Grand Jury budget for orientation programs and American Grand Jury Foundation seminar training for all Grand Jurors.
7. That the County provide the Grand Jury with adequate, centrally located office space and necessary office equipment to carry out its functions.
8. That the County provide the Grand Jury with an adequate, permanently assigned meeting room to hold meetings and conduct interviews.
9. That the Grand Jury rent a mail box at the Marysville post office to allay citizen's concerns of the confidentiality of their complaints to the Grand Jury.

**Commendation:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury wishes to thank and commend the past Grand Jurors that took time to assist in this effort, especially those that took time and gave serious thought to the comments they offered. It is through citizens like these that we can give meaning to the Grand Jury process and make government more responsive to the people.



# MID-YEAR FINAL REPORT



**YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURY REPORT 1991-92**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS / LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCIES**

**Introduction:**

Section 933 of the California Penal Code requires that at the end of their term each Grand Jury submit a final report on their findings and when appropriate make recommendations on these findings. After the Grand Jury submits its final report the Board of Supervisors and Officers of local public agencies subject to the reviewing authority of the Grand Jury shall comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under their control. The objective of the response requirement of Penal Code Section 933 is to focus attention of appointed and elected officials on Grand Jury recommendations, to help produce any necessary remedial actions, and to alert the public to potentially intractable management problems.

Below is an excerpt from Penal Code Chapter 3, Article 2, Section 933, to clarify the duties and obligations of the Grand Jury and the Respondents.

**PENAL CODE CHAPTER 3  
POWERS AND DUTIES OF GRAND JURY**

**ARTICLE 2 - INVESTIGATION OF COUNTY, CITY, AND DISTRICT AFFAIRS**

**Section 933. Findings and recommendations; comment of governing bodies, elective officers or agency heads**

(a) No later than the end of each fiscal or calendar year of a county, each grand jury impaneled during that fiscal or calendar year shall submit to the presiding judge of the superior court a final report of its findings and recommendations that pertain to county government matters other than fiscal matters during the fiscal or calendar year. *Final reports on any appropriate subject may be submitted to the presiding judge of the superior court at any time during the term of service of a grand jury. A final report may be submitted for comment to responsible officers, agencies, or departments, including the county board of supervisors, when applicable, upon finding of the presiding judge that the report is in compliance with this title. One copy of each report found to be in compliance with this title shall be placed on file with the county clerk and remain on file in the office of the county clerk.*

(b) No later than the end of each fiscal or calendar year, each grand jury impaneled during that fiscal or calendar year shall submit to the presiding judge of the superior court a final report of its findings and recommendations that pertain to fiscal matters of county government during the fiscal or calendar year of the county.

(c) *No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elective county officer or agency head for which the grand jury has responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court, with an information copy sent to the board of supervisors on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. In any city and county, the mayor shall also comment on the findings and recommendations. All such comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the presiding judge of the superior court who impaneled the grand jury. A copy of all responses to grand jury reports shall be placed on file with the clerk of the public agency and the office of the county clerk, or the mayor when applicable, and shall remain on file in those offices. One copy shall be placed on file with the applicable grand jury final report by, and in the control of the currently impaneled grand jury, where it shall be maintained for a minimum of five years.*

(Italics added to highlight pertinent points)



AREA INVESTIGATED: RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINAL REPORTS

Findings:

The County of Yuba does not have an adopted uniform procedure or format for responding to Grand Jury reports pursuant to Section 933 of the Penal Code. The adoption of such a procedure and format would:

1. Assist appointed County department heads and the County Administrative Officer in providing appropriate draft responses.
2. Enable the Board of Supervisors to evaluate the proposed responses more effectively.
3. Help ensure continuity in the Grand Jury process from year to year and assist the Grand Jury in tracking recommendations.

In recent years County officials have provided good cooperation with the Grand Jury in its oversight functions, however certain of the County department heads' response to the 1990-91 Grand Jury Final Report were not fully responsive. The draft response prepared for approval and signature of the Board of Supervisors differed from the proposed responses of the County department heads and did not address all of the findings and recommendations. Furthermore, it was found that not all department heads had read the entire 1990-91 Grand Jury final report and the response submitted to the presiding judge. These department heads, by not reading the entire Grand Jury report and response, did not apprise themselves of matters on which they may have had a duty to act. A uniform response format for Grand Jury recommendations should minimize the need for editing the proposed responses of the appointed department heads. Additionally, the including of the department heads' actual proposed responses with the response provided by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Penal Code Section 933, would avoid any appearance of "sanitizing" and would better inform the Grand Jury and public of existing and potential problems within the County departments. The oversight functions of the Grand Jury are largely negated if the responsible elected officials rely too heavily upon appointed officials in evaluating their own performance. Accordingly, there should be adequate opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to consider responses to Grand Jury reports and there should be a realistic opportunity for public comment as well, prior to adoption of final responses.

Finally, the response of public agencies to the Grand Jury's recommendations should be made available for public inspection and copying at the County libraries along with copies of the Grand Jury reports. It is the view of the 1991-92 Yuba County Grand Jury that, in order for Grand Jury oversight to be fully effective in accomplishing its purposes, the public must have ready access to both the Grand Jury's report and the public agencies' responses under Section 933 of the Penal Code.

The 1991-92 Grand Jury has examined provisions extracted from an ordinance of the County of Humboldt and finds that the substance of many of its provisions should be considered for adoption by the Board of Supervisors of Yuba County and other public agencies, as set forth in the following recommendation. (A copy of the Humboldt County resolution is on file in the Yuba County Grand Jury Library.)

### Recommendations:

1. That the Board of Supervisors and the governing body of each public agency (other than minor assessing districts) subject to the oversight responsibilities of the Yuba County Grand Jury adopt, by ordinance or resolution, a standard format for responding to Grand Jury reports, as follows:
  - A. As to each FINDING, the responding agency or officer indicate one of the following:
    - I. THE RESPONDENT AGREES WITH THE FINDING.
    - II. THE RESPONDENT DISAGREES WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY WITH THE FINDING. The response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons.
  - B. As to each RECOMMENDATION, the response shall indicate one of the following actions:
    - I. THE RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. A summary of significant detail shall be included.
    - II. THE RECOMMENDATION HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED, BUT IT IS THE INTENT OF THE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT IT. A time frame for implementation shall be included.
    - III. THE RECOMMENDATION REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS. A detailed explanation shall be included stating the scope and parameters of the study with a time frame as to when the matter will be prepared for discussion by the respondent governing body or public officer. This time shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report.
    - IV. THE RECOMMENDATION WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED, BECAUSE IT IS NOT WARRANTED OR IS NOT FEASIBLE. An explanation shall be included.

A final response pursuant to Section 933 of the Penal Code shall be organized similarly to the Grand Jury's final report. Comments and responses shall be brief and to the point. Each finding and recommendation shall receive a separate reply. Comments and responses shall not refer to another reply or previous response.

