

Mendocino County Library Advisory Board  
17400 Shafer Ranch Rd.  
Willits, CA 95490



July 16, 2015

Finley Williams, Foreperson  
Mendocino County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 939  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Finley Williams:

Re: Response to The Library, May 27, 2015 Report

Enclosed is a copy of the Library Advisory Board's response to the GJ Report.

Thank you for your efforts to remedy some of the outstanding issues between the Library and the County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Komer", written over a horizontal line.

Marc Komer  
Chair, Mendocino County Library Advisory Board

# Response to Grand Jury Report 2015

Report Title: **1.1 The Library**

Report Date: **May 27, 2015**

Response by: **Marc Komer, Chair of the Mendocino County Library Advisory Board**

## Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: **1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 12**

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **3**. The Library Advisory Board (LAB) finds there is a disincentive for Friends of the Library groups to fundraise since donors know the County will charge A-87 costs. Further, the LAB has a disincentive to advise the County Librarian to seek grants for large purchases, e.g., USDA and Air Quality grants which partially funded the new Bookmobile.

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **4**. The LAB wishes to add to the examples cited by the GJ that the Friends of the Fort Bragg Library purchased the microfilm/microfiche reader for the Fort Bragg Library, which is no longer needed or wanted at the library.

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **6**. The County's recordkeeping is unclear. There is conflicting information and it is questionable whether the County is being well served with this system. For example, Appendix D and other A-87 schedules list different inventories and adjusted costs. Greater clarity from the Auditor's Office is needed in order to fully understand how A-87 costs are derived.

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **7**. The LAB believes that A-87 charges for fixed and other assets not paid for with County funds violate the strict prohibition of the language and intent of Measure A.

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **9**. However while the Library receives a pro-rata share of property tax it remains unclear as to the exact percentage. This information needs to be published annually.

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **11**. The LAB agrees and suggests that an arbitrator determine the proper procedure for paying the County Librarian to avoid any exposure to litigation.

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **13**. Measure A sales taxes are being used appropriately. However it is the belief of the LAB that the County is inappropriately taking funds from legally protected Measure A revenues and its share of pro rata property tax in A-87 user fees on fixed assets not paid for with county funds.

I (we) agree with the finding numbered: **14**. The LAB encourages more transparency from the County.

## Recommendations


I (we) agree with the recommendations numbered: **1, 2, 4**. The LAB supports clear, meaningful and informative responses to the GJ's findings and recommendations.

I (we) agree with the recommendations numbered: **3 and 5**. The LAB believes that A-87 charges should be removed from all donated items, items purchased through grants, and anything purchased with donated funds. The LAB recommends that the County charge only for General Fund purchased items in keeping with statute. Any items purchased with library funds should not be charged A-87 costs.

I (we) agrees with the recommendation numbered: **6**. The LAB recognizes that the tax rate changes annually due to property value fluctuations. The LAB recommends that the Auditor establish and publish the tax rates annually.

I (we) agree with the recommendation numbered: **7**. The LAB supports transparency and requests that the pro-rata share it receives be published annually. The LAB recommendations that the County recognize the Library as a Dependent Special District with all the rights thereof.

I (we) agree with the recommendation numbered: **8**. The LAB agrees and suggests that an arbitrator determine the proper procedure for paying the County Librarian to avoid any exposure to litigation.

Signature:  Date: 7/16/2015

Number of pages attached: none