



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Placer County Meals on Wheels: A Failure to Communicate

Response to a Response

June 26, 2015

Placer County Meals on Wheels: A Failure to Communicate

Response to a Response

Summary

This report is a response to and a continuation of a recommendation from the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report on the “Placer County Meals on Wheels: A Failure to Communicate”.

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury recommended that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) should establish a system of communication between the BOS and its appointees to Boards and Commissions. The BOS responded that it agreed with the recommendation; however, it gave no time frame for implementation. California Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2) specifies that when a respondent replies that a recommendation will be implemented in the future, it needs to give a time frame for implementation.

As a part of this follow up, the 2014-2015 Grand Jury (Grand Jury) asked that a member of the BOS be interviewed to discuss the implementation of the BOS response. The BOS member who was contacted by the Grand Jury to be interviewed contacted County Counsel. County Counsel (who acts as counsel for both Grand Jury and the BOS) called the Grand Jury and suggested the BOS member not be interviewed.

In the course of this follow up, the Grand Jury determined that there appears to be an issue regarding BOS cooperation with the work of the Grand Jury.

Background

The 2014-2015 Grand Jury reviewed the BOS response to the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report; “Placer County Meals on Wheels: A Failure to Communicate”. The Grand Jury found the BOS response to be lacking in specificity as required by Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2).

Investigation Methods

- Interviews
- Review of BOS agendas and minutes
- Research

Facts

- Finding 1 of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report stated *“No documented policy defines the relationship between the BOS and its appointed commission representatives to insure that the BOS receives complete and timely information.”*
- The BOS agreed with Finding 1 of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report. It replied that *“the county is in the process of clarifying the communication channels between the BOS and its representatives for the future”*.
- Recommendation 1 of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury report stated: *“The Board of Supervisors should establish a documented understanding between itself and its appointees regarding the expected information flow to ensure that it receives complete, timely and accurate information from its appointees. This flow should be bi-directional and conducted on a routine schedule.”*
- The BOS response to Recommendation 1 was, *“This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The County is in the process of defining the roles of representatives to provide for more effective communication.”*
- California Penal Code, § 933.05(b)(2) states that *“For purposes of subdivision (b) of § 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions: ... (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.”*
- The Grand Jury attempted to interview a member of the BOS to get information on the implementation status of the recommendation. The BOS member did not respond to the Grand Jury request for an interview.
- In a conversation with the Grand Jury, County Counsel did not endorse the Grand Jury’s request to interview a member of the BOS.

Findings

The Grand Jury found that:

- F1. The BOS response to Recommendation 1 of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury report lacks a time frame for implementation of the recommendation. It is in violation of Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2).

Recommendations

The Grand Jury recommends that:

- R1. The BOS provide a time frame for the implementation of Recommendation 1 of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report regarding the establishment of a written policy or procedure for information flow between itself and its Board and Commission appointees.

Request for Responses

	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Placer County Board of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Avenue Auburn, CA 95603	R1	September 22, 2015

Copies sent to:

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