



GRAND JURY
El Dorado County

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June, 2011

To: Citizens of El Dorado County

Re: Final Report of the 2010-2011 El Dorado County Grand Jury

Dear Fellow Citizens:

I am happy to report that the hard work of the El Dorado County Grand Jury is complete for this session. For one very eventful year nineteen of your fellow citizens have spent hundreds of hours of their time to investigate the issues contained in this report. Through hours of interviews with county officials and others, and additional hours of research, review of documentation and thoughtful analysis and discussion, your Grand Jury has indeed acted upon the key charge to all Grand Juries...to act as the citizen watchdog on your county government.

Not all of the work of your Grand Jury is popular or endearing to county officials or officials of the political subdivisions of the county like cities and special districts. But it is the job of your Grand Jury to inform and educate citizens about what they need to know, not necessarily what those officials would like you to hear or know.

You have reason to be proud of the work of this Grand Jury. It has focused on some issues that heretofore have not been popular, politically correct or even visible. But each report herein has been carefully investigated. Key findings and recommendations have been diligently and thoughtfully considered and offered.

It is an amazing idea when you think about it. Gather nineteen good citizens like yourselves together for a year, put them in a room and charge them with being your Grand Jury...a citizen watchdog on anything and everything to do with county government. Have them interview key witnesses high and low, gather and analyze relevant documentation, debate and discuss the issues, then report their findings and recommendations to the public. Then have them get the word out through any means appropriate, through the print and electronic media, community meetings, the web, through hard copies...even word of mouth.

Does it work? You bet it works! Does it make a difference? Sometimes the effects are immediate, and huge changes result. Other times the changes sparked by the Grand Jury reports unfold more quietly and take some time. But the ripple effects of a good Grand Jury report serve to put issues on the front burner, lend them credibility and visibility, and provide the public airing they richly deserve.

This Grand Jury has done its part by speaking truth to power. You would have it do no less. Now, good citizens, it is your turn to hold your public officials accountable.

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Baker", written over a white background.

Steve J. Baker
Foreman, 2010-2011
El Dorado County Grand Jury