

Mendocino County Grand Jury Report

RESPONSE FORM

Grand Jury Report Title : Forming and Reforming a Community

Report Dated : May 1, 2013

Response Form Submitted By: City of Ukiah – City Council

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered 3, 4, and 6.
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered N/A, and have attached, as required, a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.

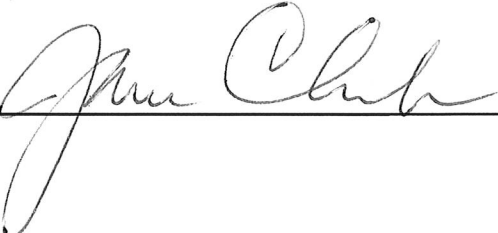
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation numbered N/A have been implemented and attached, as required, is a summary describing the implemented actions.
- The Recommendations numbered 2 and 3 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The recommendations are applicable to the Local Agency Formation Commission not the City, therefore the City cannot establish a timeline for their implementation.

- The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and attached as required, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report) N/A
- The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable N/A
- I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form: 1.

Printed Name: Jane Chambers, City Manager

Signed:  Date: 7/18/13

**Ukiah City Council
Response to the May 1, 2013 Grand Jury Report**

Forming and Reforming a Community

Finding F3: The significant areas of concern for LAFCo to address are the problems of water and sewer service in the valley.

AGREE. The City agrees that there are water and sewer service issues in the Ukiah Valley and that LAFCo could play an important role in the resolution of these issues. For example, as identified in the adopted City of Ukiah Municipal Service Review, there are parcels located within the City limits where services are provided by the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District, which has different rates than the City. These differing rates and other issues can best be resolved by the detachment of these parcels from the UVSD so that all the parcels within the City limits are equally billed for services. LAFCo will play a key role in reviewing and acting on such a detachment proposal.

Finding F4: There is a proliferation of Special Districts in the coastal and valley areas of Mendocino County.

AGREE. The City agrees that there are a large number of Special Districts within Mendocino County. A competent, collaborative, and proactive LAFCo is needed to work with the Special Districts on short and long-term issues.

Finding F6: There is a need for more proactive outreach and coordination with the local agencies by LAFCo.

AGREE. The City agrees and acknowledges the recent hard and competent work of the current LAFCo staff and leadership. Communication, confidence and trust between LAFCo and the City have improved. Continued team-building efforts are important as staff and leadership changes occur in the future.

Recommendation R2: That LAFCo be more proactive in identifying interagency problems and assisting agencies in conflict resolution.

AGREE. The City is confident that the current LAFCo staff and leadership have the ability to be more proactive and the skills to assist with the resolution of inter-agency issues. LAFCo must maintain an objective perspective, remain politically neutral, and sustain its role of discouraging urban sprawl and encouraging efficient and orderly governance. The implementation timeline for this recommendation is LAFCo's responsibility.

Recommendation R3: That LAFCo provide the leadership to facilitate the consolidation of some of the resources and services of the valley and coastal areas in order to reduce ratepayer costs and improve the levels of service.

AGREE. Consolidating services to improve the efficiency of service delivery and the reduction of ratepayer costs was a recommendation contained in the 1991 Valley-Wide Task Force report. The City agrees that LAFCo could provide leadership with discussions about service consolidations to improve levels of service and reduce ratepayer costs. The implementation timeline for this recommendation is LAFCo's responsibility.