



PHYLLIS L. MURDOCK, DIRECTOR  
MARK A. LUNDBERG, M.D., M.P.H., HEALTH OFFICER

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ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

August 16, 2010

Honorable Steven J. Howell, Presiding Judge  
Butte County Superior Court  
One Court Street  
Oroville, CA 95965

FILED  
Superior Court of California  
County of Butte  
AUG 17 2010  
Kimberly Fener, Clerk  
By *[Signature]* Deputy

Re: **Public Health Director Response to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Final Report**

Honorable Judge Howell:

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 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report by the statutory deadline. The Grand Jury, though, has asked that I provide a direct response to the Presiding Judge. While all legal requirements for a response to the Grand Jury Report have been met by the County of Butte with the Board of Supervisors response, in the spirit of cooperation, I am providing this direct response to the Grand Jury Report on Butte County Juvenile Hall as requested by the Grand Jury.

## BUTTE COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

### *Grand Jury Findings*

*F1. Due to budget constraints, only three of the six pods are currently being used to house juveniles. When JH is reaching its population capacity and new arrivals are expected, juveniles are released early or temporarily released to their families.*

**The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding.** The Butte County Public Health Department is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this finding.

TEL- 530.538.7581 | 202 MIRA LOMA DRIVE  
FAX- 530.538.2164 | OROVILLE, CA 95965

*F2. Table Mountain School operates for the benefit of juveniles who are mainstreamed back into the public school system or are able to achieve their GED or graduate.*

**The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding.** The Butte County Public Health Department is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this finding.

*F3. The Boys and Girls Club gives juveniles a place to go to socialize in a productive way, develop life skills, listen to music, and play games. A juvenile must reside in JH for a minimum of 20 days before he/she can participate. Juveniles are encouraged to attend a Boys and Girls Club within their community after their release from JH.*

**The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding.** The Butte County Public Health Department is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this finding.

*F4. Juveniles are repeatedly released back into the same environment and problems that they faced before their stay in JH. The Grand Jury is concerned about the home environment that a number of juveniles face after their release from JH.*

**The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding.** The Butte County Public Health Department is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this finding.

### ***Grand Jury Recommendations***

*R1. Aggressively explore ways to finance and operate the unused pods.*

**The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation.** The Butte County Public Health Department is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this recommendation.

*R2. Table Mountain School is essential and must continue to operate in JH.*

**The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation.** The Butte County Public Health Department is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this recommendation.

*R3. The Boys and Girls Club offers a new direction for the juveniles to pursue and should continue to operate in JH. The Grand Jury recommends lowering the amount of days the juvenile is withheld from participating in this program from 20 days to eight days.*

**The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation.** The Butte County Public Health Department is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this recommendation.

*R4. The Grand Jury understands that JH administration is confined by state regulations, the court system, and continuing budget cuts, but recommends the JH administration and probation department focus on ways to address the individual needs of juveniles within Butte County.*

**The respondent agrees with the recommendation.** The Butte County Public Health Department is currently and will continue to provide AIDS counseling and testing as our funding permits.

This concludes the response from the Public Health Director.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllis L. Murdock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Phyllis L. Murdock, Director  
Butte County Public Health Department