

## **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

### ***El Dorado County Museum – Building 577 104 Placerville Dr. Placerville***

#### **Reason for the Report**

The Grand Jury selected the El Dorado County Museum as one of its general reviews for 2002/2003.

#### **Scope of the Investigation**

The members of the Grand Jury:

- Made an unannounced visit to the Museum on January 9, 2003;
- Received an extensive facilities and grounds tour by the Museum Administrator-Director;
- Were briefed on the various operations of the facility;
- Inspected the building and grounds;
- Reviewed previous Grand Jury reports for the year's 1999/2000, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 and found no findings or recommendations pertaining to this building.

#### **Background**

The El Dorado County Museum, Building 577, is located on the County Fair Grounds in Placerville. The Museum building, built in 1972, functions as the County's main archival repository. It is comprised of the main museum building, Shay Engine Shop, a barn, maintenance workshop, various storage sheds, and outside displays.

The Main Museum building houses exhibits of early artifacts of local and California interests and functions as the main storage location for genealogical information, marriages, and obituaries. Various organizations and citizens throughout the county access valuable maps, pictures, and property items. Since space is limited and artifacts are numerous, the displays are periodically changed.

The condition of the Main Museum building appears to be adequate. Public restrooms are clean and functional. Some of the floorboards in the attic above the office are substandard. Since the area is accessible by the staff, this poses a safety concern and potential liability to the County. Although fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are visible throughout the structure, the building did not have a fire sprinkler system.

The Shay Engine Shop was built to reflect the time period of the engine. Inside the building, restoration of the engine to operating condition is in progress. Visitors to the shop are able to view the work in progress. The restoration of the engine is being accomplished through donations and

volunteer labor. The restored Shay Engine is a valuable historical asset to the County because it is an antique.

The landscaping is well designed and creatively done. The sheds are old and deteriorating, and many of the outdoor artifacts are exposed to the elements.

### **Findings**

F1. Some of the floorboards in the attic above the office, which is accessible to the museum staff, are substandard and pose a safety hazard and potential liability to the County.

***Response to F1: The respondent agrees with the finding.***

F2. Although fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are visible throughout the main building, there is no fire sprinkler system.

***Response to F2: The respondent agrees with the finding.***

F3. The outside sheds are old and deteriorating.

***Response to F3: The respondent agrees with the finding.***

F4. The outdoor artifacts are exposed to the elements causing deterioration.

***Response to F4: The respondent agrees with the finding.***

### **Recommendations**

R1. Floorboards in the attic above the office should be strengthened or replaced.

***Response to R1: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.*** General Services has done an assessment of the area. Due to their findings, access to this area is currently prohibited. A tape barrier has been placed over the area. The flooring will be repaired or replaced by August 30, 2003.

R2. Most outside sheds should be replaced.

***Response to R2: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.*** The condition of the outside sheds has been noted with a preliminary plan for a replacement building drawn by Facilities Engineering. The timetable for replacing the outside sheds is currently dependent on completing plans for the satellite museum site for the antique railroad artifacts, thereby making adequate space for construction in the museum yard. This project will be completed by December 31, 2004.

