



Butte County Board of Supervisors

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Members of the Board

Bill Connelly | Debra Lucero | Tami Ritter | Steve Lambert | Doug Teeter

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger, Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965



RE: Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report

Honorable Judge Mosbarger:

The Butte County Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2018-2019 Grand Jury for the many hours spent in researching, investigating, and making recommendations for improvements in government operations that benefit the citizens and taxpayers of Butte County.

In accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Board submits the following agency response to the findings and recommendations of the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Final Report pertaining to matters under its control.

Appointed department heads were requested to submit responses to the Chief Administrative Officer for attachment to the overall agency response included herein. You will find the various departmental responses located in Attachment A of this agency response. The Board of Supervisors' response is organized by major heading in the same order as listed in the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report.

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors

2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report
Butte County Children's Services Division

FINDINGS

F1. High staff turnover has negatively affected program implementation, morale, and caseload management.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F2. Higher wages in other counties was cited as the primary cause of staff turnover.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F3. Staff in the Chico Office report having high camaraderie and support for one another.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F4. There is no procedure directing staff to provide information and resources to parents/guardians when a child is removed from parents/guardians.

Response: The respondent disagrees with the finding. The procedures are outlined in CDS Policy and Procedure – CSD-14-20 Investigations, Page 4

F5. Seneca and social worker records often lack needed information for mandatory relative notification, causing delays in cases moving forward in court.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F6. Consistency and clarity in communication, expectations, and implementation of changes is lacking amongst some supervisors and program managers.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F7. Lack of technology and equipment limits staff productivity.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F8. Budget cuts have decreased family support resources.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F9. Having two office locations has created management and program implementation discrepancies.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F10. There is a lack of access to documents supporting parents in the management of their case.

Response: The respondent disagrees with the finding. The Department of Employment and Social Services provides the following documentation when a child is taken into temporary custody:

- *Your Rights Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act brochure (BU-200)*
- *Children Services Division (CSD) provides notification of rights under section 504 of the rehabilitation act as required by the Code of Federal Regulation: 45 CFR Part 84.5(a)*
- *Your Rights Under California Welfare Programs brochure (PUB 13)*
- *CSD provides notification of rights under child welfare programs as required by the California Department of Social Services Division 21 Regulations: Division 21-107.221*
- *Butte County Juvenile Court Information for Parents pamphlet (JV-050),*
- *The Dependency Court: How it Works pamphlet (JV-055), and*
- *A Parent's Guide to the Child Welfare System*

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Children's Services Division should pursue grants and request additional funding from Butte County to bring Butte County's social worker income to a level that is competitive with neighboring counties, starting with the new fiscal year in 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not feasible. Grants exist for specified purposes and are limited in scope and duration. There are no grants that would fund salary increases on an ongoing basis.

R2. The CSD should focus morale-building activities on developing trust between staff and leadership by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future. The Department is working on several strategies that will improve trust between staff and leadership, including improved communication feedback loop, restructured employee forum, and inclusive Program Oversight and Leadership meetings. These strategies will be implemented by January 1, 2020.

R3. The CSD should develop, provide staff training, and implement a procedure to ensure all parents/guardians receive the Parent Folder (including the JV-050, Your Rights, JV-055, and A Parent's Guide to The Child Welfare System Packet) immediately upon detention of the child by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. All social workers receive standby training, which includes review of the required detention materials when a child is taken into temporary custody.

R4. The CSD should standardize tracking/checklist of mandatory document provision, verifying receipt by signature of parent/guardian by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The department will investigate the feasibility of obtaining a receipt by signature from parents/guardians by January 1, 2020.

R5. The CSD should implement staff meetings in Chico, as the Oroville office has, for each time a case changes hands to ensure needs and requirements are met for each case. Begin implementing these meetings by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Chico office has implemented case transfer meetings consistent with the Oroville office.

R6. The CSD should provide one (1) full time employee dedicated to relative notification mirroring the tribal notification position within the next fiscal year.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not feasible. Given the current challenges of filling existing allocated positions for high priority case management and investigation duties, it is not realistic to add and fill other positions.

R7. The CSD should provide supervisors and program managers with quarterly leadership training and management development to improve consistency in culture and expectations throughout the organization by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be in the future. The CSD will provide quality onsite training for supervisors and program managers by January 1, 2020.

R8. The CSD should address employee concerns that they are not part of the problem-solving process by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be in the future. The current forum to address concerns, needs, and solutions will be restructured to include employees in the problem-solving process by January 1, 2020.

R9. The CSD should create a plan to upgrade smart phones for field workers and provide dual computer screens for all employees by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be in the future. The Department has a plan to upgrade cellular phones by January 1, 2020. The Department also has plans to add dual monitors, the timing of which depends on funding availability.

R10. The CSD should seek grants and other resources to increase funding for prevention and early intervention for families by June 30, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The department continually searches for and applies for grants and other resources to fund early intervention services for families.

R11. The CSD should create opportunities for staff at both offices to come together and foster connections by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Department holds meetings in which staff from Chico and Oroville attend together, and staff is encouraged to interact. Additionally, a committee of management, supervisors, and staff meets biweekly to create strategies that improve morale.

R12. The CSD should make the information in the Parent Binder and Parent Folder available on <https://www.buttecounty.net/dess/childrengservices> by January 1, 2020

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Parent Binder and Parent Folder are now available at <https://www.buttecounty.net/dess/Services/Childreng-Services/parentinformationandresources>.

R13. The CSD should ensure checklist described in R4. travels from social worker to social worker as the case moves through the department by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. New processes have been implemented that accomplishes this goal without a checklist being transferred from person to person.