2. That the Board of Supervisors and other public officers and agencies responding pursuant to Penal Code Section 933. distribute copies of the responses to members of the current and immediate past Grand Juries; that, in the case of the County, response of the Board of Supervisors include the unedited proposed responses of the appointed department heads in an appendix; that the Board of Supervisors' responses be distributed to all County department heads; and that bound copies of all public agency responses be filed for public inspection with the Grand Jury report in the main and mobile libraries.

3. That the Board of Supervisors adopt, by ordinance or resolution, a standardized procedure for responding to Grand Jury reports as required by Penal Code Section 933 which includes the following components:
- A. If a finding or recommendation of the Grand Jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a County department headed by an elected official, both the department head and Board of Supervisors shall respond, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has decision-making authority. The response of the elected department head shall address all aspects of the finding or recommendation affecting his or her department and be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within the time frame specified in Section 933 of the Penal Code.
  - B. Each appointed County department head shall prepare a proposed response to a Grand Jury finding or recommendation affecting that department. The County Administrative Officer shall review all proposed responses of appointed County department heads for adequacy and completeness. The County Administrative Officer may comment on a department's response, but shall not alter the departmental response.
  - C. After receipt of the departmental responses, the County Administrative Officer shall provide copies thereof to each member of the Board of Supervisors and shall prepare a recommended response for the Board of Supervisors as to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. The draft responses shall be organized similarly to the Grand Jury's final report. Each finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury shall be typed in upper case and the proposed draft response shall be typed as usual. The members of the Board of Supervisors shall be allowed at least one week to review and comment on the draft response prior to including it on the Board's agenda.
  - D. The County Administrative Officer shall then prepare a proposed final draft response and a proposed letter of transmittal from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Copies of the County Administrative Officer's final draft response shall be distributed to all members of the current and immediate past Grand Juries and copies shall be made available to the public in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Members of the immediate past Grand Jury shall be invited to participate in the public hearing review of the responses to the Grand Jury Report which they authored.
  - E. The proposed final draft response and letter of transmittal shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for discussion and approval at a hearing set for a time certain. Public comments shall be in order for these items.
  - F. The final response adopted by the Board of Supervisors shall be sent within five working days thereafter and within the time frame specified in Section 933 of the Penal Code to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, the current Grand Jury, and all affected County departments. Distribution of other copies shall be made no more than 30 days following adoption of the final response by the Board of Supervisors.

Response Required:

Board of Supervisors.

# The County of Yuba

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



(916) 741-6461

May 12, 1992

The Honorable Robert Lenhard  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
215 Fifth Street  
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Yuba County Grand Jury Report Dated March 12, 1992

Dear Judge Lenhard:

Provided pursuant to Penal Code § 933(c) is the response of the Board of Supervisors to the findings and recommendations of the 1991-92 Grand Jury's report of March 12, 1992.

We are in partial agreement with the findings and recommendations of the Jury, related to the process of responding to the Jury's Final Report. There is no formally adopted format for responding to the Report. Responses prepared by departments do differ in content from the formal response submitted by the Board to the Superior Court, and not all department heads may read the entire report before drafting responses associated with their own departments. We agree a copy of our response should be available for public inspection at the Library, in the same location as the Report, and we agree some departments could be more specific in detailing alternatives for implementing recommendations, particularly those which respond directly to the Court rather than through this Board.

We do not agree a formal procedure and format should be adopted by ordinance or resolution, and we do not agree the Board's response to the report represents a "sanitized" version of department responses. Nor do we agree appointed officials are evaluating their own conduct by the manner in which responses are conveyed to us. Further, we believe the Board has adequate opportunity to evaluate and react to departmental responses, and the public has realistic opportunity to comment prior to adoption of our response.

While unwritten, a procedure for responding to the Final Report has been in place for some years now. Departments are directed, via the County Administrator's Office, to respond to findings and recommendations. Department responses are reviewed by

The Honorable Robert Lenhard  
May 12, 1992  
Page Two.

the Board and Administration, and a Board response is drafted. Ample opportunity is available for us to comment on, and request changes before the draft is finalized, approved, and conveyed to the Court. The proposed response is made available for public inspection in the Clerk of the Board's Office, and is discussed and adopted in open session of the Board, where any member of the public wishing to may comment on its sufficiency. We would certainly be receptive to constructive public input, and to modifying our response if warranted.

The Board's response differs from those of departments, and should. The Board is compelled by the Penal Code to respond to the Final Report, not individual departments (excepting elected department heads). The Board's response may closely resemble a department's, as it reviews, and often agrees with recommended courses of action provided by departments. Where the Board disagrees, however, responses differ, based not on editing but rather on differences in perspective. Department responses have always been made available for inspection by the public, and have been conveyed to the Courts and Grand Juries, and will continue to be made available for reference. It should be noted, with respect to concerns regarding thorough response to Grand Jury Findings, it is sometimes difficult to isolate Juror's findings and recommendations from general comments, leaving question as to which items require response. In this regard, presentation of a Final Report which clearly segregates these elements from each other would greatly assist responsiveness to Jury concerns. In addition, with respect to the responses of elected officials, it should be noted Penal Code Section 933 requires those officials to respond directly to the Court rather than through the Board of Supervisors.

Concerns that departments are left in the position of evaluating their own performance, are without merit. Department performance is continually evaluated based on a variety of factors including public comments, information presented at Board and Committee meetings, annual department head evaluations, experiences of individual Board members, and is not limited to responding to the findings of the Grand Jury.

We do not agree a formal procedure and format for response be adopted by ordinance or resolution, and consequently will not implement that recommendation. Other entities can respond to the recommendation as they will. In our opinion, ordinances and resolutions implement legislative action, and are not the appropriate means of adopting an administrative procedure. As you know, an Administrative Procedures Manual exists for the County, and was recently revised. The Board will take the Jury's recommendation in this regard under advisement, and may include

The Honorable Robert Lenhard  
May 12, 1992  
Page Three.

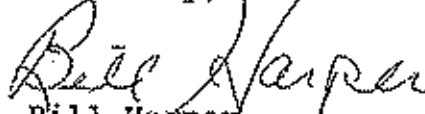
some provisions for response at the next revision of the Manual.

As you know, the Grand Jury directly provides copies of its Final Report to department heads. We cannot insure department heads read the entire report, but agree it is the best interest of good government for them to do so. Consequently, department heads will be directed, in the future, to read Final Reports in their entirety before drafting their responses to us, and to respond in full to all applicable findings and recommendations. In this regard, we will also direct departments to provide more specific and measurable alternative courses of action for responding to the Report. As we agree a copy of our response should be maintained in conjunction with copies of the Final Report available for public viewing, we will also direct this recommended change.

