

**FILED**

**AUG - 6 2008**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF TRINITY  
BY: DONNA HANOVER, DEPUTY CLERK**

*DH*

**TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY  
2007-2008**

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
FINAL REPORT**

**SOUTHERN TRINITY LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**This Report was Approved  
On June 10, 2008**

**2007-2008 TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY  
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
FINAL REPORT**

**SOUTHERN TRINITY LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**PURPOSE:**

In response to a complaint from a concerned citizen in the area, the Judicial Committee looked into the law enforcement situation in southern Trinity County.

**BACKGROUND:**

The complaint is concerned with the contract between Ruth Lake Community Services District and the Trinity County Sheriff's Department for providing an assigned deputy for that area. The Trinity County Sheriff's Department did provide for weekend service during the months of June through August of 2007. The Ruth Lake Community Services District paid \$600.00 per weekend for this service. On a daily basis there isn't any presence of law enforcement for Southern Trinity. There is a problem with deputies who are not available, or it takes them too long to respond to emergency situations in Southern Trinity County. It looked like the Sheriff could fill the resident Deputy position but was not filling it. There have been pledged monies for Deputy training. Ruth Lake Community Services District has pledged \$5,000.00. Southern Trinity Health Services has pledged \$5,000.00. Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association has pledged \$1,000.00. If the plan had been accepted, there would have been more funds allocated to cover the total cost for the training of a Deputy for Southern Trinity County.

The County and the Sheriff's Department are mandated to provide law enforcement everywhere within the County, no matter how thin the population may be in some areas, the possibility that a large geographic portion of the County could revert to 'lawlessness' is alarming.

**METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:**

The Judicial Committee interviewed the County Supervisor for Southern Trinity and the Sheriff.

**FINDING #1**

Southern Trinity and its citizens are not being served: there is, in effect, no law enforcement in the Southern Trinity area.

**RECOMMENDATION #1**

To satisfy its mandate, the County needs to provide law enforcement services to the Southern Trinity area.

The ideal solution would be to have a resident Deputy in the area.

The pledged monies are sufficient for Deputy training.

**CONCLUSION**

This situation has been allowed to drift perilously close to serious incidents. Trinity County citizens are entitled to timely, targeted and effective law enforcement to protect their lives, property and fortunes.

**Responses Required:**

<b><u>Entity</u></b>	<b><u>Finding</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>	<b><u>Respond in</u></b>
Board of Supervisors	1	1	90 Days
Ruth Lake CSD	1	1	60 Days
Trinity County Sheriff	1	1	60 Days
CAO	1	1	60 Days



**TRINITY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. BOX 1228, WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093 Phone: (530) 623-2611

LORRAC CRAIG, Sheriff/Coroner

Date: September 5, 2008

To: James P. Woodward  
Presiding Judge of Trinity Superior Court

From: Lorrac Craig  
Trinity County Sheriff

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report  
"Southern Trinity Law Enforcement"

Finding #1:  
Southern Trinity and its citizens are not being served.

Response #1:  
It is agreed that the citizens of Southern Trinity are not afforded routine patrol services that they might have with the assignment of a resident Deputy. At present, routine patrol services are not provided for the "Down River" portion of the county or the Trinity Lake area as well. The funding that the Southern Trinity community is willing to raise for training will not support the on-going cost of maintaining a resident Deputy. At present, the County is also unable to support the cost of maintaining a resident Deputy. Declining Deputy staff due to a declining budget forces the Sheriff's Office to concentrate their efforts in the areas of the greater populations and the larger numbers of calls for service.

Response to reported crimes in the un-serviced areas is our mandate and response is made as quickly as possible. Factors involving response times include number of Deputies on duty, their location in the county, and what they are involved in at the moment of the call.

The Ruth Lake CSD has contracted with the Sheriff's Office to provide additional patrol coverage of their district. The fees charged for this service cover overtime costs of the officer as it is done on the officer's day off.

It is agreed that the ideal solution would be a resident Deputy. The second best solution would be a Hayfork based officer assigned to the Southern Trinity area. This cannot be accomplished at current staffing levels. There is no immediate relief expected concerning staffing issues as this Department is experiencing further cuts in funding.

