

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ALPINE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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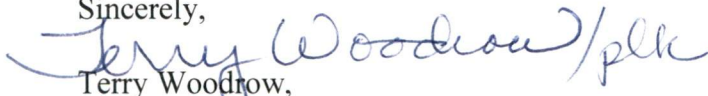
The Honorable Judge David DeVore
Alpine County Superior Court, Presiding Judge
P.O. Box 518
Markleeville, CA 96120

RE: County Response to Final Grand Jury Report-2007

Dear Judge DeVore:

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors is in receipt of the Final Grand Jury Report for 2007. After special consideration of the findings and recommendations, the Board of Supervisors respectfully submits the prepared responses in accordance with the California Penal Code Section 933.05.

Sincerely,


Terry Woodrow,
Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Chair

RESPONSES TO ALPINE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT FOR 2007

Complaint Title: Defensible Space Inspection

FINDINGS

1. **The grievance of the complainant regarding Defensible Space inspections lacks merit.**

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

2. **A County Fire Chief would improve the communication and clarify jurisdictional issues and responsibilities.**

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. **The County hire a full or part time salaried Fire Chief. The position should be funded annually as a budget line item.**

The recommendation requires further analysis, including the funding requirement and funding source for funding an executive level position.

In the interim, the County has provided funding for a consultant to assess and develop standardized policies for the East Side Volunteer Fire Departments, including Woodfords, Kirkwood, and Markleeville Volunteer Fire Departments. Meetings with the Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs to develop the criteria for the RFP for this contract will take place in no later than November 30, 2009.

- B. **The respective County Supervisor(s) for Markleeville and Woodfords provide oversight for the integration of the Volunteer County Fire Departments leading up to hiring a County Fire Chief.**

The recommendation requires further analysis, in that the oversight of the County Fire Chief would be dependent upon availability for funding the position. The availability of funding for the position will be researched through the remainder of FY 08/09.

- C. At the conclusion of the 2008 Defensible Space Inspections the Alpine County Board of Supervisors should convene a meeting with the FSC and the Volunteer Fire Departments Chiefs to report to the County on the results of the 2008 inspections and to communicate any recommendations for improvements for the 2009 season.**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented as the inspections have not been completed. Within 90 days of being informed that the Defensible Inspections have been completed, the CAO will coordinate a meeting with the FSC and Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs to discuss the results and develop best practices for the 2009 Defensible Space Inspections.

- D. Hire a full time Defensible Space Inspector.**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Funding a full time Defensible Space Inspector would not be a prudent use of County funds as this position would be an unfunded and un-mandated expenditure that would not be utilized year round.

Although the County is not a regulation for the local agency to provide defensible space inspections, the Board of Supervisors did allocate funding in FY 07/08 and FY 08/09 to conduct defensible space inspections.

Complaint Title: Block Grants for Sierra Pines Mobile Home/Hung-a-Lel-Ti

FINDINGS

1. **The Alpine County Health Officials are aware of the problem with the Sierra Pines Mobile Home park and have acted to demand that the owner of the property perform periodic maintenance needed to keep the system operating properly.**

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

2. **There is a need for a better system for “marketing to” and informing the general community in Alpine County about the goals and activities of the Wellness Center.**

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. **The Grand Jury recommends that the Alpine County Board of Supervisors assign the responsibility for updating and distributing the current events calendar in a timely manner to one department and/or instruction as to how to post activities and events should be provided. This should include information from all parts of the County and include the Wellness Center.**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with the department responsible for developing the current events calendar to be identified no later than the end of FY 08/09

Complaint Title: Kirkwood Fair Share

FINDINGS

- 1. An analysis needs to be conducted to ensure that Kirkwood is allocated the appropriate legal portion of property tax revenue received by the County.**

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. The Grand Jury recommends that the Alpine County Board of Supervisors consider returning amounts to Kirkwood funded from the year on year incremental property tax revenue.**

The recommendation will not be implemented as there is no authority for retrospective modification of changes to tax apportionment calculations.

- B. The Grand Jury recommends that the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and/or the County Administrative Officer initiate a study to perform an in depth and thorough analysis of the funding needs of each area of the County and determine appropriate allocations county wide.**

The recommendation requires further analysis. The County Administrative Officer is currently conducting research to obtain a cost projection for the study so that a funding source for the study can be identified and a RFP (Request For Proposal) can be issued.