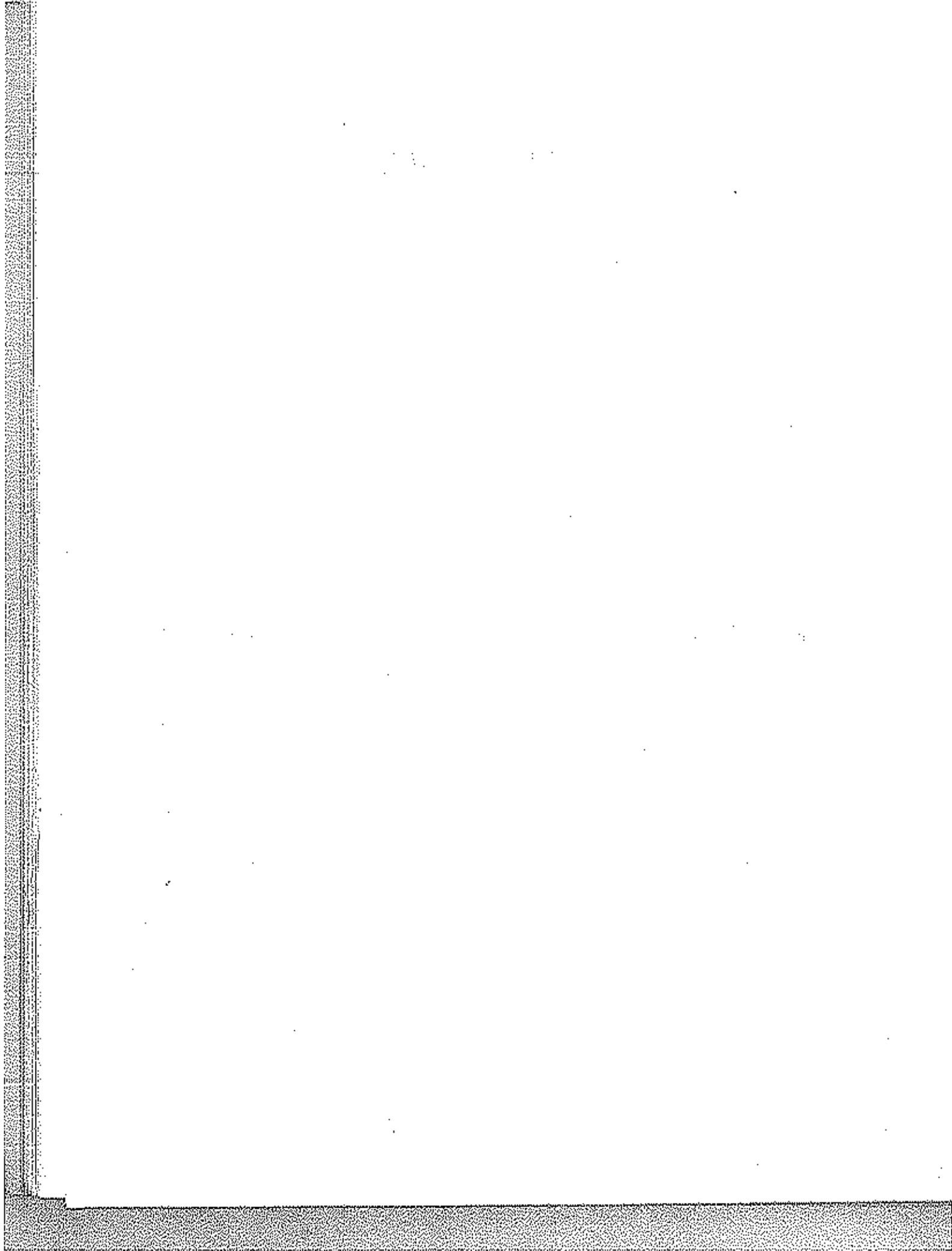
With respect to providing copies of our response, we will continue to provide copies to those entities entitled under statute. In the interest of economy, however, we will not provide copies to each Juror, or to members of past Grand Juries.

We appreciate the efforts of the 1991-92 Grand Jury, thus far, and for this opportunity to comment on its report process.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Harper,  
Chairman