# Ruth Lake Community Services District

Telephone: 707-574-6332

Fax: 707-574-6080

Email: ruthlakecsd@saber.net

P.O. Box 31

12200 Mad River Road

Mad River CA 95552

**RECEIVED**

AUG 21 2008

TRINITY COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT

August 19, 2008

The Honorable James P. Woodward  
Presiding Judge of Trinity Superior Court  
Courthouse – 11 Court Street  
P. O. Box 1258  
Weaverville, CA 96003

Your Honor:

## **FINDING #1:**

The Ruth Lake Community Service District did contract with the Trinity County Sheriff's Department for Deputy coverage in Southern Trinity County for the 2007 season. The cost was \$600 per weekend. This contract has continued for the 2008 summer camping and boating season.

Previous to the 2007 season, RLCSD would hire private security companies to provide a presence during three major weekends: Memorial, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day. The cost for these 3 weekends would be equivalent to the total cost for the Sheriff's Deputy for a 10 weekend season. The "security company" coverage would at the very best be classified as minimally effective.

Having a Sheriff's Deputy in the Marina, in the Campgrounds, and around the lake for the past year and a half is changing the clientele that come to Ruth Lake and Southern Trinity County. We are enjoying more mature, family oriented campers and boaters at Ruth Lake.

Summary: The Ruth Lake Campgrounds, Marina and the general Southern Trinity County area desperately need more consistent Sheriff's Office coverage.

The Honorable James P. Woodward, pg. 2

**RECOMMENDATION #1:**

The Ruth Lake Community Service District is still willing to pledge \$5,000 towards the cost of training a deputy to serve in Southern Trinity County. As has been the case for many years now, we would be willing to do whatever we can to help provide protection for the Marina, Campgrounds, and the Southern Trinity County area.

**NOTE:** Many residents in Southern Trinity feel like “we pay taxes also” so where is the law enforcement element of those tax dollars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas D. Felt".

Thomas D. Felt  
Manager



**TRINITY COUNTY**  
Office of the County Administrator  
DERO B. FORSLUND

County Administrative Officer  
P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613  
PHONE (530) 623-1382 FAX (530) 623-8365


**RECEIVED**

**OCT 10 2008**

**TRINITY COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT**

Date: October 3, 2008

To: Anthony Edwards  
Presiding Judge of the Trinity County Superior Court

From Dero Forslund   
Trinity County Administrative Officer

Re: Response Trinity County Grand Jury, Judicial Committee Final Report  
Southern Trinity Law Enforcement

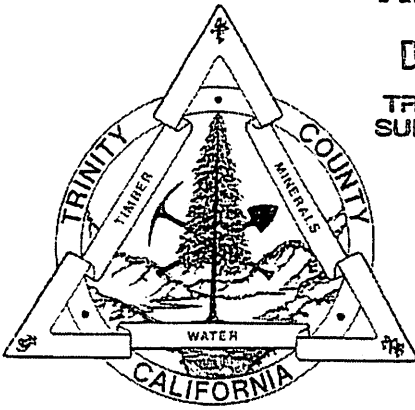
Finding #1: Southern Trinity and its citizens are not being served: there is, in effect, no law enforcement in the Southern Trinity Area.

Response: The need for resident deputies in the more remote sections of the County has been identified by the Sheriff and the office of the CAO. With the current limitations on the County budget that level of service is not possible. One of the goals of the County is to secure sufficient long term funding to allow the Sheriff to provide more coverage in the remote portions of the County.

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DEC 29 2008

TRINITY COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT



# TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093  
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable James P. Woodward  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendation of 2008 Grand Jury Judicial Committee  
Southern Trinity Law Enforcement Final Report

DATE: October 22, 2008

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The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a response to their final report on the Southern Trinity Law Enforcement. The response of the Board is as follows:

**Finding #1:**

**Southern Trinity and its citizens are not being served; there is, in effect no law enforcement in the Southern Trinity area.**

**Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.**

**Recommendation #1:**

**To satisfy its mandate, the County needs to provide law enforcement services to the Southern Trinity area.**

**The ideal solution would be to have a resident deputy in the area.**

**The pledged monies are sufficient for deputy training.**

**Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the recommendations, however due to the financial conditions within the County budget, the recommendation can not be implemented.**



ANTON R. JAEGL, Chairman

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JUDY PFLUEGER  
DISTRICT 1

JEFF MORRIS  
DISTRICT 2

ROGER JAEGL  
DISTRICT 3

HOWARD FREEMAN  
DISTRICT 4

WENDY REISS  
DISTRICT 5