



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

## Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 750 • 1312 Fairlane Rd  
Yreka, California 96097  
[www.co.siskiyou.ca.us](http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us)

(530) 842-8005  
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August 5, 2014

Siskiyou County Superior Court  
Attn: Honorable Judge Masunaga  
POB 1026  
Yreka, CA 96097

RE: Response to 2013-14 Civil Grand Jury Report

Dear Honorable Judge Masunaga & Grand Jury Foreperson:

Please find attached the responses to the findings and recommendations as requested by the 2013-14 Grand Jury. The responses are from the Board of Supervisors. The Grand Jury Reports that required responses are as follows:

- Deadwood Conservation Camp – Board of Supervisors
- County Jail – Board of Supervisors
- Siskiyou County Fish & Game Commission – Board of Supervisors
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) – Board of Supervisors
- Public Safety Realignment & Post Release Community Corrections Partnership – Board of Supervisors
- Siskiyou County Cemetery District Watchdog Investigation

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to provide responses to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. Furthermore, we appreciate the Grand Jury members' hard work and dedication in volunteering for this important public service.

Sincerely,

Michael N. Kobseff, Chair  
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

cc: Grand Jury Foreperson



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### Deadwood Conservation Camp Report

**RECOMMENDATION #1-** The Deadwood Conservation Camp is a valuable asset for Siskiyou County. It is incumbent upon the Board of Supervisors and other appropriate agencies to be aware of the potential water shortfalls at Deadwood and work in conjunction with the camp to insure ongoing water services for the inmates this year.

#### **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #1**

The Board of supervisors acknowledges that the Deadwood Conservation Camp is a valuable asset for Siskiyou County and is aware of the potential water shortfalls at Deadwood. The County will work in conjunction with CalFire and other entities to ensure adequate water supply for the camp. Since the Grand Jury Tour of Deadwood Camp on March 11, 2014, the following water saving measures have been implemented:

New aerators have been placed on all faucets and new low flow shower heads have been installed in all showers; a new pressure regulator has been placed on the dorm showers and new 1.5 GPF valves have been installed on the lavatory. The camp has reduced watering the lawn and nonessential flora; measuring devices have been placed on the holding tanks and a drop test of the well that is now supplying the majority of camp water has been completed. A water flow meter that was installed in the dorm supply line to check the daily usage of the dorm has dropped usage from 3500 gallons per day to below 2000 gallons in the dormitory alone. This was achieved through inmate awareness, low flow heads and regulator installation.

Should drought conditions worsen and more water is needed then a larger pump will be purchased for the well and in a worst case scenario, water will be hauled for holding tanks as is the case for other Conservation Camps within the State.



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### Siskiyou County Jail

#### RESPONSE TO SISKIYOU COUNTY JAIL REPORT

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Grand Jury conclusion to continue to work closely with the Sheriff's Office in the construction of a new jail facility. To date, the County has purchased property for the new facility and retained the services of an architectural firm that is well versed in the design of new jails. However, securing and maintaining a stable revenue source for construction and facility operations remains a serious obstacle for counties throughout California. For example, the Santa Barbara Grand Jury recently warned its Board of Supervisors that extra revenues could prove fickle as they are dependent on property, sales, and hotel taxes and on an improving overall economy.

Siskiyou County does not have the revenue base as other California counties may possess. If a county such as Santa Barbara is concerned about additional revenue sources and stability, Siskiyou County fiscal future is much bleaker. At this time, Siskiyou County does not have adequate financial reserves or sufficient fund balances to offset unforeseen contingency costs during construction nor does the county maintain extra revenue streams that are stable to fund operations once the facility is constructed.

Therefore, while the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors recognizes a need for a new jail facility and is working closely with the Sheriff's Office to fulfill that need, the fact remains financial resources are not yet available to meet this need and any future long or short term revenue growth does not indicate that fiscal picture will significantly improve.



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### Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission

**RECOMMENDATION #1**- It is recommended that all meetings be publicly posted 72 hours in advance as to comply with the Brown Act as it pertains to meetings open to the public.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #1***

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Grand Jury Recommendation #1. The County will remind Fish and Game Commission to send County Clerk all agendas, at least three days prior to all meetings in order to comply with the Brown Act. Furthermore, the proper inquiry and response for this particular issue should have been the County Clerk and not the Board of Supervisors.

**RECOMMENDATION #2** – It is recommended that all persons appointed to the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission as well as the Board of Supervisors liaison be given a copy of all applicable County Ordinances and California Fish and Game codes when appointed.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #2***

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Grand Jury Recommendation #2 and County staff will provide a copy of all applicable county ordinances and state statute at the time of appointment to the Siskiyou County, Fish & Game Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION #3**- It is recommend that all expenditures from the County of Siskiyou Fish and Wildlife Propagation fund comply with the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Ordinances as well as State of California Fish and Game Codes 13100 and 13103.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #3***

The Board of Supervisors concurs with Finding #3 and will have County staff review applicable codes and ensure compliance. The Board of supervisors will take the appropriate actions should the determination be made that Commission expenditures is out of compliance.

