

## **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

### ***El Dorado County Museum – Building 577 104 Placerville Dr. Placerville***

#### **Reason for the Report**

The Grand Jury selected the El Dorado County Museum as one of its general reviews for 2002/2003.

#### **Scope of the Investigation**

The members of the Grand Jury:

- Made an unannounced visit to the Museum on January 9, 2003;
- Received an extensive facilities and grounds tour by the Museum Administrator-Director;
- Were briefed on the various operations of the facility;
- Inspected the building and grounds;
- Reviewed previous Grand Jury reports for the year's 1999/2000, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 and found no findings or recommendations pertaining to this building.

#### **Background**

The El Dorado County Museum, Building 577, is located on the County Fair Grounds in Placerville. The Museum building, built in 1972, functions as the County's main archival repository. It is comprised of the main museum building, Shay Engine Shop, a barn, maintenance workshop, various storage sheds, and outside displays.

The Main Museum building houses exhibits of early artifacts of local and California interests and functions as the main storage location for genealogical information, marriages, and obituaries. Various organizations and citizens throughout the county access valuable maps, pictures, and property items. Since space is limited and artifacts are numerous, the displays are periodically changed.

The condition of the Main Museum building appears to be adequate. Public restrooms are clean and functional. Some of the floorboards in the attic above the office are substandard. Since the area is accessible by the staff, this poses a safety concern and potential liability to the County. Although fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are visible throughout the structure, the building did not have a fire sprinkler system.

The Shay Engine Shop was built to reflect the time period of the engine. Inside the building, restoration of the engine to operating condition is in progress. Visitors to the shop are able to view the work in progress. The restoration of the engine is being accomplished through

donations and volunteer labor. The restored Shay Engine is a valuable historical asset to the County because it is an antique.

The landscaping is well designed and creatively done. The sheds are old and deteriorating, and many of the outdoor artifacts are exposed to the elements.

### **Findings**

- F1. Some of the floorboards in the attic above the office, which is accessible to the museum staff, are substandard and pose a safety hazard and potential liability to the County.
- F2. Although fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are visible throughout the main building, there is no fire sprinkler system.
- F3. The outside sheds are old and deteriorating.
- F4. The outdoor artifacts are exposed to the elements causing deterioration.

### **Recommendations**

- R1. Floorboards in the attic above the office should be strengthened or replaced.
- R2. Most outside sheds should be replaced.
- R3. All outside artifacts should be under cover and additional space and housing for artifacts are needed.
- R4. A modern zoned sprinkler system is needed to protect valuable artifacts and irreplaceable records.

### **Commendations**

The Administrator-Director is doing an excellent job taking responsibility for maintaining and organizing diverse county records.

### **Responses Required for Findings**

F1 through F4  
El Dorado County Museum Administrator  
El Dorado County Department of General Services  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

### **Responses Required for Recommendations**

R1 through R4  
El Dorado County Museum Administrator  
El Dorado County Department of General Services  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors