



TRINITY COUNTY

TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY

P.O. Box 2308

Weaverville, CA 96093

Date: November 1, 2013

TO: Elizabeth Johnson, Presiding Judge
Trinity County Superior Court

FROM: Pat Frost, Foreperson
2012-13 Trinity County Grand Jury

SUBJECT: Consolidated Final Report 2012-13 Trinity County Grand Jury

I respectfully submit to you the enclosed 2012-13 Consolidated Grand Jury Report for your review and transmittal to the Trinity County CAO for publication. I know that I speak for my colleagues on the Grand Jury when I say that it was an honor to serve on this year's Grand Jury and to further the goal of helping in our small way the maintenance and improvement of good governance at the local level. I commend the good work of my colleagues, especially Patsy Nelson, our secretary and Bob Nelson, the foreperson pro tempore.

Our year was marked by some challenges. We lost several members due to illness, moves out of the county, and most sadly death. That said, we still accomplished a god bit of work and met our mandates under California Penal Code. This consolidated report includes reports and responses on the County's General Plan process as well as the three detention facilities within Trinity County (Trinity County Jail, Juvenile Detention and CalFire's Trinity River Conservation Camp).

The Grand Jury received 21 complaints from the public, some of which included multiple sub-complaints. The Grand Jury reviewed every complaint and acknowledged their receipt in writing to the complainants. Some were not pursued for a variety of reasons — they were complaints reviewed and handled by a previous grand jury; there was a lack of nexus to the roles and responsibilities of the grand jury (e.g. there was no local government involvement in the case); or the issue was also subject to pending litigation. Five (5) complaints were referred to the Grand Jury's Complaint Committee for initial investigations. All of these were concluded without formal reports, because they fit into one of the aforementioned categories or the facts simply did not support the allegations. Ad hoc committees were formed to conduct initial investigations of three complaints. These investigations were closed due to the facts not supporting the allegations or other circumstances that precluded the grand jury from proceeding. We received 5 complaints in the last quarter of our year of serve (April-June). These complaints received a cursory review, due to the lack of time left for more in-depth investigations. Some of these were referred to the

2013-14 Grand Jury for their consideration, but it is completely at the new grand jury's discretion as to whether they pursue any of these complaints.

This year's grand jury also took on additional work. We recognized early on that the citizens of Trinity County have varying degrees of understanding about civil grand juries, so we initiated a public education program called Grand Jury Tidbits – little factoids about grand juries that appeared periodically in the Trinity Journal. We also established a Continuity Committee that was very active during the first three-quarters of the year. Their job was to track and follow-up on the reports and responses of the 2011-12 Grand Jury. The result of their work can be found on the Grand Jury webpage in the form of the publication of the *Consolidated 2011-12 Grand Jury Report*, and an improved process for transmitting and publishing these annual reports, which are so critical to informing the public.

I apologize that our Consolidated Report was not completed before the end of our term of service, but I know that you understand the challenges we faced this year. After you have completed your review, please initial and forward the Consolidated Report to Wendy Tyler, CAO of Trinity County, for publication and filing.

Thank you for your timely review and your support of the Grand Jury. It was an honor to serve you and the citizens of Trinity County.