



**Butte County Library**

Narinder Sufi, County Librarian

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*Library Branches*

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**F** Superior Court of California  
**I** County of Butte  
**L** SEP 09 2022  
**E** By Sharif Esmailian Clerk  
**D** Deputy

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Kimberly Merrifield  
Presiding Judge  
Butte County Superior Court  
c/o Court Services  
One Court Street  
Oroville, California 95965

Re: Response to the 2021-22 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Merrifield:

Under California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Butte County Librarian submits the following comments to the findings and recommendations in the portion of the above-referenced report entitled "Today's Library Books and Beyond".

**FINDINGS**

F4. Digital divides exist within Butte County between library services and those that can access them.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. A digital divide exists in Butte County. Many residents who have no access to technology and computer skills are not able to access online services. To bridge that digital divide, the County Library provides residents with access to technology and computer training. During the pandemic, many governmental and nongovernmental services shifted to an online platform, which made it apparent that the County Library can take additional steps to address the digital divide in local communities.

F5. The Pandemic reduced volunteers which the BCL depended on to educate the public on the latest technology available.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The number of volunteers did reduce during the pandemic, and many have begun to return to volunteer work. While volunteers are a valuable resource for the Library because they contribute their time by supporting staff with Library programs, and shelving and sorting library items, it is typically regular help staff who provide education to the public on the latest technology available.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

R2. The Butte County Library administration to coordinate with library partners to increase community outreach and inform the public of library services by December 31, 2022

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The County Library plans to implement this recommendation by December 31, 2022.

R3. The Butte County Library administration to develop and implement a Volunteer Recruitment Plan by December 31, 2022

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The County Library plans to implement this recommendation by December 31, 2022.

Sincerely,



Narinder Sufi,

County Librarian

Cc:

Butte County Board of Supervisors

Andy, Pickett, Chief Administrative Officer