

Tuolumne County
Administration Center
2 South Green Street
Sonora, California 95370



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SEP 23 2014

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne
By: E. Royce
Evan Royce, *Third District*
Karl Rodefer, *Fifth District*

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Donald Segerstrom
Tuolumne County Superior Court
60 North Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370



Re: Response to Grand Jury Report - Tuolumne County Animal Control

Dear Judge Segerstrom:

The following is offered in response to the 2013-14 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to the Tuolumne County Animal Control.

Grand Jury Findings

F4. An Animal Control Officer position was cut in 2009.

Response: Agree

F5. Animal Control needs a generator to provide back-up power in the event of an outage.

Response: Agree

F6. The Animal Control Manager is performing the duties of two positions; managing the division and performing duties of a Registered Veterinary Technician.

Response: Agree

- F7. In recent years another Animal Control position cut was that of an Office Assistant. There was also a reduction in hours for the equivalent of one full-time relief Animal Shelter Attendant. Animal Control staff is overburdened and tired. This resulted in Workers Compensation premiums increasing.

Response: Agree with clarification that this has not been the sole cause of workers compensation premium increases. Workers compensation charges to all departments have been increasing over time in accordance with Board budget policies aimed at meeting actuarial funding targets for same.

- F8. Due to budget cuts, the Animal Control staff-training budget was eliminated.

Response: Agree.

- F9. Budget constraints negatively impact Animal Control's ability to replace equipment and aging vehicles.

Response: Agree

Grand Jury Recommendations

- R4. The Agricultural Commissioner shall request that the County Administrative Officer immediately reinstate the Animal Control Officer position which was cut in 2009. The County Administrative Officer should allocate funding to do so, and this should be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors approved the addition of an Animal Control Officer in the FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget on September 2, 2014.

- R5. The Agricultural Commissioner shall request that the County Administrative Officer allocate funding to purchase a generator in 2014. The County Administrative Officer should allocate funding for the generator, and the purchase should be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors approved full funding for a new generator for the Animal Control Shelter in the FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget on September 2, 2014.

- R6. The Agricultural Commissioner shall request that the County Administrative Officer create and fill the position of Registered Veterinary Technician in 2014. The County Administrative Officer should allocate funding for the position, and this should be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Response: This recommendation has not been implemented. Funding for the position was not requested by the department in 2014. The potential establishment of a Registered Veterinary Technician has been discussed between the department and the CAO in conjunction with succession planning for the current Animal Control Manager. At such time as the position is requested, funding will be considered along with other department requests and Board priorities at that time.

- R7. The Agricultural Commissioner shall request that the County Administrative Officer allocate funding in fiscal year 2015-2016 to hire additional Animal Control Officers, reinstate the Animal Control Office Assistant position and hire additional relief Shelter Attendants. The County Administrative Officer should allocate funding in the 2015-2016 budget for these positions, and this should be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Response: This recommendation has not been implemented. It is premature to discuss this recommendation as the FY 2015-16 Budget process will not begin for several months. At such time as these positions are requested, funding will be considered along with other department requests and Board priorities at that time.

- R8. The Agricultural Commissioner shall request that the County Administrative Officer allocate funding in fiscal year 2015-2016 to reinstate a staff training program. The County Administrative Officer should allocate funding in the 2015-2016 budget to do so, and this should be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Response: This recommendation has not been implemented. It is premature to discuss this recommendation as the FY 2015-16 Budget process will not begin for several months. Having said this, the Board and CAO fully support ongoing training programs for every department. Prior cuts to training were made by the department as an undesired but preferred alternative to meeting funding targets during "Great Recession Era" budgets. At such time as funding is requested to restore the department's training program, the request will be looked upon favorably but still along with other department requests and Board priorities at that time. For general information, \$1,000 was requested and \$750 approved for training in the FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget. While a step in the right direction, this does not represent adequate funding for a full training program.

- R9. The Agricultural Commission shall request that the County Administrative Officer allocate funding in fiscal year 2015-2016 to acquire an additional truck, and replace vehicles and equipment as needed. The County Administrative Officer should allocate funding in the 2015-2016 budget for the vehicles and equipment, and this should be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Response: This recommendation has not been implemented. It is premature to discuss this recommendation as the FY 2015-16 Budget process will not begin for several months. Having said this, the Board and CAO fully support ongoing funding for vehicle replacements; however, "Great Recession Era" budgets did put off such replacements amongst several departments in order to meet funding targets and avoid cuts to positions and other needed programs. In acknowledgement of this fact, a summary of vehicle needs amongst all County departments was included in the back-up for the FY 2014-15 Budget Hearing. The CAO will be working with all departments to begin restoring funding for vehicle replacements in upcoming budgets. Those requests will still need to be considered along with other department requests and Board priorities at that time.

The Honorable Donald Segerstrom
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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above findings and recommendations. Please feel free to contact the County Administrator Craig Pedro should you have any questions regarding same.



EVAN ROYCE, Chair
Board of Supervisors

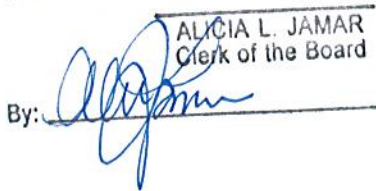
Sincerely,



CRAIG L. PEDRO
County Administrator

Cc: Vicki Helmar, Agricultural Commissioner
Jennifer Clarke, Animal Control Manager

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

By: 
ALICIA L. JAMAR
Clerk of the Board