cc: Foreman, Grand Jury  
County Clerk/Recorder





**1991-92**

**YUBA COUNTY**

**GRAND JURY**

**SURVEY**

**OF THE**

**ELEVEN GRAND JURIES**

**1981 THROUGH 1991**

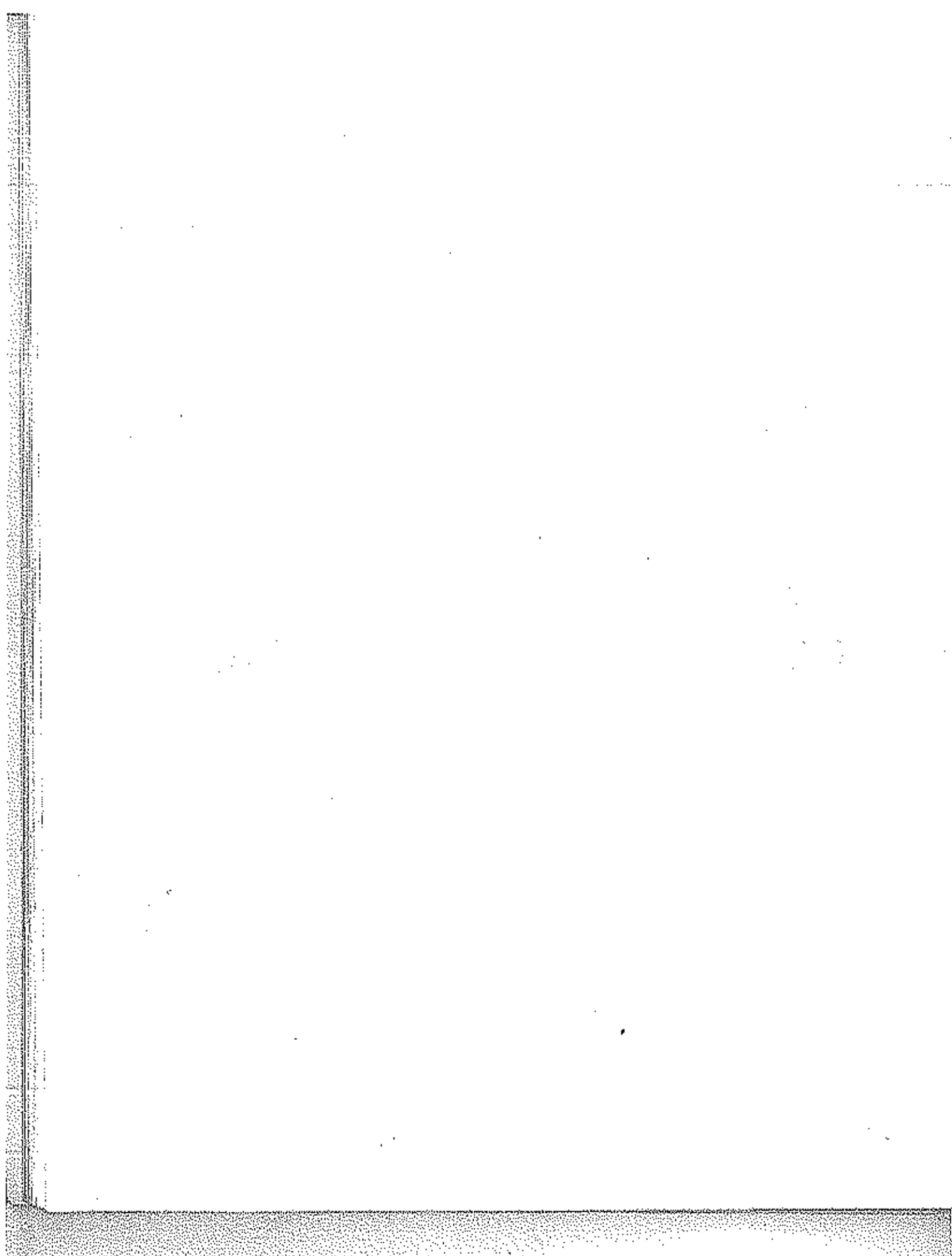
**APPENDIX**

**TO THE**

**1991-92 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY**

**FINAL REPORT**





**1991-92 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**  
**APPENDIX**

**SURVEY OF THE GRAND JURORS (1981-1991)**

The 1991-92 Yuba County Grand Jury conducted a survey of the eleven preceding years of Grand Jurors in order to develop a broader based perspective on the local grand jury process as viewed by the jurors themselves. Portions of these results have been evaluated and included in the main text of the 1991-92 Grand Jury Final Report.

The response to the survey was excellent, representing 38% of the sample population, which renders the results as highly significant with regard to being representative of the collected voice of past Yuba County Grand Jurors. Professional historical archivists, of other counties, have testified that such a compilation of authentic comments regarding the unique American social experience of service on a grand jury would have historical significance worthy of preservation in local historical archives.

It is the belief of the 1991-92 Grand Jury that these results, too voluminous to publish in the final bound report, should be provided to the citizens of the County and to the local historical archives.

**A GRAND JURY SURVEY**  
**of**  
**THE ELEVEN YUBA COUNTY**  
**GRAND JURIES, 1981 - 1991**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The 1991-92 Grand Jury conducted a survey of the eleven prior grand juries. The current grand jury did not participate in the response to the survey. One hundred eighty one questionnaires were mailed out, 19 were returned marked "deceased" or "address unknown." Of the 162 questionnaires presumed received, 61 were returned completed representing a 38% response ratio to recipients for the eleven year period. Several response were received from members of all eleven grand juries.

The questionnaire was designed with the intent to find areas subject to improvement in the local grand jury process, the needs of the grand jury to better accomplish its mission, to identify the grand jury through the eyes of the past grand jurors themselves, and to confirm early findings of the 1991-92 Grand Jury.

(The original questionnaires from which these results were compiled are filed in the Yuba County Grand Jury confidential file cabinet. In the interest of confidentiality, original questionnaires are to be released only upon order of the Court.)

**RESULTS OF: THE GRAND JURY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name (optional) 53 of 61 gave their name-filed in the Grand Jury Library

Year served 1981-1991 Age when served Median- 59 years

Race 98% White 2% other Sex 57% Male 43% Female

Occupational background See original forms filed in the Grand Jury Library

Area of residence See Supervisorial Districts charts pages 24 & 25.

Years residing in county Average 33 years

**A. Please check the appropriate space for the following:**

**1. How did you become a candidate for the Yuba County Grand Jury?**

(a) Applied 2 (b) Recommended by judge 24 (c) Recommended by past juror 3 (d) Other 15 Please indicate See files (e) 15 did not know how they were selected and 2 did not respond to the question.

**2. What training for grand jury service did you receive?**

(a) Orientation by outgoing jurors 15 (b) Orientation workshop by Presiding Judge 27 District Attorney 9 County Counsel 9 (c) Grand Jury Handbook 22 (d) American Grand Jury Foundation Grand Jury Seminar 10 (e) None 10

3. Approximately how many hours did you serve per week for: (a) Grand Jury meetings? avg. 7.5 hrs (b) Committee meetings? avg. 3 hrs (c) Investigations?

avg. 3 hrs

4. During your year of service approximately how many Grand Jury days were utilized for District Attorney submittal? avg 7 days

5. Did you: (a) witness yes or (b) experience yes any sexual 2, racial 0, or age

2 discrimination within the grand jury process? If yes, please explain see original

forms filed in the Grand Jury Library. Five respondents offered the following

comments.

"I have never seen young people, late 20's or early to late 30's, on a G/J & always thought that was to bad."

"I felt one juror was self serving regarding some land he wanted to develop."

"NAME, was foreman the second yr., I alone served to continue the previous yrs. implementing of recommendations."

"Between several members (younger) against older retired persons."

"County employee not allowed time off for Grand Jury duty."

6. Would you serve as a Grand Juror again? Yes 31 No 27 Please explain

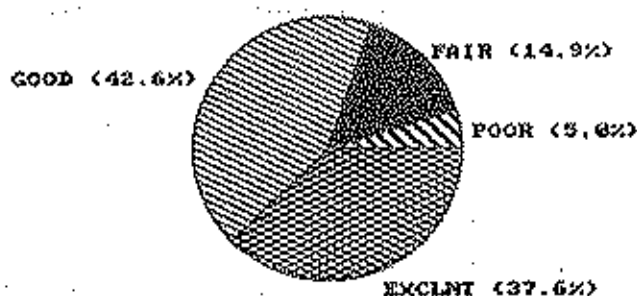
36 offered comments, 3 did not respond to the question. See original

questionnaires filed in the Grand Jury Library.

7. A recent Attorney General's Opinion (88-703) provides for transmittal of information from a past jury to a present jury, in this regard, would you serve as a resource person for the current Grand Jury? Yes 36 No 19, 6 gave no response.
8. While serving on the grand jury were you also employed? Yes 30 No 30
- (a) Full time 20 (b) Part time 10 (c) Retired 27 (d) Other 3 not employed
9. Did your grand jury have any problems with observing the confidentiality rules? Yes 3 No 58 Explain The 3 that said "Yes" offered comments, see original forms in the Grand Jury Library
10. Did citizen complaints play a significant role in establishing your jury's agenda of investigations? Yes 16 No 14 Moderate 31

B. Please rate the following as: 1=excellent, 2=good, 3=fair, 4=poor

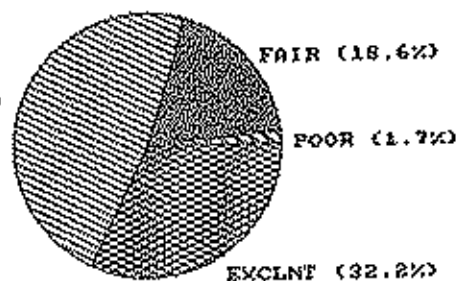
	EXLNT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1. Your Grand Jury's ability to work together effectively.	38%	42%	15%	5%



2. The quality of your final report.

32% 48% 18% 2%

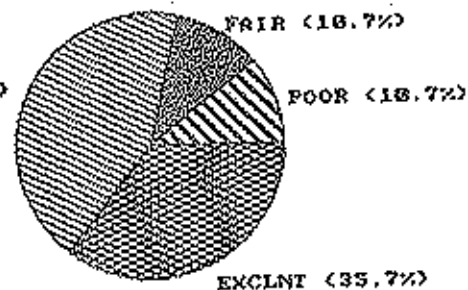
GOOD (47.5%)



