

# El Dorado County Grand Jury 2011-2012



Fair Play Wine Region



Downtown Placerville



South Lake Tahoe



El Dorado Hills Town Center



## Final Report

# El Dorado County Grand Jury 2011-2012

## Final Report



June 2012

El Dorado County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 472  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-7477  
[gjone@edcgov.us](mailto:gjone@edcgov.us)

Online report available at:  
[www.edgov.us/grandjury](http://www.edgov.us/grandjury)



Left to Right: Dan Jensen, Eileen Pope, Irv Coe, Lisa Magnuson, Ryan Donner, Clyde Needham, Dale Garner Davis, Gary Miles, Barbara Bailey, Joe Salerno, Ted Long (Foreman), Bill Knox, Robert Reeves, Billy Garrett, Dee Clowser, Ann Lee, Ron Zehren, Larry Harnick, Mike Powell



**GRAND JURY**  
**El Dorado County**

P.O. Box 472  
Placerville, California 95667  
(530) 621-7477 Fax: (530) 295-0763  
[gione@edcgov.us](mailto:gione@edcgov.us)

June, 2012

To: Citizens of El Dorado County

Re: Final Report of the 2011-2012 El Dorado County Grand Jury

Dear Fellow Citizens:

It was with great pleasure that I served as foreman of your 2011-12 El Dorado County Grand Jury with 18 of your finest and most dedicated citizens. While our effort was rewarding, it also required a strong commitment to the task and many hours of work. This year, we were fortunate to have a very diverse group representing the entire county, including five members from the Lake Tahoe area.

The Grand Jury's work this year included a range of topics from special districts to the internal workings of the county's processes. We met and interviewed representatives from virtually all aspects of county government, as well as having taken an intense interest in the future of local government. The Grand Jury is much more than a "watch dog"; it affords us the opportunity to look forward, correct mistakes and inform our fellow residents.

This Grand Jury was also active in communicating throughout the county about what they do as well as the opportunity to serve. As a result, we now have a record number of applications for the 2012-2013 Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury has many responsibilities, and in the normal course of events, is singly focused on the openness and effectiveness of our county government and its officials. This year, however, due to a misunderstanding, the Jury's budget was cut to one half of the needed level; therefore, a substantial amount of time was spent correcting the error. The Grand Jury's budget is approximately \$85,000, less than ten per cent of which is actual non-reimbursed expenses. The bulk goes to meeting the statutory requirement of \$15 for each meeting attendance as well as reimbursement for actual mileage driven to official Grand Jury meetings and hearings. That averages about \$350 per member per month for an average attendance of 30 plus hours a month in meetings and hearings. No one serves for the money; however, I am pleased to say that, thanks to the good work and support of Supervisor John Knight, the Grand Jury's financial future is now assured.

I hope that our report will serve you in some way, from affording a deeper understanding of our government to being a stimulus for further conversation and debate on the future of government within our county. El Dorado County can take credit for the literal creation of

the State of California as the home of the 1850's gold rush. It can also take the lead in the 2000's with a reinvention of the nature of government itself.

As you read our report, I hope you will keep in mind that yes, we investigate, but more importantly, we cooperate in the creation of a better government for a better life for us all. Thank you for your support, Volunteers.

Warm regards

Ted Long  
Foreman, 2011-2012  
El Dorado County Grand Jury



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

1354 Johnson Boulevard, Ste. 2  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 573-3082 Fax (530) 543-6720

Dear Grand Jury Members:

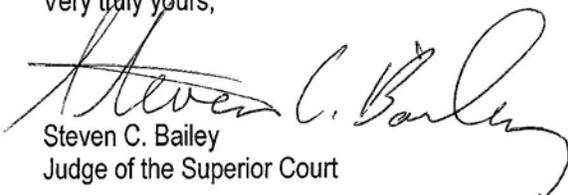
As Supervising Judge of the 2011/2012 Grand Jury, and on behalf of the El Dorado County Superior Court, I want to express my thanks to all of you for your hard work, dedication, and accomplishments.

Grand Jurors always assume a great deal of responsibility whenever they agree to be a part of a year's panel. They willingly do this as volunteers without any purpose together than to insure that governmental agencies and individuals are properly performing their duties. Your hard work has helped fulfill the Grand Jury's goal of better government for all the citizens of El Dorado County.