2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report
The Camp Fire – Lessons Learned

FINDINGS

- F1. The 2008-2009 Grand Jury recommendation to widen the shoulders and turnouts along existing evacuation roads has not been funded.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F2. The Butte County General Plan 2030 addresses plans to study potential improvement projects to upgrade existing evacuation roads; nine years after adoption, these studies have not been completed.

Response: The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. Although all the studies have not been completed, many have, which have resulted in the completion of several large projects such as the construction of Forest Highway 171 and Skyway fuel reduction programs. The County is continually searching for funding sources that will allow more studies and projects to be completed

- F3. Allocated funds for studies to identify additional evacuation routes and improvements to existing roads have not been used.

Response: The respondent disagrees with the finding. The funds referenced in the Grand Jury report are for consultants to work on elements of the General Plan 2030, not for studies to identify additional evacuation routes and improvements to existing roads.

- F4. Following the 2008 Humboldt Fire, vegetation removal along the Skyway and Clark Road allowed those evacuation routes to remain passable during the Camp Fire.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F5. During the Camp Fire, burning vegetation along some evacuation routes slowed and endangered traffic, causing some to be closed.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F6. Because there is only a single roadway in and out of communities such as Cohasset, Concow, Berry Creek and others, it is critical to have evacuation routes free of roadside vegetation

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F7. There is presently no regulation for roadside vegetation clearance in Butte County.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F8. The Butte County Sheriff's Office "Sheriff's Work Alternative Program" (SWAP) is an effective use of funding for vegetation reduction on evacuation routes.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding, clarifying that it's the Sheriff's Alternative Custody Supervision program that does this work.

F9. There are not enough designated temporary refuge/assembly/greenbelt areas within high-risk communities to accommodate trapped evacuees.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F10. The existing assembly point signs, and icons on evacuation plans are not understood by some of the general public and emergency personnel.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F11. During evacuations the flow of outbound traffic was slowed when surrounding communities were unprepared for the large influx of evacuating vehicles.

Response: The respondent partially agrees with the finding. Many factors contributed to the slow-down of outbound traffic, which also included downed power lines, abandoned and burned vehicles, and limited visibility. Additionally, under the best of circumstances, the roads are not designed to carry that many vehicles. It took time to set up contraflow with other agencies.

F12. Disaster planning challenges, as specified in the 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, are not being addressed.

Response: The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding, as the respondent is unable to ascertain challenges specified in the 2014 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (note there is no 2013 plan).

F13. The 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is outdated.

Response: The respondent disagrees with the finding. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is in effect for five years, therefore the 2014 plan is in effect through 2019. (note there is no 2013 plan).

F14. CodeRED is inadequate as a stand-alone emergency notification system due to vulnerable telephone and cellular service.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F15. Butte County Sheriff's Office deputies lack fire-resistant outerwear.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F16. Aerial infrared cameras can be an effective tool to assist emergency personnel in a crisis.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F17. Butte County may not be maximizing the use of grants available for fire prevention and management.

Response: The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. County departments whose responsibility includes fire prevention and management continually seek for and apply for grant funding. While there is always room for improvement, departments have received a significant number of grants over the years.

F18. Promotion of community programs for citizens requiring additional assistance to alert and aid them in evacuation is not adequate.

Response: The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. The County has a Special Needs Awareness Program (SNAP) that alerts and helps individuals with special needs. Promotion of the program is an ongoing effort.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Public Works Departments of Butte County and the Town of Paradise should widen the shoulders along ridge and foothill community evacuation routes to aid in evacuation flow, prior to July 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The Butte County Public Works Department depends on State and Federal dollars to do this kind of work. It is not realistic that the funds could be secured and the work completed in under 12 months.

R2. The Public Works Departments of Butte County and the Town of Paradise should clear and maintain all flammable vegetation in fire-prone areas adjacent to evacuation roadways, prior to April 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Due to pressures on staffing, equipment, and funding the Department anticipates making significant progress within five years.

- R3. The Butte County Department of Development Services should increase enforcement of current laws related to fuel reduction and defensible space, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. Current laws related to fuel reduction and defensible space include those that are under the authority of the State and those that are under the authority of the Board of Supervisors. Defensible space and fuel reduction laws in the State Responsibility Area of the foothills is under the authority of the State, and therefore the Board of Supervisors has no control over them. The Board of Supervisors has a weed abatement ordinance that is aimed at fuel reduction and defensible space, which is limited to the unincorporated areas within the spheres of influence of the cities of Chico, Oroville, and the Town of Paradise. The Butte County Fire Department, the agency that enforces these laws, will be presenting recommended updates to the weed abatement ordinance to the Board of Supervisors in the fall of 2019.

- R4. The Board of Supervisors should allocate additional funding to the Butte County Sheriff's Office to expand the "Sheriff's Work Alternative Program" for use in vegetation reduction along evacuation routes, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The idea of expanding programs to reduce vegetation is meritorious. However, that idea must be considered within the context of all other needs that the County has. The budget process which takes place in the spring of every year, which culminates in budget hearings, is the appropriate venue to discuss unfunded program expansions.

- R5. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should amend evacuation route plans to include surrounding communities to address the influx of evacuating vehicles, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Office of Emergency Management is currently evaluating evacuation routes, including working with surrounding communities to amend plans given the lessons learned during the Camp Fire. The analysis will be completed by January 1, 2020.