3. Cooperation from the County Counsel.

36% 43% 11% 10%

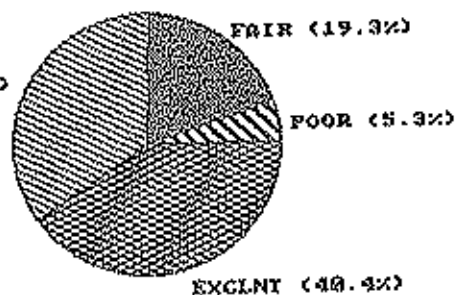
GOOD (42.9%)



4. Cooperation from the District Attorney.

41% 35% 19% 5%

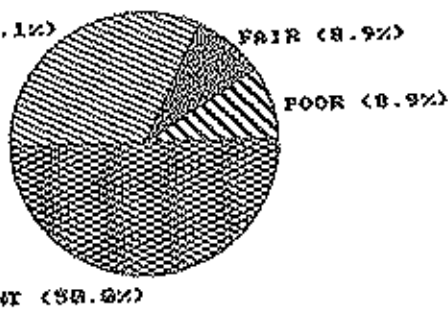
GOOD (35.1%)



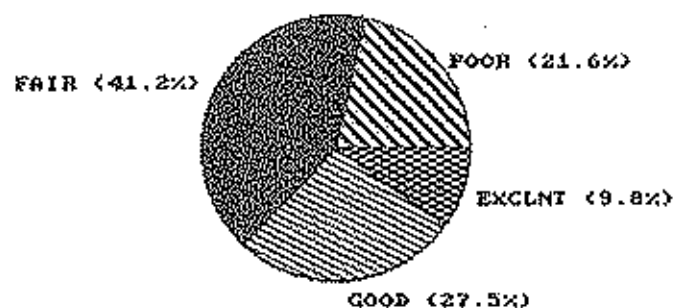
5. Cooperation from the Superior Court Judge.

50% 32% 9% 9%

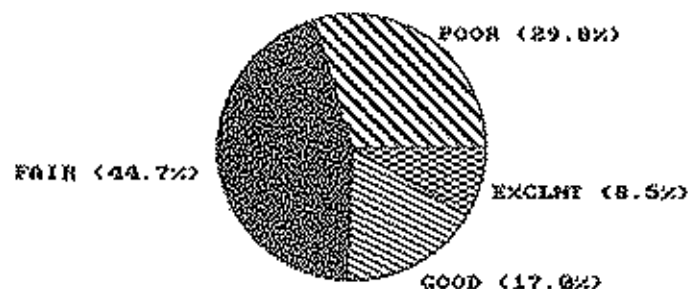
GOOD (32.1%)



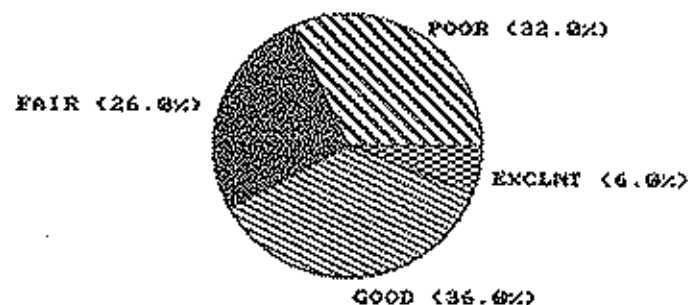
6. Response to your Grand Jury's Final Report(s). 10% 27% 41% 22%



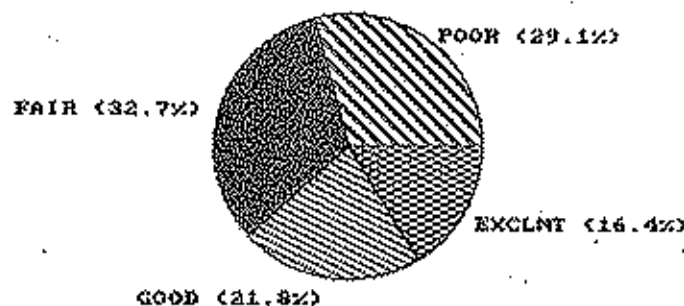
7. Board of Supervisor's response to your Grand Jury's final report(s). 8% 17% 45% 30%



8. Adequacy of your Grand Jury Budget. 6% 36% 26% 32%



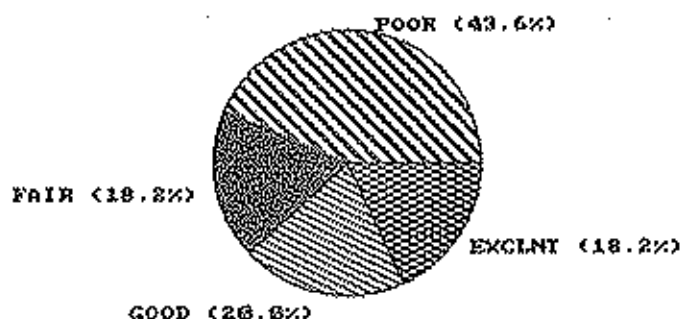
9. Adequacy of Grand Jury compensation. 16% 22% 33% 29%





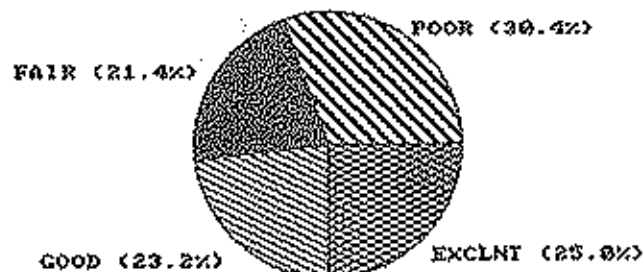
10. Adequacy of Grand Jury Office space.

18% 20% 18% 44%



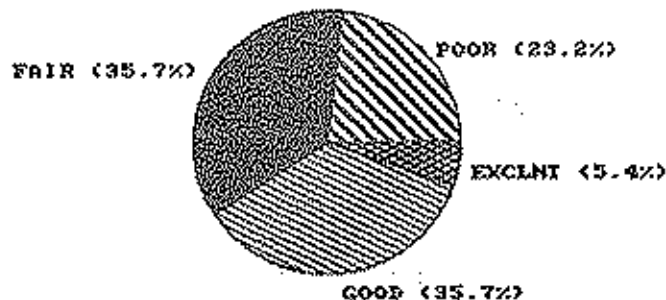
11. Adequacy of Grand Jury Meeting Room.

25% 23% 22% 30%



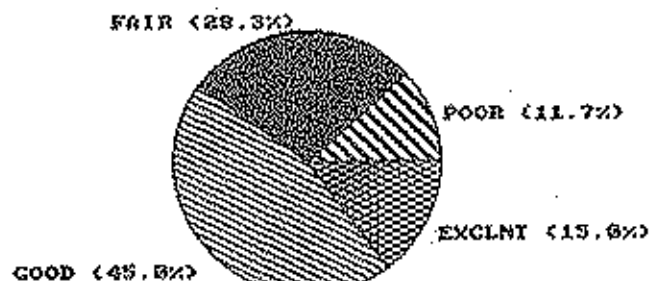
12. Your preparation for your role as a grand juror.

