



CITY OF OROVILLE

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November 19, 2008

The Honorable Judge Steven Howell, Presiding Judge
Butte County Consolidated Courts
1 Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965



RE: 2007/08 GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Honorable Judge Howell:

Pursuant to Penal Code subsection 933(c), the City Council has reviewed the 2007/08 Grand Jury Final Report in respect to the Butte County Jail. The following is the City Council's response to the 2007/08 Grand Jury Report.

RESPONSE TO FINDING F2 OF GRAND JURY RELATING TO BUTTE COUNTY JAIL

FINDING: The women's section in the "old jail" still does not meet the definition of an adequate humane environment even though staff has done everything reasonable to make it so. The solution lies in acquiring funds for a 25% match to a portion of the 4.1 billion dollars being made available in Assembly Bill 900 for the construction of new local jail space.

RESPONSE: The Council agrees with the finding to the extent that the "old jail" needs to provide an adequate humane environment for its inmates.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION R2 OF GRAND JURY RELATING TO BUTTE COUNTY JAIL

RECOMMENDATION: While the increase in the Jail Impact Fees approved by the Butte County BOS on July 10, 2007, is a major step forward, the Grand Jury wishes to take this opportunity to recommend that the incorporated towns and cities contribute to this shared, local need by collecting their own impact fees. These additional fees, collected within the incorporated areas, should ensure prompt success in achieving AB900 funding to help alleviate the substandard conditions for women inmates in our county.

RESPONSE: The Council disagrees with this recommendation because impact fees would not be a reliable source of new revenue. Impact fees would be charged only to new residential units. During the current economic climate, there is no reason to conclude that such impact fees would be substantial enough to finance the required jail improvements. In addition, jail impact fees would not be an equitable means of providing funding to satisfy the matching requirements of AB900. A better approach would be to develop a ballot measure for a County-wide special tax for the purpose of providing matching funds pursuant to AB900 to help remedy the substandard conditions at the Butte County Jail.

The City Council would like to thank the Grand Jury for providing this opportunity to respond to the finding and recommendation relating to the Butte County Jail.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Jernigan, Mayor

Cc: Oroville City Council
Sharon L. Atteberry, City Administrator
Dwight L. Moore, City Attorney