- R6. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish additional assembly/refuge/greenbelt areas in fire-prone communities for use during evacuations, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not feasible. The safety of assembly/refuge areas varies by incident. Pre-establishing these areas may lead residents to believe they are safe in every situation, and may inadvertently place themselves in harm's way. Instead, emergency response agencies identify a number of areas that can be used for assembly/refuge, and at the time of an incident determine which ones are safe to use.

R7. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should adopt assembly/refuge/greenbelt area signage that is easily identifiable by the general public and emergency personnel, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The County has adopted the use of the national standard for assembly points.

R8. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish an educational campaign for Special Needs Assistance Program for citizens requiring additional assistance during an evacuation, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Department of Employment and Social Services has a Special Needs Awareness Program (SNAP) in place, and regularly publicizes it and looks for ways to increase participation.

R9. The Butte County Board of Supervisors should enact roadside vegetation clearance requirements that are enforceable throughout Butte County, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. In the Fall of 2019 the Butte County Fire Department will present recommended changes to the County weed abatement ordinance, which could include roadside vegetation clearance requirements.

R10. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should update the 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation is currently being implemented. The Office of Emergency Management is working with cities and town, special districts, and the Butte County Office of Education to update the 2014 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan by November 2019.

R11. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish multi-platform emergency notification systems to augment the current CodeRED alert system, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. In addition to CodeRED the County uses the Emergency Alert System, the Wireless Emergency Alert System, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, social media, traditional media, unique evacuation sirens on Sheriff's vehicles, as well as door-to-door notifications.

R12. The Butte County Sheriff's Office should acquire new fire-resistant outerwear for personnel in wildfire-prone areas, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Fire-resistant outerwear for law enforcement is costly, and there currently is no identified funding. The County continues to search for options to acquire the protective clothing.

R13. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should acquire infrared-equipped drones to aid in spotting fire locations, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Unmanned aircraft systems are useful tools, and are the legal jurisdiction of CAL FIRE, not the County.

R14. The Board of Supervisors should fund one temporary grant-writing position for the next fiscal year to take advantage of the fire-related monies now available.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Staff from various departments and contracted grant writers already search for and apply for grants.



Butte County Administration

Shari McCracken
Chief Administrative Officer

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Members of the Board

Bill Connelly | Debra Lucero | Tami Ritter | Steve Lambert | Doug Foster

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Butte
AUG 15 2019
Kimberly Flener, Clerk
By *[Signature]*, Deputy

August 8, 2019

The Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger, Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

RE: Response to the 2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report

Honorable Judge Mosbarger:

Pursuant to Penal Code 933 and 933.5, the Chief Administrative Officer submits the following response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury's 2018-2019 Final Report.

2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report
The Camp Fire – Lessons Learned

FINDINGS

F1. The 2008-2009 Grand Jury recommendation to widen the shoulders and turnouts along existing evacuation roads has not been funded.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F2. The Butte County General Plan 2030 addresses plans to study potential improvement projects to upgrade existing evacuation roads; nine years after adoption, these studies have not been completed.

Response: The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. Although all the studies have not been completed, many have, which have resulted in the completion of several large projects such as the construction of Forest Highway 171 and Skyway fuel reduction programs. The County is continually searching for funding sources that will allow more studies and projects to be completed

F3. Allocated funds for studies to identify additional evacuation routes and improvements to existing roads have not been used.

Response: The respondent disagrees with the finding. The funds referenced in the Grand Jury report are for consultants to work on elements of the General Plan 2030, not for studies to identify additional evacuation routes and improvements to existing roads.

- F6. Because there is only a single roadway in and out of communities such as Cohasset, Concow, Berry Creek and others, it is critical to have evacuation routes free of roadside vegetation

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F9. There are not enough designated temporary refuge/assembly/greenbelt areas within high-risk communities to accommodate trapped evacuees.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F11. During evacuations the flow of outbound traffic was slowed when surrounding communities were unprepared for the large influx of evacuating vehicles.

Response: The respondent partially agrees with the finding. Many factors contributed to the slow-down of outbound traffic, which also included downed power lines, abandoned and burned vehicles, and limited visibility. Additionally, under the best of circumstances, the roads are not designed to carry that many vehicles. It took time to set up contraflow with other agencies.

- F12. Disaster planning challenges, as specified in the 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, are not being addressed.

Response: The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding, as the respondent is unable to ascertain challenges specified in the 2014 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (note there is no 2013 plan).

- F15. Butte County Sheriff's Office deputies lack fire-resistant outerwear.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F16. Aerial infrared cameras can be an effective tool to assist emergency personnel in a crisis.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F17. Butte County may not be maximizing the use of grants available for fire prevention and management.

Response: The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. County departments whose responsibility includes fire prevention and management continually seek for and apply for grant funding. While there is always room for improvement, departments have received a significant number of grants over the years.

- F18. Promotion of community programs for citizens requiring additional assistance to alert and aid them in evacuation is not adequate.

Response: The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. The County has a Special Needs Awareness Program (SNAP) that alerts and helps individuals with special needs. Promotion of the program is an ongoing effort.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R3. The Butte County Department of Development Services should increase enforcement of current laws related to fuel reduction and defensible space, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. Current laws related to fuel reduction and defensible space include those that are under the authority of the State and those that are under the authority of the County. Defensible space and fuel reduction laws in the State Responsibility Area of the foothills is under the authority of the State, and therefore the County has no control over them. The County has a weed abatement ordinance that is aimed at fuel reduction and defensible space, which is limited to the unincorporated areas within the spheres of influence of the cities of Chico, Oroville, and the Town of Paradise. The Butte County Fire Department, the agency that enforces these laws, will be presenting recommended updates to the weed abatement ordinance to the Board of Supervisors in the fall of 2019.