**RECOMMENDATION #4**- All vacancies or reappointments must be posted.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS #4***

The Board of Supervisors does not concur with Finding #4 as a review of County Clerk records indicate that all vacancies or reappointments were posted and input solicited. According to the Office of County Clerk when contacted by the County Administrator regarding Grand Jury Finding #4, Notices of Vacancies (NOV) are posted at the courthouse, library branches, and on the Board of Supervisors website. In addition, press releases announcing the vacancy are sent to area newspapers. The County Clerk also sends a letter to the incumbent officeholder asking him/her to let the County Clerk know if he/she is interested in being considered for reappointment. The Office of County Clerk will continue to follow its routine process in filling scheduled and unscheduled vacancies on boards and commissions and the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission is no exception.



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### Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

**RECOMMENDATION #1** – The Board of Supervisors should discuss the use of a room in a county owned building that does not have public access to use as an examination and interview room. A private non-intrusive space properly equipped would enable the victim the privacy and emotional comfort needed. For example, such a space has been designated in Happy Camp however there is no certified nurse in that area to provide examinations.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #1***

The Board of Supervisors concurs with Grand Jury Recommendations #1 and has provided and fully equipped an interview/office at the request of the District Attorney prior to the Grand Jury report.

**RECOMMENDATION #2** – The Board should provide appropriate funding as needed to the District Attorney's Office for the SART program. This would put less strain on the various county agencies currently providing financial support to the SART program.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #2***

The Board of Supervisors concurs with Grand Jury Recommendation #2 and staff will seek out applicable funding sources that may fund the SART program.

**RECOMMENDATION #3** – The Board of Supervisors should reimburse for out of pocket expenses for registered nurses while receiving the required forensic training to assist sexual assault victims.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS #3***

The Board of Supervisors concurs with Grand Jury Recommendations #3 and, will direct staff to seek out applicable funding sources that will reimburse out of pocket expenses for registered nurses receiving the required forensic training to assist sexual assault victims.



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### **Public Safety Realignment & Post Release Community Corrections Partnership (PRCCP) (AB 109)**

**RECOMMENDATION #1** –The Board of Supervisors should combine the Probation Department into one location, possibly in the normally unused wing of the Juvenile Hall. This would decrease the cost of paying for a building needing significant repairs, and provide the space needed.

#### **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #1**

The Board of Supervisors does not concur with Grand Jury Recommendation #1. The Board does concur with the Finding #1 in that the "Probation Department has limited space with the current and future increase of post release convicts. A large Day Reporting Center is needed to provide room to hold classes and to have private meeting rooms for counseling services that are held there."

Grand Jury Recommendation #1 states that "the Board of Supervisors should combine the Probation Department into one location possibly in the normally unused wing of the Juvenile Hall." This would decrease the cost of paying for a building needing significant repairs, and provide the space needed. This recommendation is problematic for several reasons. First, it is highly unlikely that adequate space is available and a space study would be required prior to moving forward. More concerning and not acceptable is placing adult offenders in close proximity or under the same roof as juvenile offenders which could have disastrous consequences.

The current jail facility (if a new Jail is built) may be a more appropriate Day Reporting Center; however, this site has its own set of problems including grant conditions may prohibit its use and the renovation and future operational costs. The real issue is that county governments across the state were ill-equipped in terms of capital infrastructure and other resources to manage the implementation of AB 109. Siskiyou County will continue to lobby for increased funding from the State to successfully implement the provisions of AB 109 for purposes of improving its capital infrastructure to county facilities including the Probation Department.



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### Siskiyou County Cemetery District Watchdog Investigation

**RECOMMENDATION #7-** The Fort Jones Cemetery District is in an ongoing property line dispute with the neighboring landowners which has resulted in issues involving tree falling, ongoing vehicle traffic and cattle roaming on what is believed to be cemetery lands.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 7***

The Siskiyou Board of Supervisors concurs with the Grand Jury recommendation and will offer assistance to the Fort Jones Cemetery Board through the Public Works and/or Community Development Departments by means of existing files, surveys or geographic information systems (GIS). However, ultimately the resolution of any boundary dispute between the District and all landowners involved rest solely with those parties.

**RECOMMENDATION #9-** It is incumbent upon the Board of Supervisors, as the appointing body for most independent special district boards, to insure that those members, who serve on behalf of the citizenry, are properly trained in their legal and fiduciary Board responsibilities. Newly appointed, and ongoing, Board members should be required to attend training annually to remain current with all laws defining and pertaining to Special District governance.

#### ***RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 9***

The Siskiyou Board of Supervisors concurs with the Grand Jury recommendation. The Auditor's Office has provided training workshops for all Special Districts regarding their fiduciary responsibilities and County Counsel provides legal advice on an ongoing basis. Individual Special Districts should take responsibility for ongoing training opportunities that may be available through the appropriate authority.