5% 36% 36% 23%



13. Your feeling at end of term, about the value of your personal contribution to the grand jury process.

15% 45% 28% 12%



14. Your feeling at end of term, about the value of the contribution of your grand jury to Yuba County citizens.

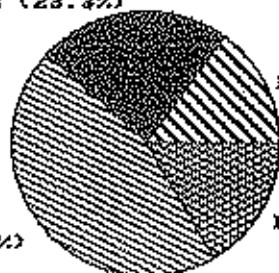
17% 45% 23% 15%

FAIR (23.3%)

GOOD (45.0%)

POOR (15.0%)

EXCLNT (16.7%)



**PAST GRAND JURORS WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE ANSWERS OR COMMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS:**

**ALL RESPONSES ARE QUOTED AS SUBMITTED,**  
(Names and year were deleted to maintain confidentiality)

**C. Please provide brief answers to the following:**

1. Did you have any prior experience working in community groups, committees,

boards, etc? Please list Forty-five gave a YES answer and listed

organizations; one gave a Yes answer no-comment. Fifteen gave a NO answer, one

respondent gave no answer. See files in the Grand Jury Library.

The following answers were given....

4H CLUB  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN LEGION, "HONOR SOCIETY"  
AMERICAN LEGION, STATE VICE COMMANDER  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOC.  
CALIFORNIA TREASURER & TAX COLLECTORS ASSOC.  
CAMP FIRE GIRLS  
CARAVAN CLUB

CASA DE ESPERANZA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CEMETERY BOARD  
CHILD ABUSE COUNCIL  
CHURCH ELDER  
CITY OF MARYSVILLE PERSONNEL BOARD  
COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC WASTE  
COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE  
COUNTY SHERIFFS POSSE  
CUB SCOUTS  
ELKS CLUB EXALTED RULER  
ELKS LODGE, BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EMERGENCY AND CASUALTY COMMITTEE, BEALE  
EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION, PRESIDENT  
EMPLOYMENT BOARDS  
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES  
EMPLOYMENT GROUPS  
EMPLOYMENT TRAINING  
EXCHANGE CLUB  
FAITH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY  
INSPECTION TEAM U.S. AIR FORCE  
JURY DUTY  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
LAND USE ELEMENT  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMIN. COUNCIL  
LIONS CLUB, PRESIDENT  
LITTLE LEAGUE  
MARY AARON MUSEUM BOARD  
MARYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
MEN FOR MISSIONS, NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MERCY HOSPITAL  
MJUSD BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
MT VALLEY LIBRARY BOARD  
NCO CLUB , ADVISORY BOARD  
PINK LADIES  
POLICE OFFICERS ASSOC., PRESIDENT  
PTA BOARD  
PTA, PRESIDENT  
RED CROSS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
SCHOOL PTA COMMITTEES  
SIERRA CENTRAL CREDIT UNION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SOUTH YUBA ROTARY

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH COUNCIL  
SUTTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TRI-COUNTY HOME HEALTH BOARD  
U.S. NAVAL RESERVE  
WHEATLAND CITY COUNCIL  
WHEATLAND H.S. BOARD  
WHEATLAND WATER DIST. DIRECTOR  
YOUTH GROUPS  
YUBA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD  
YUBA-SUTTER FAIR, BOARD  
YUBA-SUTTER PEACE OFFICERS ASSOC.

2. What recommendations would you make to improve the grand jury system? \_\_\_\_\_

Fifty-five respondents made comments and eight made no comment or did not  
answer the question.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

"I feel more power is needed in the jury's power as watchdog! More spot checks- surprise visits."

"That they be given more time."

"Visit agencies and dept. heads without prior notice. I felt these people had everything prepared that they wanted you to see and everything hidden they wanted to keep hidden."

"Meeting room, better compensation."

"More representative of the community - hard to do without paying people adequately who can't afford time away from jobs."

"Members need better training in responsibilities and authority."

*"Before appointment to visit an assigned Dept., the group should meet and set up a plan as to what do we really want to know and what questions should be asked. The group should meet again for discussion. In my opinion, because we went unprepared, we heard only what the Dept. wanted us to know. There was never a follow-up visitation by my group."*

*"Upgrade monetary allowance to average local wages."*

*"To not allow past grand jury members talk the judge into not allowing members return to next years jury because they were going to continue to investigate important allegations."*

*"Equality in pay and benefits with surrounding counties. Make sure that a person can serve with working full time. County employees can serve with paid time off. Meeting room, computer, locked storage."*

*"Provide adequate space, furniture, equipment and compensation for all members. Brief all new grand juries by former volunteer helpers of past juries."*

*"A complete overhaul-make system fit local needs, select jurors for specific contributions to eliminate witch hunts."*

*"Additional funding earmarked for retaining professional consultants would enhance accuracy and give needed credibility to final report recommendations."*

*"Give the new grand jury members a briefing on what is expected of them."*

*"I would like to see better training, meet with the heads of departments and explain we are not on a witch hunt-but there to help."*

*"More care in selecting candidates."*

*"Jury always improves the jury system."*

*"Have an in service program for all members in the 1st month of service."*

*"Out of 18 members/jurors, 5 performed 75%-80% of the work and 100% of the final report. There has to be a way to instill in jurors that all are expected to contribute and a plan that provides an avenue for them to contribute. The jury selection should not be a random selection of recommended jurors. There should be more consideration given to empaneling a jury that has a broad mix of experience and ethnic backgrounds and a commitment to put the time required into process."*

*"Better orientation."*

*"More 2 year terms."*

*"More carryover of personnel and results of investigations from year to year- it would help to have more information than is placed in the final reports."*

*"Have a chairman who is trained in leadership, establish a panel of grand jury members who review and respond to each issue, see that the proper chairman receives all pertinent information."*

*"More authority."*

*"Absolute attendance."*

*"I felt I received inadequate training, however, I took over a place on the grand jury at mid year."*

*"The proper orientation is essential."*

*"More people going to the seminar."*

*"Jury foreman should have organizational skills- be a strong leader. Committee heads should emphasize the purpose of the jury - promote more group discussion."*

*"Carry-over half the grand jury until the middle of the year, replace them with new members to give more continuity."*

"I felt the grand jury did a good job indicting BLANK & others from BLANK, but court System destroyed all good that jury report did." (Names were included in response, but left out purposely by report writers).

"The grand jury needs more power and protection from the possibility of being sued. The County Counsel has a definite conflict of interest and should not serve as the Grand Jury legal counsel. His job is to keep the county offices out of trouble. It definitely affected us."

- "1) Adequate space,
- 2) Secretarial pool to do reports,
- 3) more compensation."

"Have county counsel attend all meetings so he could give advise when needed by members. Too many times we were in the dark as to the proper way to proceed."

"More acceptance from county supervisors."