R4. The Board of Supervisors should allocate additional funding to the Butte County Sheriff's Office to expand the "Sheriff's Work Alternative Program" for use in vegetation reduction along evacuation routes, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The idea of expanding programs to reduce vegetation is meritorious. However, that idea must be considered within the context of all other needs that the County has. The budget process which takes place in the spring of every year, which culminates in budget hearings, is the appropriate venue to discuss unfunded program expansions. In addition to funding, the Sheriff needs the right type of inmates who would meet the requirements of the Alternative Custody Supervision program, which does the vegetation reduction work. Due to a variety of factors, it is not always possible.

R8. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish an educational campaign for Special Needs Assistance Program for citizens requiring additional assistance during an evacuation, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Department of Employment and Social Services has a Special Needs Awareness Program (SNAP) in place, and regularly publicizes it and looks for ways to increase participation.

R9. The Butte County Board of Supervisors should enact roadside vegetation clearance requirements that are enforceable throughout Butte County, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. In the fall of 2019 the Butte County Fire Department will present recommended changes to the County weed abatement ordinance, which could include roadside vegetation clearance requirements.

R11. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish multi-platform emergency notification systems to augment the current CodeRED alert system, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. In addition to CodeRED the County uses the Emergency Alert System, the Wireless Emergency Alert System, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, social media, traditional media, unique evacuation sirens on Sheriff's vehicles, as well as door-to-door notifications.

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Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Unmanned aircraft systems are useful tools, and are the legal jurisdiction of CAL FIRE, not the County.

R14. The Board of Supervisors should fund one temporary grant-writing position for the next fiscal year to take advantage of the fire-related monies now available.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Staff from various departments and contracted grant writers already search for and apply for grants.

Sincerely,



Shari McCracken
Butte County Chief Administrative Officer

C: Board of Supervisors



Employment and Social Services

Shelby Boston, Director
Public Guardian/Public Administrator

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July 31, 2019

Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger,
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Butte
c/o Court Administration
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS) Director Response to the
2018-2019 Grand Jury Final Report

Honorable Judge Mosbarger:

Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05 provides that the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body. The Board of Supervisors, as the governing body of the County of Butte, will provide its response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report by the statutory deadline.

Grand Jury Findings

**BUTTE COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION DESS –
Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS) Director**

F2. "Higher wages in other counties was cited as the primary cause of staff turnover."

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F8. "Budget cuts have decreased family support resources."

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F10. "There is a lack of access to documents supporting parents in the management of their case."

The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

The Department currently provides parents/guardians the following required documentation when a child is taken into temporary custody:

- ***Your Rights Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act brochure (BU-200)***

Children Services Division (CSD) provides notification of rights under section 504 of the rehabilitation act as required by the Code of Federal Regulation: 45 CFR Part 84.5(a)

- ***Your Rights Under California Welfare Programs brochure (PUB 13)***

CSD provides notification of rights under child welfare programs as required by the California Department of Social Services Division 21 Regulations: Division 21-107.221

- ***Butte County Juvenile Court Information for Parents pamphlet (JV-050),***
- ***The Dependency Court: How it Works pamphlet (JV-055), and***
- ***A Parent's Guide to the Child Welfare System***

While there is not a legal requirement to provide these documents, CSD offers these documents to parents/guardians to provide additional information about the juvenile court process and what to expect when a family is involved with CSD in the child welfare system.

In addition, the parents/guardians can be referred to attend a Parent Orientation, which provides parents/guardians with the tools and resources they need to better understand the child welfare process and what will be expected while working with CSD in the child welfare system.

**BUTTE COUNTY'S COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION
DESS - DESS Director, DESS Assistant Director, DESS Program Managers and DESS
Supervisors**

F1. "High staff turnover has negatively affected program implementation, morale, and caseload management."

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F4. "There is no procedure directing staff to provide information and resources to parents/guardians when a child is removed from parents/guardians."

The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

CDS Policy and Procedure - CSD-14-20 Investigations states on page 4, "The Social Worker should ensure that they have all necessary supplies when responding to the field, including but not limited to:

- **Detention packet(s)"**

The Detention Packet includes a checklist tool for the detaining social worker, which details the detention process, and indicates the required documentation provided to the parents/guardians when a child is taken into temporary custody.

- **Your Rights Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act brochure (BU-200) - 45 CFR Part 84.5(a)**
- **Your Rights Under California Welfare Programs brochure (PUB 13) - Division 21-107.221**
- **Butte County Juvenile Court Information for Parents pamphlet (JV-050)- County Policy**
- **The Dependency Court: How it Works pamphlet (JV-055) – County Policy**
- **A Parent's Guide to the Child Welfare System- County Policy**

F5. "Seneca and social worker records often lack needed information for mandatory relative notification, causing delays in cases moving forward in court."

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F6. "Consistency and clarity in communication, expectations, and implementation of changes is lacking amongst some supervisors and program managers."

The respondent agrees with the finding

F7. "Lack of technology and equipment limits staff productivity."

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F9. "Having two office locations has created management and program implementation discrepancies."

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Recommendations

BUTTE COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION DESS – DESS Director

R9. The CSD should create a plan to upgrade smart phones for field workers and provide dual computer screens for all employees by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Prior to the Butte County Grand Jury Annual Report 2018-2019, the Department had plans to upgrade cellular phones. The cellular phone upgrade will happen by January 1, 2020. Regarding the dual monitors, this will be implemented as the Departments budget allows, including but not limited to the redeployment of surplus computer screens. While it is anticipated the monitor upgrade will be accomplished, this upgrade is dependent upon funding availability.

