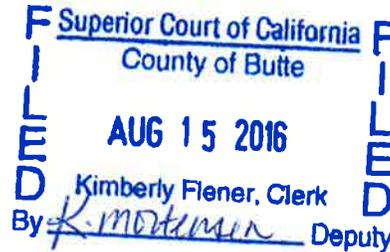




August 2, 2016



The Honorable Robert A. Glusman, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Butte  
One Court Street  
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: Response to the FY 2015-16 Grant Jury Report

Dear Honorable Judge Robert A. Glusman:

The Town Council has reviewed the findings and recommendations in the 2015-16 Grand Jury Final Report. Based upon Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Town Council is pleased to have the opportunity to provide the following responses to the 2016 Grand Jury Report.

#### **Butte County Animal Shelters - Report**

In addition to the response dated July 14, 2016 from the Police Chief (attached and incorporated herein as part of this response) the Town Council of the Town of Paradise offers the following response:

Finding F5. The Paradise facility is small and in need of renovation and expansion.

Recommendation R3. The Grand Jury recommends that the Town of Paradise provide adequate funding for the updating, enlarging and renovating of the local animal shelter.

Although the Paradise Animal Shelter is comparatively small, so is our revenue stream. The Town is still recovering from the recession and does not have the financial means at this time to address an addition to our current shelter. It is one of the 11 priorities of the Town Council, although it is understood that the priorities will take more time and money than is currently available to the Town.

In 2014, Paradise residents passed a half percent sales tax measure—Measure C. The revenue is being prioritized for many critical needs pertaining to public safety—animal control being one of them. The revenue is not sufficient to cover the cost of an addition at this time, but the Council will address other financial concerns/shortfalls within the Animal Control budget in the next couple of years as the current revenue stream for Animal Control does not adequately cover the current costs to provide animal shelter facility/services. It is the Town's intention to review our options for increasing the revenue stream to the Shelter/Animal Control Services in order to provide the best services, not only to the animals in the shelter, but also to the residents of the community. The Town of Paradise is a very densely populated, forested community. Wild animals and domestic animals share the same habitat which causes more issues than in more urban settings. For instance, the Town has up to 200 deer a year that are struck by vehicles and need to be picked up and disposed of before they become a public safety hazard. That does not include skunks, raccoons, snakes and other potentially

rabid/dangerous animals that impact the Town. Animal Control Services includes many responsibilities beyond housing animals, such as vicious dog hearings and barking dog complaints. The Animal Control Donation fund is projected to be depleted at the end of next year. This will further impact services/shelter operations. The Council recently discussed the possibility of using Measure C funds to build an addition at the shelter, but decided to maintain the current level of service/size as we look at other options.

As a short-term solution, the Town Council and Measure C Committee have dedicated funds to provide new isolation units for cats that will help us to isolate sick cats and keep the spread of disease to a minimum. We also purchased a high-grade pressure sprayer that will aid in proper cleaning of the facility. The Town is looking at temporary, low-cost options to help separate the cats/dogs. The Town will make every effort to provide the resources necessary to protect and preserve both the residents and animals in our community, including making changes to the shelter for the safety and protection of animals.

### **Cities Report – GASB GASP!**

The Grand Jury investigated the requirements of GASB 68 and 71 (Government Accounting Standards Board) related to unfunded pension liability and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) listed on municipal balance sheets. As stated in their findings, the Grand Jury reports that the calculation of the unfunded liability is complex and unique to each municipality. They also report that unfunded liability reporting will soon include retiree medical benefits, which will add an additional burden to the balance sheets. Their recommendations are that cities post their CAFR and CalPers Actuarial Valuations Report on their website and report unfunded liabilities, contribution rates and trend lines and perform an analysis showing trend lines readily available on the Town's website.

The Town of Paradise has been paying very keen attention to its unfunded liability for many years. Even during the recession, the Town made changes to its benefits to limit its exposure---we have reduced our unfunded liability by 70.2%, by taking many actions including capping premium costs associated with these benefits. The Town's actuary report indicates that in addition to the actual premium costs paid directly by the Town, the Town should be contributing \$150,000 to \$200,000 toward these future premium payments building up a "bank" to fund these future obligations. Reporting aside, the Town must continue to take actions to reduce its unfunded liability.

The Town posts all of its financial information on its website in easily understood graphs and charts showing projections for revenues and expenditures, including on reporting on our unfunded liability and financial health. The Town will look into the possibility of having an analysis done similar to that of the City of Chico, which is recommended by the Grand Jury.

On behalf of the Town Council and the Town staff, I would like to thank the Butte County Grand Jury for thoroughly and thoughtfully examining issues that affect our communities and the region.

Sincerely,



Jody Jones,  
Mayor, Town of Paradise