

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

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October 6, 2020

The Honorable Dana Walton
Presiding Judge
Mariposa County Superior Court
5088 Bullion Street
Post Office Box 28
Mariposa, CA 95338

Re: Response to the Mariposa County 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Walton:

With our gratitude for the time and dedication of the 2019-2020 Grand Jury, and for the use of updated branding artwork in the Grand Jury report, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors offers the following response to their findings and recommendations. Please note that the Board has responded previously to a Grand Jury interim report with regard to the deferred complaint on a Mariposa County supervisor, the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office, the adult and juvenile detention facilities, the cybersecurity advisory from San Mateo County and the John C. Fremont Healthcare District. This response will focus on matters that were not addressed in the interim report.

Because the Board of Supervisors directly oversees all County departments not represented by another elected official, this response is made on behalf of the Administration, Public Works and Fire Departments as well as the Health and Human Services Agency. The Board acknowledges and agrees with all findings in the report unless specified otherwise in the comments below. Accordingly:

Sheriff's Animal Control Division

1. The Board agrees with the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury on this matter. We are also in agreement with Sheriff Binnewies' response and join him in acknowledging the excellent, professional work of animal control staff.

2. The Board is prepared to support the sheriff's efforts for a sustainable animal control facility as a site is identified and resources allow.

Fire Department

1. The Board agrees with the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. We are very pleased with the results of the expanded partnership with Cal Fire.
2. We are grateful to the Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD) for leasing the Spring Hill School for our fire headquarters and will continue to maintain and improve that facility as we are able and in compliance with our lease with MCUSD.
3. With the help of Measure M funds, the County added Amador Plan fire stations in Coulterville and Mariposa this year. The Usona station has been under this plan for several years and Cal Fire agreed to keep the Catheys Valley station open through this last winter. The Board is extremely grateful to Cal Fire for allowing all of these stations to remain in place at a reduced rate through the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional stations may be considered as demand requires and resources allow.

Health and Human Services Agency Child Welfare Services Division

1. The Board generally agrees with the findings of the Grand Jury on the Child Welfare Services Division and expresses appreciation to the excellent staff that serve in this area.
2. The County continues to evaluate options to expand services in many areas of the county, including the areas of Don Pedro, Coulterville and Greeley Hill. Expanded facilities and expansion of the use of technology are both options being considered.
3. Improving communication with the public and encouraging greater public engagement is a top priority for the Board for all departments within the county.
4. The County, and particularly the Health and Human Services Agency, partners with CASA, nonprofits and local faith groups on many issues. We look forward to continuing these partnerships, and perhaps expanding them, as opportunities present themselves within the Child Welfare Services Division.

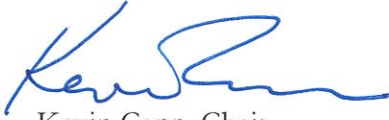
Public Works Roads Division

1. The Board agrees with the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury and expresses appreciation to the Roads Division staff for their excellent work.
2. Improving communication with the public and encouraging greater public engagement is a top priority for the Board for all departments within the county.


3. The County is engaged in a significant effort to update legacy systems beginning with the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software that is at the heart of our operations. Once that software is in place, other integrated systems will be added to maximize operational efficiencies such as the need for better work orders in the Roads Division.

This concludes the responses of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to the FY 2019-2020 Grand Jury report. The Board of Supervisors is pleased with the progress that has been made in so many areas of our county, including several mentioned here. We are grateful to the Grand Jury for the opportunity to continue to address and improve the aspects of our operations discussed.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cann, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Reviewed: 

Honorable F. Dana Walton, Per PC953