R12. The CSD should make the information in the Parent Binder and Parent Folder available on <https://www.buttecounty.net/dess/childrenservices> by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation will be implemented by August 15, 2019. The Parent Binder and Parent Folder will be available on <https://www.buttecounty.net/dess/childrenservices> under the Family Reunification heading.

BUTTE COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION DESS – DESS Assistant Director, DESS Program Managers and DESS Supervisors

R7. The CSD should provide supervisors and program managers with quarterly leadership training and management development to improve consistency in culture and expectations throughout the organization by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The Division will seek quality onsite training for supervisors and program managers by January 1, 2020.

R8. The CSD should address employee concerns that they are not part of the problem-solving process by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The current forum, which provides staff a setting to bring forward concerns, needs, and solutions to the management team, will be restructured to address the lack of inclusion in the problem-solving process by January 1, 2020.

BUTTE COUNTY'S COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION - DESS Director, DESS Assistant Director, DESS Program Managers and DESS Supervisors

R1. The Children's Services Division should pursue grants and request additional funding from Butte County to bring Butte County's social worker income to a level that is competitive with neighboring counties, starting with the new fiscal year in 2020.

The recommendation requires further analysis. The Department routinely applies and competes for funding opportunities as they arise. Butte County Human Resources and Union negotiation teams negotiate current social worker income levels.

R2. The CSD should focus morale-building activities on developing trust between staff and leadership by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The Department will develop strategies to improve trust between staff and leadership, which will be implemented by January 1, 2020.

- **Improve communication feedback loop from Leadership to staff.**
- **Restructure employee forum which provides staff a setting to bring concerns, needs, and solutions forward to the management team.**
- **Include staff in Program Oversight and Leadership meetings.**

R3. The CSD should develop, provide staff training, and implement a procedure to ensure all parents/guardians receive the Parent Folder (including the JV-050, Your Rights, JV-055, and A Parent's Guide to The Child Welfare System Packet) immediately upon detention of the child by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has been implemented. All social workers receive Standby training, which provides guidelines and training materials for after-hours response investigations and detentions. The training includes review of the required detention materials when a child is taken into temporary custody.

- **Your Rights Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act brochure (BU-200) - 45 CFR Part 84.5(a)**
- **Your Rights Under California Welfare Programs brochure (PUB 13) - Division 21-107.221**
- **Butte County Juvenile Court Information for Parents pamphlet (JV-050) – County policy**
- **The Dependency Court: How it Works pamphlet (JV-055) – County policy**
- **A Parent's Guide to the Child Welfare System – County policy**

CSD will address the discrepancies amongst staff by providing a refresher training to ensure that detaining social workers are providing the required documents to parents/guardians when a child is taken into temporary custody.

R4. The CSD should standardize tracking/checklist of mandatory document provision, verifying receipt by signature of parent/guardian by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation requires further analysis. The Department will investigate the feasibility of obtaining a receipt by signature from parents/guardians by January 1, 2020.

R5. The CSD should implement staff meetings in Chico, as the Oroville office has, for each time a case changes hands to ensure needs and requirements are met for each case. Begin implementing these meetings by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has been implemented. The Chico office has implemented the case transfer meeting consistent with the Oroville office.

R6. The CSD should provide one (1) full-time employee dedicated to relative notification mirroring the tribal notification position within the next fiscal year.

This recommendation requires further analysis. The Department continues to struggle with filling all allocated social worker positions. While the suggested position has merit, creating and filling the additional position is not feasible until current open positions are filled with the priority of staff providing case management and investigation duties.

R10. The CSD should seek grants and other resources to increase funding for prevention and early intervention for families by June 30, 2020.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Department routinely seeks opportunities for grants and other resources as they arise to provide additional funding for prevention and early intervention services for families.

R11. The CSD should create opportunities for staff at both offices to come together and foster connections by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has been implemented. There are currently meetings and events (program meetings and training activities) that are held in both the Chico and Oroville locations which are attended by staff from both locations. These events provide opportunities for staff to come together and foster connections during their workweek. It is acknowledged and appreciated that each office has its own culture. Although the offices are geographically separated, staff are encouraged to interact since they work in parallel to provide the same services.

In addition, CSD facilitates a culture and leadership committee, which is comprised of management, supervisors, and staff. This committee meets on a bi-weekly basis to formulate ideas and strategies to improve morale, culture, and social worker appreciation. Current initiatives include but are not limited to Employee Recognition awards, which are selected by peers, and creating a cultural inventory for staff to suggest ideas to increase connection, communication, and improved morale.

R13. The CSD should ensure checklist described in R4 travels from social worker to social worker as the case moves through the department by January 1, 2020.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The case transfer meeting, as indicated in R5, has created a process that utilizes a checklist along with a framework, which starts from detention and follows throughout the life of a case.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Boston MSW, Director
Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services

CC: County Administration Office



Department of Development Services

Tim Snellings, Director
Pete Calarco, Assistant Director

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July 31, 2019

Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger, Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965



Re: **Response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Final Report**

Dear Judge Mosbarger:

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.5, the Department of Development Services hereby submits its response to the recommendation of the Grand Jury's 2018-2019 Final Report.

RECOMMENDATION

R3. *The Butte County Department of Development Services should increase enforcement of current laws related to fuel reduction and defensible space, prior to January 1, 2020.*

The respondent does not agree or disagree with this recommendation. The Department of Development Services does not enforce laws related to fuel reduction and defensible space.

This concludes the response to the Department of Development Services portion of the 2018-2019 fiscal year Grand Jury Report.

