

El Dorado County Grand Jury 2011-2012

El Dorado County Contracts Case number GJ-11-013

Reason for Report

The Grand Jury received a complaint that the El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT) was not diligent in their payment for water/sewer services (See GJ-11-004). During that investigation the Grand Jury discovered that many of the County's contracts are with businesses that are outside of El Dorado County.

Background

During an investigation of any government entity, the Grand Jury reviews and evaluates procedures, methods, and systems utilized by government to determine whether they can be made more efficient and effective.

Department of Transportation's duties include contracts for: goods, services, and supplies to be used by various county departments.

The El Dorado County Charter states that when the combination of price, quality, terms, and conditions of sale are substantially equal, the county shall give a preference to vendors located within the County of El Dorado for the purchase of goods and supplies, but provides no such preference for services that could be contracted from within El Dorado County.

Methodology

Documents reviewed:

- El Dorado County billings
- El Dorado County Charter
 - Article VI, Section 601
- El Dorado County Contracts
- Grand Jury Reports
 - 2007-2008, Procurement Department, GJ-08-019
 - 2008-2009, Charter Review, GJ-09-005

Interviews:

El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office
Chief Administrative Officer
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
El Dorado County Department of Transportation employees
El Dorado County Senior Analyst (Procurement and Contracts)

Facts/Findings

1. Departments within El Dorado County have the ability to approve smaller contracts without a bid process, and do so on a regular basis.
2. Department Heads frequently contract with businesses from outside El Dorado County.

Recommendations

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors amend the El Dorado County Charter to include ‘services’ under Article 6, Section 601, when purchases are made for the county.
2. The Grand Jury recommends that all county contracts be awarded to vendors within El Dorado County as long as they meet the requirements and unless it is found that that type of business does not exist in the county.

Responses

Responses to both the findings and recommendations in this report are required by law in accordance with California Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Address responses to:
The Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury, Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court, 1354 Johnson Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

This report has been provided to:

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office
El Dorado County Department of Transportation