

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN 2000

## Summary

The Placer County Information Technology Plan 2000 (IT Plan 2000) was created to ensure Year 2000 (Y2K) compliance of the County's computer systems, embedded chips and critical business operations. Its large scope required a significant staff effort.

However, problems persist in the financial and accounting functions of the new County computer system. The vendor for this system is being assessed liquidated damages in the amount of \$500 per day until the system is functioning properly. The 1999-2000 Placer County Grand Jury commends both the County's Y2K efforts and the decision to assess liquidated damages.

## Discussion

County staff, working in conjunction with private sector experts, made steady progress throughout 1999 toward ensuring that potential Y2K "bugs" did not disrupt the County's systems and operations. The staff's efforts resulted in a smooth transition into the year 2000, with only a few insignificant problems that were easily resolved. This aspect of IT Plan 2000 can be counted as a success.

However, the County identified portions of the Information System that are not performing properly. The financial and accounting component of the new computer system has produced either incorrect or contradictory financial information, making it difficult for County departments to know with certainty what their expenditures are. The 1999-2000 Grand Jury, along with many other departments, experienced problems with monthly financial reports. As a result, accounting personnel often resorted to using technology from the old system to produce accurate information. As of May 2000, these problems still are not totally resolved.

The 1998-1999 Placer County Grand Jury recommended that the County closely monitor the software vendor to ensure completion of the IT Plan 2000 as soon as possible. The County Director of Administrative Services noted that the financial system was behind schedule in production and testing and as a result the vendor is being assessed \$500 a day in liquidated damages.

## Finding 1

The County developed and implemented a plan that resulted in a relatively smooth transition into the year 2000. The 1999-2000 Grand Jury commends the County staff for its efforts and achievements.

## **Recommendation 1**

None

## **Finding 2**

As of May 2000, the financial functions of the County's computer system are still not working properly. Liquidated damages are still being assessed the vendor.

## **Recommendation 2A**

The County should continue to assess damages against the vendor until the financial system is fully operational.

## **Recommendation 2B**

The 2000-2001 Placer County Grand Jury should continue to monitor the system.

## **Respondents**

Placer County Board of Supervisors  
Placer County Director of Administrative Services  
Placer County Executive Officer

## **RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

The Honorable Larry D. Gaddis  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court  
County of Placer  
Historic Courthouse  
101 Maple Street  
Auburn, CA 95603