Sincerely,

Tim Snellings, Director

cc: Board of Supervisors
Shari McCracken, Chief Administrative Office



Cooperative Fire Protection since 1931



BUTTE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF—David Hawks

176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965 • (530) 538-7111

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger, Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

FILED Superior Court of California
County of Butte
AUG 29 2019
By Kimberly Eleneg, Clerk
Deputy

RE: Response to the 2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report

Honorable Judge Mosbarger:

The Butte County Fire Chief submits the following invited response to findings F13, F15, F16, F17, and recommendations R13 of the Grand Jury’s 2018-2019 Final Report. In addition, the Butte County Fire Chief provides the following unsolicited response to recommendations R3 and R9.

2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report
The Camp Fire – Lessons Learned

F13. The 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is outdated.

Response:

The Butte County Fire Chief is unable to answer this finding, as the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is the responsibility of the Butte County Office of Emergency Management.

F15. Butte County Sheriff’s Office deputies lack fire-resistive outerwear.

Response:

The Butte County Fire Chief is unable to answer this finding, as personal protective equipment, including fire-resistive outerwear, for sheriff’s deputies is the responsibility of the Butte County Sheriff.

F16. Aerial infrared cameras can be an effective tool to assist agency personnel in a crisis.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Bill Connelly • Debra Lucero • Tami Ritter • Steve Lambert • Doug Teeter





Cooperative Fire Protection since 1931



BUTTE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF—David Hawks

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Response:

The Butte County Fire Chief agrees with the finding. Aerial infrared cameras (mounted on drones), if deployed under the authority of the agency having jurisdiction, can safely operate and provide intelligence to incident commanders.

F17. Butte County may not be maximizing the use of grants available for fire prevention and management.

Response:

The Butte County Fire Chief partly disagrees with the finding. Departments within the County of Butte and other cooperators have received a significant number of grants for fire prevention and forest management especially in recent years.

R3. The Butte County Department of Development Services should increase enforcement of current laws related to fuel reduction and defensible space, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. Current fuel reduction and defensible space laws fall under the authority of both the State, CAL FIRE, and the Butte County Board of Supervisors as enforced by the Butte County Fire Department. CAL FIRE enforces Public Resources Code 4291 that outlines the requirements for defensible space around habitable structures in the state responsibility areas (foothill areas) under state jurisdiction.

The Butte County Board of Supervisors, authorized and delegated the enforcement of Chapter 38A, Fire Prevention and Protection to the Butte County Fire Department. Chapter 38A outlines the requirement for fuel reduction, based on certain parameters within the unincorporated areas of Butte County that fall within the sphere of influence of the cities of Chico and Oroville and the Town of Paradise. The Butte County Fire Department will be presenting additional fire prevention and protection requirements to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in the fall of 2019.

R9. The Butte County Board of Supervisors should enact roadside vegetation clearance requirements that are enforceable throughout Butte County, prior to January 1, 2020.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Bill Connelly • Debra Lucero • Tami Ritter • Steve Lambert • Doug Teeter





Cooperative Fire Protection since 1931



BUTTE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF—David Hawks

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Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. The Butte County Fire Department will be presenting additional fire prevention and protection requirements, including roadside vegetation clearance, to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in the fall of 2019.

R13. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should acquire infrared-equipped drones to aid in spotting fire locations, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not within the jurisdiction of the Butte County Office of Emergency Management. The Butte County Fire Chief agrees with the need to add drones to aid in intelligence gathering during emergency incidents. The jurisdictional agency however for the authorization and use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) "drones" on wildland fire in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) is CAL FIRE. This fire season (2019) the California National Guard Fire Detection and Assessment Watch Desk is supplying CALFIRE with Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA) information from multiple classified sources.

The Butte County Fire Department is in the process of developing a policy which complies with the standards established by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group for the operation of UAS on other emergency incidents not within CAL FIRE jurisdiction. The Butte County Fire Department would then be able to utilize drones on Local Responsibility Incidents (LRA) such as hazardous material incidents, technical rescue, traffic accidents, wildland and structure fires within its jurisdiction. I anticipate having a policy and procedure in place by January 1, 2020 for the use of drones on incident within the Local Responsibility Area where the Butte County Fire Department has jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

David Hawks
Butte County Fire Chief

cc: Butte County Chief Administrative Officer

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Bill Connelly • Debra Lucero • Tami Ritter • Steve Lambert • Doug Teeter





Butte County Administration

Cindi Dunsmoor, Emergency Services Officer

Office of Emergency Management

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July 31, 2019



Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger, Presiding Judge
c/o Court Administration
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
One Court Street, Oroville, Ca 95965

RE: Office of Emergency Management Response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Final Report

Honorable Judge Mosbarger:

Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05 provides that the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body. The Board of Supervisors, as the governing body of the County of Butte, will provide its response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report by the statutory deadline.

Grand Jury Findings

BUTTE COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO THE CAMP FIRE – LESSONS LEARNED
Butte County Emergency Services Officer

FINDINGS

F9. There are not enough designated temporary refuge/assembly/greenbelt areas within high-risk communities to accommodate trapped evacuees.

Response: Respondent agrees with the finding.

F11. During evacuations the flow of outbound traffic was slowed when surrounding communities were unprepared for the large influx of evacuating vehicles.

Response: Respondent partially agrees with the finding. This was one factor but there were other factors such as capacity of the roads, visibility and disabled vehicles.

Butte County is



F18. Promotion of community programs for citizens requiring additional assistance to alert and aid them in evacuation is not adequate.

Response: Respondent partially disagrees with the finding. Significant efforts have been made in the past few years on public outreach and education for personal emergency planning. The respondent agrees that more can and should be done but disagrees with the finding that it was "not adequate."

