

# Response to Grand Jury Report

Report Title: UKIAH STREETS

Report Date: **March 20, 2018**

Response by: **Ukiah City Council, City Manager, Finance Director and City Engineer**

## Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: **F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F8, F10 and F12.**

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F1, F7, F9, F11, and F13.**

*Attach a statement specifying the findings or portions of the findings that are disputed, and include an explanation of the reasons therefor.*

## Recommendations

Recommendations numbered **R1, R2, R3, and R5** have been implemented.

*Attach a statement describing the implement actions.*

Recommendations numbered **N/A** have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

*Attach a statement with the schedule for implementation(s).*

Recommendations numbered **N/A** require further analysis.

*Attach an explanation, and the scope and parameters of the analyses or studies, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.*

Recommendations numbered **R4, R6, R7, R8 and R9** will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

*Attach an explanation.*

Signature: 

Date: 5/17/18

TIM ERIKSEN, PUBLIC WORK DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER

Number of pages attached: 2 (including this sheet)

## City of Ukiah, Response to Grand Jury Report

### Findings explanation:

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F1**. I (we) are not aware of data to support this finding. The deterioration of the roads was a result of a lack of funding to continue an appropriate maintenance program. The majority of the maintenance funds for roads over the last twenty years has been from the State of California (State) through many different programs. The last State program used for strictly road maintenance in the City of Ukiah was the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). These funds are now used primarily for local roads that affect and are proximate to the State Highway System.

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F7**. I (we) are not aware of data to support this finding. The City has taken significant steps to enhance its reporting of special projects and other items of particular community interest, including the use of Measure Y proceeds. The City makes considerable effort to meet the highest standards of financial reporting and transparency in its practice of accounting - pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) - and best practices in budgeting. The City appreciates opportunities to review those practices regularly to look for ways to better meet the needs of decision makers and the community. The Measure Y "budget dashboard," as referred to by the Grand Jury is such an attempt and was carefully designed to convey comprehensively information relevant to Measure Y in a simple, direct, and easy to understand format. The dashboard is part of the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget document, using a revised format from prior year budgets, which recently received the award for Distinguished Budget Presentation by the Government Finance Officers Association, the highest award in the nation for public budgeting in government - Further, the City is developing additional reporting methods for all City activities, including the use of Measure Y proceeds, through the implementation of a web-based, dynamic, and interactive financial and project reporting platform called OpenGov. The City Council has authorized staff to develop this platform, and it will be available to the community beginning fiscal year 2018-19.

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F9**. I (we) are not aware of data to support this finding. The public at large has been notified of the status of the specific project Luce, Washington, Observatory Avenues and Brush Street. These projects are all underway at this time. A letter was sent out to the neighborhood by the City Engineer shortly after the fires of October 2017 explaining that the contractor would be leaving the job site to help in the rebuilding effort. These projects are all scheduled to be completed this June (2018).

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F11**. I (we) are not aware of data to support this finding.

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F13**. I (we) are not aware of data to support this finding.

Recommendations explanation:

Recommendation number **R1** has been implemented.

Recommendation number **R2** has been implemented.

Recommendation number **R3** has been implemented.

Recommendation number **R4** will not be implemented. The resolution by the City Council that directs the use of these funds directs staff to review the expenditures from this fund as part of the adoption of the budget annually.

Recommendation number **R5** has been implemented.

Recommendation number **R6** will not be implemented. This recommendation is duplicative and would require an additional process of updating. The City currently has multiple avenues to provide the public with information, including press releases, our website, and social media. I (we) will continue to include outreach regarding Measure Y and streets projects through the current established avenues for public information

Recommendation number **R7** will not be implemented. I (we) have implemented a system where City Staff reports to City Council, in a public meeting, Staff's recommendation for the pursuit of grant funds prior to any application for said funds. This report to Council includes the project description, the amount of the funding, and the City's financial responsibility and staff time commitment over the lifetime of the project. Agendas for these meetings are publicly posted per the Brown Act, as well as emailed to interested parties.

Recommendation number **R8** will not be implemented. In order to efficiently respond to "media comments," it is important to have a manageable number of sources to monitor. The City of Ukiah welcomes inquiries from the public, whether they are by phone, email, mail, or in person, and will take the time to discuss public projects. Informational pages about major City projects already exist on the City's website. Additionally, updates are often posted on social media, where comments and questions are promptly addressed by City Staff.

Recommendation number **R9** will not be implemented. Measure Y funds are not intended to fund proposed special projects. However, within special projects it would be appropriate to utilize these funds for any portion of existing road resurfacing or road reconstruction that is in need of repair.