

## 2000–2001 GRAND JURORS

### Oath of Grand Jurors:

“I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of California and all laws made pursuant to and in conformity therewith, will diligently inquire into, and true presentment make, of all public offenses against the people of this state, committed or triable within this county, of which the grand jury shall have or can obtain legal evidence. Further, I will not disclose any evidence brought before the grand jury, nor anything which I or any other grand juror may say, nor the manner in which I or any other grand juror may have voted on any matter before the grand jury. I will keep the charge that will be given to me by the court.” (California Penal Code §911)

William Adams  
Little River

JoAnn Henrie  
Talmage

Jack Boone  
Fort Bragg

Carolyn King  
Westport

Russell Borland  
Redwood Valley

James Lindsey  
Boonville

Dixie Cardoza  
Ukiah

Edward Mills  
Ukiah

Allan Carlson  
Fort Bragg

Marion Pierce  
Talmage

Paul Castillo  
Willits

Alvin Robinson  
Willits

Frankie DeMartini  
Redwood Valley

Chester Van Vleet  
Ukiah

Donna Gover  
Laytonville

Tony Xavier  
Fort Bragg

Bruce Haldane  
Potter Valley

Robert White  
Fort Bragg

30 June 2001

Honorable Ronald Brown, Presiding Judge  
Mendocino County Superior Court

In compliance with California Penal Code Section 933, the 2000–2001 Grand Jury submits its Final Report, which presents our Findings and Recommendations.

We believe this report will give the citizens of Mendocino County additional insight into the workings of various departments, agencies, and districts in their county. We hope the citizens find the results of our work useful. Likewise, we hope that our elected officials and the people who run the various departments, agencies, and districts find this report helps them better perform their duties.

Respectfully,

Russell Borland  
Foreman

## Preface

The California Penal Code gives a Grand Jury the mandate to review the methods of operation of County departments, agencies, and special districts and to inquire into the needs of County officers. After such reviews and inquiries, the Grand Jury is required to submit to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court a final report of its findings and recommendations that pertain to county government matters. The Grand Jury comprises 19 ordinary citizens who act as a watchdog for the citizens of the County.

The 2001–2002 Grand Jury wishes to thank County staff, the staffs of entities reviewed, and private citizens for their cooperation. Also, the Grand Jury thanks the staff of the County Administrator’s Office for their cooperation and professionalism.

The Grand Jury found many County departments, agencies, and special districts that are well run and some that are less well run. In particular, the County’s Information Services Department and new Crises Service Center (which replaced the PHF), the program for the visually handicapped at Mendocino College, the cities of Point Arena and Willits, and drug enforcement by COMMET and Major Crimes Task Force are all operating very well. In other cases, as in past years, the Grand Jury found familiar problems.

- County departments, agencies, and special districts report the need for additional, qualified staff and a concomitant need for funding of staff, equipment, and programs
- Lack of Policies and Procedures or a lack of conformance with existing Policies and Procedures or a lack of staff to adequately perform and enforce Policies and Procedures.
- Contracts
  - Lack terms for significant Board of Supervisors’ monitoring and control
  - Lack measurable outcomes such as Return on Investment
  - Lack measures for compliance and enforcement
- Lack of written complaint procedures

All of these problems may be summed up either as loose or sloppy business practices or as the result of the County lacking the revenue sources necessary to provide “urban-style” services over a large, topographically divided area, to a decentralized, largely rural and agricultural population.

The Board of Supervisors should be monitoring and directing departments and the department heads to assure that proper operating procedures are in place and being followed correctly and consistently. This term the Grand Jury received about 25 unique citizen complaints—an average number. It is important to have a Grand Jury to investigate complaints of citizens whose concerns have not been addressed by elected officials. Citizens should not, however, have to resort to complaints to the Grand Jury to get County departments, agencies, or special districts to perform properly their responsibilities.