RECOMMENDATIONS

R5. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should amend evacuation route plans to include surrounding communities to address the influx of evacuating vehicles, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The OEM agrees that coordination with surrounding communities needs to occur to mitigate delays and traffic congestion in the event of a large scale evacuation. Due to the dynamic and unpredictable nature of emergencies we are evaluating evacuation routes and the historical impacts that occurred in previous evacuations (such as routes that were burned over or blocked). Another important aspect of any evacuation is the public's personal emergency plan. The public needs to be familiar with the area in which they live to know what routes are available to them and to be prepared help themselves and their neighbors, if capable. The BCSO is responsible for evacuations and is committed to working with the Office of Emergency Management to evaluate this recommendation. Analysis will be complete by January 1, 2020.

R6. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish additional assembly/refuge/greenbelt areas in fire-prone communities for use during evacuations, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not feasible. Designated routes of evacuation in each emergency will be based upon conditions. Officials will determine which route(s) must be closed. Based on this information, open spaces, as available and safe will be used.

R7. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should adopt assembly/refuge/greenbelt area signage that is easily identifiable by the general public and emergency personnel, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Butte County already uses the national logo for assembly points.

R8. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish an educational campaign for Special Needs Assistance Program for citizens requiring additional assistance during an evacuation, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: Recommendation has been implemented. The Special Needs Awareness Program is currently under the management of Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS). OEM and DESS will continue the education and outreach efforts to those who need assistance during evacuations.

R10. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should update the 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: Recommendation will be implemented by November 2019. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to be updated every 5 years. The current plan was approved by FEMA in November 2014. A consultant is currently working with the County, cities/town within the county, several special districts, and the Butte County Office of Education to have a newly adopted plan by November 2019.

R11. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish multi-platform emergency notification systems to augment the current CodeRED alert system, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: Recommendation has been implemented. The County currently uses other platforms for emergency notification system besides CodeRed. Additionally, the County has applied for a grant to assess its demographics and geography to find alert and warning systems that are not reliant on cell phone technology.

R12. The Butte County Sheriff's Office should acquire new fire-resistant outerwear for personnel in wildfire-prone areas, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: This recommendation is directed to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. However, OEM has been seeking funding sources for the purchase of fire-resistant outerwear for BCSO personnel in wildfire-prone areas.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindi Dunsmoor



Department of Public Works

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Radley Ott, Assistant Director

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August 16, 2019

Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger, Presiding Judge
c/o Court Administration
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
One Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965



RE: Response to the 2018-2019 Butte County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Mosbarger:

In accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Butte County Director of Public Works submits the following response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury's Final Report for FY 2018-2019 pertaining to the Department of Public Works.

On behalf of the Department of Public Works, I express my sincere appreciation to the grand jurors for their professionalism and commitment of many hours of efforts to better understand the intricacies of the County roadway maintenance system.

**Public Works –
Findings:**

F1. The 2008-2009 Grand Jury Recommendations to widen the shoulders and turnouts along existing evacuation routes has not been funded.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F6. Because there is only a single roadway in and out of communities such as Cohasset, Concow, Berry Creek and others, it is critical to have evacuation routes free of roadside vegetation.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

R2. "The Public Works Departments of Butte County and the Town of Paradise should clear and maintain all flammable vegetation in fire prone areas adjacent to evacuation roadways, prior to April 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Public Works anticipates within 5 years it will be able to make some progress towards this recommendation. The Department does not have the resources (staff, equipment and funding) to fully implement this recommendation.

Butte County has approximately 300 miles of roadways that are considered "Evacuation Routes". Using this mileage, and an estimate of 2 acres of County right of way per centerline mile of roadway, the County has approximately 600 acres within the high and very high fire danger areas. To perform the initial clearance of this property will be very costly. In addition, long term maintenance of these areas will require a significant investment of both mechanical and hand labor resources, as well as a significant increase in the use of herbicides to attempt to keep roadways clear of "all flammable vegetation".

This level of resource commitment is not financially possible given the current Road Fund budget constraints. We are utilizing Cal Fire Grants, available Public Works staff time and inmate crews to work on the most critical areas first – with a 5-year goal of reducing the amount of fuel on the most critical evacuation routes.

It should be noted that the County right of way typically only extends from 1-10 feet off the existing edge of pavement. While this work within the right of way will help reduce fuel loads, improving the overall safety of the evacuation routes will require reducing the fuel load on the adjoining private property as well.

R9. The Butte County Board of Supervisors should enact roadside vegetation clearance requirements that are enforceable throughout Butte County, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation is not within the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department, therefore the Department cannot respond to this recommendation.

R10. The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should update the 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, prior to January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation is not within the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department, therefore the Department cannot respond to this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Dennis Schmidt
Director of Public Works

Cc: Board of Supervisors
Shari McCracken, Chief Administrative Officer



August 13, 2019

FILED Superior Court of California
County of Butte
AUG 16 2019
By Kimberly Eler, Clerk
Deputy

Honorable Tamara L. Mosbarger, Presiding Judge
c/o Court Administration
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
One Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965

RE: BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S RESPONSE TO 2018-2019 GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Judge Mosbarger:

On behalf of the Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), I would like to thank the members of the Grand Jury for their many hours of dedicated service to the citizens of Butte County. The Grand Jury function is critical to ensuring the efficient operation of local government and I appreciate their efforts in regards to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Butte County. In accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, please accept this response to the findings and recommendations of the 2018-2019 Grand Jury.