Special thanks to Mr. Ted Long, Foreperson of the 2011/2012 Grand Jury. Ted has been a hard-working and able leader in this time-consuming position. It is due largely to his leadership skills that your work was conducted harmoniously and well.

In closing, I applaud each member of this Grand Jury and congratulate you on your 2011/2012 Grand Jury Service.

Very truly yours,

  
Steven C. Bailey  
Judge of the Superior Court



**GRAND JURY  
El Dorado County**

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Placerville, California 95667  
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## **Notice to Respondents**

California Penal Code Section 933.05 mandates specific requirements for responding to grand jury reports. You are advised to carefully read the pertinent provisions below and prepare your official response accordingly. Please pay particular attention to required explanations and time frames. Incomplete or inadequate responses are likely to prompt further investigative inquiries by the grand jury and/or the court.

### **RESPONSE TO FINDINGS**

The responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

The respondent agrees with the finding.

The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.

### **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

The responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation. It is the expectation of the grand jury that the timeframe be specific and reasonable.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.

## **RESPONSES**

There are two different response times set forth in the Penal Code essentially depending upon whether the respondent is elected or not elected.

### Public Agencies

The governing body of any public agency (also referring to a department) must respond within 90 days from the release of the report to the public. The response must be addressed to the Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court as indicated in the Response Section of each report.

### Elective Officers or Agency Head

All elected officers or heads of agencies/departments are required to respond within 60 days of the release of the report to the public. Responses must be sent to the Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court, as specified in the Response Section of each report, with a copy to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

## **FAILURE TO RESPOND**

Failure to respond as required to a grand jury report is in violation of California Penal Code Section 933.05 and is subject to further action. Such action is likely to include further investigation on the subject matter of the report by the grand jury.

The current Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court:

Presiding Judge  
Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury  
Department 3  
1354 Johnson Blvd, Suite 2  
South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

The Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court additionally requests that your responses be sent in an original "word" file, or "PDF" file to facilitate the economical and timely distribution of such responses. Please e-mail to the Grand jury at:

[scadmin@eldoradocourt.org](mailto:scadmin@eldoradocourt.org). Thank you.

# Estimated Economic Impact Report

## 2011-2012 Grand Jury

001 - El Dorado County Policies and Procedures

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

002 - Placerville Union School District Business Practices

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

003 - El Dorado County Business License Ordinance

There are positive estimated financial impacts from this report.

No actual figure can be estimated at this time.

El Dorado County could potentially receive revenues in the hundreds of thousands of dollars by following the recommendations in this report.

004 - Department of Transportation – Financial Management

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

005 - California Grand Jury Budgets

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

006 - Fee Waivers – Iron Gate

There are negative estimated financial impacts from this report.

No actual figure can be estimated at this time.

El Dorado County could potentially lose revenues in the thousands of dollars by following the recommendations in this report.

007 - El Dorado County Detention Facilities

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

008 - South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

009 - Sheriff's Department Incentive Pay – (Diploma Gate) Follow-Up

There are positive estimated financial impacts from this report.

El Dorado County could potentially receive \$23,353.11 by following the recommendations in this report.

010 - Consolidation of City and County Services

There are positive estimated financial impacts from this report.

No actual figure can be estimated at this time.

The City of Placerville and the City of South Lake Tahoe could potentially save millions of dollars by following the recommendations in this report.

011 - Unlawful Use of Taxpayer Funds

There are positive estimated financial impacts from this report.  
El Dorado County could potentially receive \$22,000 by following the recommendations in this report.

012 - Placerville Police Investigative Policy

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

013 - El Dorado County Contracts

There are no estimated financial impacts from this report.

Grand Jury

There are positive estimated financial impacts.  
The Grand Jury applied for an Air Quality Resources Grant and was awarded \$14,719.00 with the possibility of additional funds.

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Total estimated financial impact from Grand Jury Final Report:

El Dorado County:

Actual: \$45,353.11  
Estimated: \$250,000.00

City of Placerville:

Actual: \$0  
Estimated: \$3,000,000.00

City of South Lake Tahoe:

Actual: \$0  
Estimated: \$3,000,000.00

Grand Jury:

Actual: \$14,719.00  
Estimated: \$500

El Dorado County Grand Jury  
2011-2012

Mission Statement  
*The Grand Jury acts as the citizen oversight  
For El Dorado County*

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