"One county-city-state employees should not be permitted to serve. The restrictive manner which an inexperience juror could ask question-they the juror are not lawyers. to be a good juror- one must be instructed in laymen language rather than legal jargon."

"The need for a permanent meeting place and a place to keep records confidential."

"I think grand jurors should be appointed to serve two years. I feel the most important improvement in the grand jury system was to allow hold over from one year to the next."

"More interest by superior court. More care in selecting candidates. Greater support by county supervisor board. Generate public awareness to access to grand jury."

"I have no idea if everyone does their part it works."

*"If they ever find the time and money. A more thorough follow-up on the grand jury reports."*

*"Become tougher-demand more respect-carefully check department heads including elected offices, don't pussy foot around."*

*"Longer terms."*

*"Longer term- minimum of 2 years-that would allow the grand jury to police recommendations made by the grand jury."*

*"We had to grasp such long-term, difficult county problems with so little to work with except our own wits. Perhaps fewer committee assignments to each juror, thus more people serving."*

*"Eliminate it."*

*"Better selection of members-strive for members that can enter into process in neutral frame of mind. To many personal vendettas."*

*"Two regular meetings a month. Interim and final reports should be made available to college and secondary school libraries- needs a much larger budget for operations."*

*"Make sure that we have at least 2, better 3, members from each supervisor district. From reading published list I couldn't see any from present 5th district."*

*"Pay more money, I think Yuba County is the lowest paying county in California , also county employees should be allowed the time to attend to grand jury business, without using their own time."*

*"Better attendance to meetings."*

*"A 5 session - 2 hour per session- training program for all potential jurors, prior to being sworn in."*



"I feel with the remodeling of the courthouse that a meeting room and office should be provided for the Grand Jury. The secretary should have a place to work and store her supplies. We had to use the meeting room in the library. We had to arrange our meeting schedule to correspond with dates the room was available. When we couldn't get the library room, we would have to get permission to use the Superior Courtroom. Our meetings lasted so late we had to be responsible for turning out the lights and making our way downstairs in the dark and out through the Sheriff's office. There is also a need for a place to hold Grand Jury Committee meetings."

"I think the new grand jury should follow thru with the past grand jury's report as it is now all the city and county office answers the report, but nothing is checked out to see if anything is changed, until it is time to write the next report, it is like a \_\_\_\_\_ circle."

"How does serving on a grand jury benefit the individual? It is a fine education for the uninitiated."

3. Do you think that the grand jury system serves a useful purpose? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please Explain. Thirty-three respondents gave a YES answer with comments and  
eighteen gave a YES answer but offered no comment. Four answered both YES  
and NO and offered comments. Three made comments but did not give a yes or no.  
Six respondents to the questionnaire did not answer this question.

#### ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS:

YES. "Indictment and check systems."

YES. "It gives the people a chance to feed in information that can be very positive to county government."

YES. "At the present time I think they should look into the plea-bargaining that has been going on between D.A. and criminals."

YES. "Government needs citizens oversight/ even "hit and miss" grand jury and random review keeps elected officials and government employees wary."

YES. "Only if the recommendations made are required to be acted on by the departments reported on."

YES. "If prepared for the investigation properly, as suggested above."

YES. "The only way to investigate any county office or agency should be a way for more county residence to learn what the grand jury can do."

YES. "It helps the various county departments stay on top of problems and allows an "airing" for citizen complaints when department heads fail to respond properly or correctly."

YES. "The grand jury serves a useful purpose if the elected officials and governing body that have been elected by the people of the county agrees with their findings and their recommendations are implemented."

YES & NO. "It could, given proper budget, expert support and specific charges."

YES. "1. Useful tool for District Attorney.  
2. Keeps department heads on their toes.  
3. Impartial forum for citizen complaints.  
4. Prods board of supervisors once a year.  
5. Jurors learn about their local government."

YES. "So one has to look over everyone's shoulder. No one is beyond being checked on."

YES & "If there is a cover up for some reason, we do not have the training  
NO. time or money- if we had the training it may be different. When the report is out the department heads, "sputter," and put the blame on the supervisors- they in turn are unhappy saying "we don't have the money".

"Debatable".

YES. "The jury tends to bring to the attention of the county changes or improvements that should be made. It may take years but the changes do happen."

YES. "The jury is the "watchdog" for the people through it's investigations of complaints and audits of the various county offices and departments."

YES. "It is only body of citizens to check city and county governments."

YES. "1. It is the only body which can influence an elected official until re-election.

2. It serves as a good check and balance for all county agencies."

YES. "This serves as a public watchdog on the investment of our tax dollars and the standards of our community. We should not allow any shady dealings to go on being funded by us."

YES. "Unbiased group."

YES. "Ideally it does- the final report does need to be received and read seriously as a tool for the good of the community and it's citizens. But the grand jury also needs to be held accountable for their report."

YES. "I feel the Bd. of Supervisors & department heads, etc. do not take the report seriously enough to adopt the recommendations, however, financial constraints are a big problem."

- NO. "Most every thing we recommend involves money. There is no money so nothing is ever done. Our local supervisors consider the grand jury as a joke!"
- YES. "By providing the average citizen to learn and examine the various departments and function of local government. However, I believe the grand jury is fed the information that the various agencies want us to hear."
- YES. "It serves as a "watch dog" over various agencies. Serves private citizens with complaints or questions about various agencies."
- YES. "Yes, if court would back it up."
- NO. "No one pays any attention to your recommendations. It has no power."
- YES. "Serves to a degree; Local tax supported agencies are aware of surveys by grand jury, but any inquiry into elected officials were discouraged."
- NO. "Recommendations are ignored by departments. A report should be given to incoming grand jury as to what was done or not done, and why, pertaining to previous years recommendations."
- YES. "Good experience for any citizen. Brings out some things that might not otherwise be checked."
- YES & "In some cases yes- It would if the juror know what to do, where  
NO. to go, what to look for- what are the problems etc."
- YES. "Indictments returned after investigations by the grand jury are fair, impartial, and most economical for the county,"
- "Debatable."

- YES. *"But only for one reason. I think the Grand Jury is valuable for criminal indictments and possibly investigating citizen complaints. I feel that the watch dog function is a waste of everyone's time."*
- YES. *"It sees that the right people know of the needs of each city and county department and hope they get the things we asked for to their needs."*
- NO. *"You are left with a feeling of being ignored because there are too many special interests at work."*
- YES. *"If all committees work-. Be careful not to put unqualified people up for the drawing."*
- YES & NO. *"Without the grand jury- county government might run amuck with out any type of watch dog- however, no body pays much attention to what the grand jury says."*
- "Review recommendations made by the grand jury- then investigate and determine the number of recommendations that have been exercised."*
- YES. *"Citizens want and need to know about the workings of their communities; To learn about the schools, the welfare department, nursing homes, police, all are vital workings that use our tax dollars and we should be able to overlook their departments as a check and balance."*
- NO. *"I just don't think a jury is anything more presently than a good adult education "civics" course; hardly it's original purpose. Judges, their guiding lights, are more concerned about getting elected next-time-around, and the last thing they want is any controversy what-so-ever."*
- "I feel what was once an important vehicle has lost it's importance and really no longer serves our needs."*

YES. "Still serves as an agent to provide information to the citizens of the county concerning public entities re: (investigations, findings and recommendations and commendations)."