Grand Jury Findings:

The Respondent was not asked by the Grand Jury to respond to Findings 1-7, 9-12, or 15-18 and those findings pertain to matters that are not under the control of the Sheriff's Office. Accordingly, no response to those findings is being provided.

F8: The Butte County Sheriff's Office "Sheriff's Work Alternative Program" (SWAP) is an effective use of funding for vegetation reduction on evacuation routes.

The respondent agrees with the finding and would like to clarify that the program that specifically deals with vegetation reduction is the Butte County Sheriff's Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) program.

F13: The 2013 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is outdated.

The respondent disagrees with the finding for the reason that the plan was last approved in 2014 and does not expire until November of 2019.

F14: Code RED is inadequate as a stand-alone emergency notification system due to vulnerable telephone and cellular service.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

The Respondent was not asked by the Grand Jury to respond to Recommendations 1-3, 6-10, or 14 and those recommendations pertain to matters that are not under the control of the Sheriff's Office. Accordingly, no response to those recommendations is being provided.

R4: The Board of Supervisors should allocate additional funding to the Butte County Sheriff's Office to expand the "Sheriff's Work Alternative Program" for use in vegetation reduction along evacuation routes, prior to January 1, 2020.

The recommendation requires further analysis. The program within the Butte County Sheriff's Office that specifically deals with vegetation reduction is the Butte County Sheriff's Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) program. Expansion of the program would require additional correctional deputies, additional equipment, a sufficient number of qualified inmates to staff the new work crews and sufficient funds to cover the ongoing operating costs.

BCSO, like many law enforcement agencies, is currently dealing with staffing shortages throughout the department, including within the Corrections Division. Recruiting, hiring and training qualified candidates to fill the correctional deputy positions, necessary to supervise additional inmate work crews will likely take longer than the time frame set forth in the recommendation. Another factor to be considered is the availability of inmates who are capable of performing the work required and who meet the classification requirements of the ACS program. BCSO is committed to working with the Board of Supervisors on this issue.

R5: The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should amend evacuation route plans to include surrounding communities to address the influx of evacuating vehicles, prior to January 1, 2020.

The recommendation requires further analysis. BCSO agrees that coordination with surrounding communities needs to occur to mitigate delays and traffic congestion in the event of a large scale evacuation. Due to the dynamic and unpredictable nature of emergencies we are evaluating evacuation routes and the historical impacts that occurred in previous evacuations (such as routes that were burned over or blocked). Another important aspect of any evacuation is the public's personal emergency plan. The public needs to be familiar with the area in which they live to know what routes are available to them and to be prepared to help themselves and their neighbors, if capable. As this recommendation falls under the purview of the Butte County Office of Emergency Management the BCSO is committed to working with the Office of Emergency Management to evaluate this recommendation.

R11: The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should establish multiplatform emergency notification systems to augment the current CodeRED alert system, prior to January 1, 2020.

The recommendation has been implemented and will continue to implement improved emergency notifications. BCSO currently utilizes the CodeRED emergency mass notification system to alert community members of emergency situations. CodeRED allows BCSO to send telephone, text and email messages related to emergency situations to community members. CodeRED is an "opt-in" system which requires members of the community to sign-up for email and cell phone alerts. Since implementing the system in Butte County, BCSO has worked diligently to encourage community members to sign-up for alerts. This is an on-going effort.

In addition to CodeRED, BCSO has the ability to access the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). EAS is a message dissemination pathway that sends warnings via broadcast, cable, satellite, and wireline services, (i.e. television and radio). WEA is a message dissemination pathway that broadcasts alerts and warnings to cell phones and other mobile devices. BCSO also utilizes social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, along with traditional media platforms, such as local news outlets, to disseminate information about emergency situations.

CodeRED, IPAWS and Social Media platforms are all technology based and have their limitations. To help mitigate the limitations, BCSO utilizes "door to door" notifications by deputies when there is time and sufficient staffing. To augment the "door to door" notifications, BCSO has added unique siren tones to all of our patrol vehicles, which will only be used during evacuations. BCSO is in the process of implementing a public awareness campaign to help the public to recognize this unique siren that will enable them to put their personal emergency plan into action. Finally, BCSO is working in conjunction with the Butte County Office of Emergency Management to enhance our ability to alert the community of emergency situations when time is of the essence and/or technology reliant systems are compromised.

- R12: The Butte County Sheriff's Office should acquire new fire-resistant outerwear for personnel in wildfire-prone areas, prior to January 1, 2020.

The recommendation requires further analysis to find funding to implement this recommendation. The purchase of fire-resistant outerwear is very costly and exceeds current funding levels. BCSO has received surplus items in the past from the military through the 1033 program however we have found oftentimes those items were incomplete, broken, mislabeled or not consistent with what our needs were. BCSO agrees that the fire-resistant outerwear is needed for our personnel and we will continue to look for options to help us acquire this needed safety equipment.

- R13: The Butte County Office of Emergency Management should acquire infrared-equipped drones to aid in spotting fire locations, prior to January 1, 2020.

The recommendation requires further analysis in conjunction with the Butte County Office of Emergency Management and Cal Fire. Factors to consider are safety issues of flying drones in airspace when firefighting aircraft are operating in the same airspace along with response times and trained personnel to operate them subject to FAA approval. Cal Fire currently will not fly their aircraft if drones are operating in the same airspace. Drones are capable of flying at a much higher

elevation to allow fire-fighting aircraft to safely operate over a fire and we need to evaluate the practicality of that type of resource and its response time along with qualified operators.

Respectfully submitted,



Kory L. Honea
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Butte County Board of Supervisors
CAO