

## **Foreman's Report**

The 2001-2002 Placer County Grand Jury completed its year of service with a sense of accomplishment, but realizes that work remains to be done in the monitoring of agencies within Placer County. Grand Juries are created to serve as the eyes and ears of the citizens within the County, to assure that tax dollars are used in a wise manner and that public business is conducted openly and honestly. The Grand Jurors work for a full year to meet these mandates – July 1 to June 30, 20 to 30 hours per week.

This Foreman's Report will reflect, along with the accompanying Final Reports contained in this document, issues that have been addressed and issues that remain to be investigated during the term of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury.

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury began its term in an unusual manner. After the Jurors' names were randomly drawn and they were seated, it was discovered that a single name had been overlooked in the box from which the names were drawn. The Presiding Judge then proclaimed that the names should be returned and a new drawing conducted. Hence, the first drawing was nullified and a new Grand Jury was selected. This was a historical first in Placer County since there had never been a Grand Jury that had served as short a term.

Three citizen complaints carried over from the previous year welcomed the new 2001-2002 Grand Jury. Thirty-one new complaints were received and investigated during the year. In addition, inspections of jails, police holding facilities, and the Juvenile Detention Center were conducted as required by law. Members of the Grand Jury attended meetings of Special Districts, City Councils, the Placer County Board of Supervisors, Boards of Trustees of school districts and various other Commissions. Many hours were spent interviewing persons in the Grand Jury room and at other locations throughout the County.

### **District Attorney and Public Defender**

Several complaints were received from inmates of the County Jail regarding the handling of their cases by the Public Defender and the District Attorney. Investigations were undertaken and it was found that the Public Defender's office was understaffed, but that at no time had detainees been refused or not given their full and legal rights. As the County grows, the number of inmates also continues to grow. The Court system is making changes to meet this increasing growth. The 2002-2003 Grand Jury should continue to monitor this area of County law enforcement.

### **City of Roseville**

A number of complaints were received alleging lack of full information from the City Council meetings being made available to the public. An investigation and

conference with the City Manager resulted in a change in policy for public information. The City Council Agendas are now available on the Internet, posted in public places, shown on local public television, or can be personally picked up at City Hall prior to all meetings. The City should be commended for making public all information on these meetings.

### **Placer County Department of Public Works**

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of County roads and highways, and the County Motor Pool.

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury responded to complaints of misuse of County equipment by County employees. Investigation showed that policies and procedures had not been kept current and that a lack of enforcement had made this possible. New leadership has indicated that changes are being made and that all employees will be required to adhere to the published policies. It is recommended that the 2002-2003 Grand Jury continue to monitor the activities of this department.

### **Placer County Department of Health and Human Services**

The 2001-2002 Placer County Grand Jury visited the following county facilities as part of the ombudsman oversight commission:

- Medical Care Clinic at DeWitt Center
- Women's Health Clinic at DeWitt Center
- Immunization/International Travel Clinic at DeWitt Center
- Dental Clinic at DeWitt Center
- Adult System of Care, Cirbv Hills Facility in Roseville
- Community Clinic, Tahoe, Kings Beach
- Dental Clinic, Tahoe, Kings Beach

These facilities serve a vital function for the people in Placer County and their continued success should be ensured. Personnel should also be commended for their dedication and enthusiasm.

### **Publication of the Grand Jury Final Report**

Grand Juries are required by law to distribute copies of the Final Report to schools and libraries throughout the county. The Placer County Grand Jury has also made the Report available to the news media in the general county area. During the 2001-2002 term, the Grand Jury decided to include the Report on the Internet rather than publish in tabloid form. This should make the Report more available to everyone in the County. The Internet address is [www.placer.ca.gov](http://www.placer.ca.gov) and the Report is available under Courts.