YES. "The grand jury can obtain information, and ask questions that no one else can, resulting in more thorough investigations."

YES. "It gives an unbiased group the authority to check into all aspects of local government, schools and if necessary specific criminal activity and report to the people as well as the concerned offices and individuals."

YES " "Its a good system and useful."

4. Are there any questions we should have asked but did not? If so, please ask the

missing question(s) and provide your answer(s): Fifteen respondents offered

additional questions to be asked. Forty-six either did not answer the questions or did

not have additional questions. See files in the Grand Jury Library.

#### QUESTIONS ASKED

"Why did we get stuck with such an old dog as foreman? He was one of the "good old boys" who wanted graft to continue to line his pocket and interests. "It was good enough for Grandpa" mind set. His service completely wiped out the good work completed by the grand jury. We had a very good foreman. He helped us all to serve with dignity. The first foreman acted as though he did not know what to do and he just threw out all complaints. Since I was the only person who stayed for the second year, there was no leverage for my opinions or suggestions. Make sure at least 3 or 4 people carry over to following year."

"Nothing I'm aware of at present."

"Did you understand or realize the full commitment the grand jury would take? NO."

"Having worked for the county I knew more about the jury's role and county functions in general so my responses may not be representative of other members of the jury in re training and supportive resources."

"More returning jurors would help. I think!"

"The question is adequate."

"If you would like to call me, my phone number is-----."

"How can grand jury services be expanded?"

"Do you feel a majority of jurors contributed equally to the overall activities of the jury? - If no, explain - ."

"I bet you would have got better response on these if you had sent postage paid envelopes."

"Yes, more questions-but this is a good start. Maybe open meetings to let the public express their views."

"As a county employee of Yuba -I was never paid for my time I had to take off work- I was forced to use vacation time."

"I think the idea of the continuity is a great one- When you first start your term, you spend the first months just adjusting and feeling your way around the maze of county offices. Perhaps longer terms would be in order."

"What has been done to insure the safety and care of old people in Yuba County?"

*"Q-Does the committee system work? (or Did)*

*"A (1) If you do not plan on doing anything anyway- it's great!*

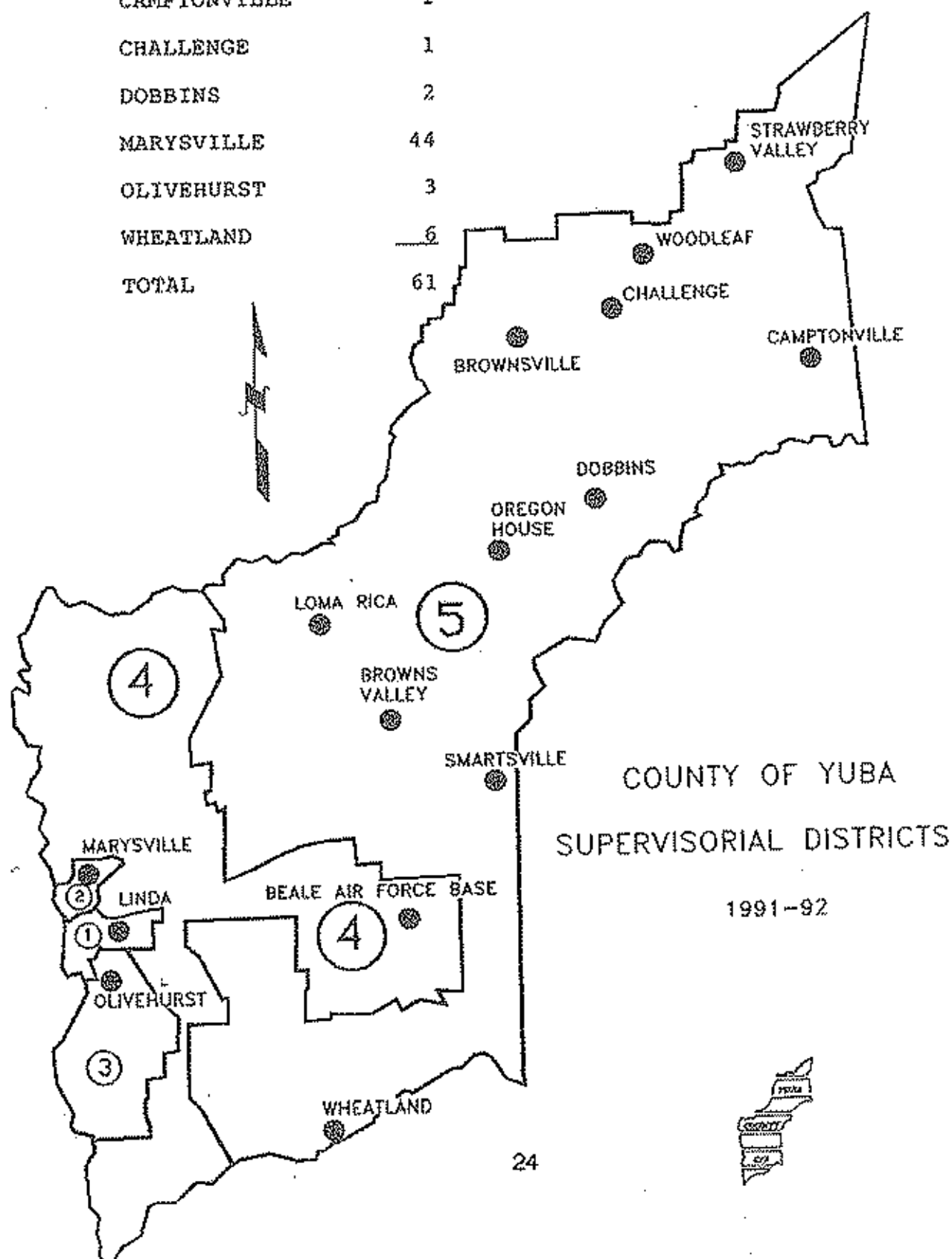
*"A (2) Should you plan on doing something that needs doing- it's an outright disaster."*

*"The selection of the jury foreman is of prime importance. Not a choice to be taken lightly. Must have strong leadership (proven), understand the rules or orders, and not be afraid to say "shut up and sit down"."*



AREA	RESPONDED
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BROWNS VALLEY	3
BROWNSVILLE	1
CAMPTONVILLE	1
CHALLENGE	1
DOBBINS	2
MARYSVILLE	44
OLIVEHURST	3
WHEATLAND	6
TOTAL	61



AREA                      QUESTIONNAIRES

BROWNS VALLEY      9

BROWNSVILLE      5

CAMPTONVILLE      1

CHALLENGE            1

DOBBINS               6

MARYSVILLE          135

OLIVEHURST          6

SMARTVILLE          2

WHEATLAND           16

TOTAL MAILED        181

