

**EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY  
2007-2008**

**FINAL REPORT  
Parts I through III**



**June 2008**

**Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 472  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-7477  
[www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/grandjury)**

**EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2007-2008**  
**June 2008**

*Mission Statement*

*The Grand Jury acts as the citizen-oversight for El Dorado County.*

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**Final Reports Included**

Part I - Released March 2008

Part II - Released April 2008

Part III - Released June 2008



## GRAND JURY El Dorado County

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June 17, 2008

To the Citizens of El Dorado County:

The El Dorado County Grand Jury presents the comprehensive 2007-2008 Final Report.

- Part I (First released in March of 2008)
- Part II (First released in April 2008)
- Part III (Final)

This final report is the result of citizens who chose for one year to serve you, the people of El Dorado County. This is now your opportunity to participate in local government by notifying your Supervisor if you concur with the recommendations presented in this report. The production of a Grand Jury report is one method to ensure a long-continued honest approach to governmental activities. We encourage you to commit to change; it is within your power.

In the wise words of our forefathers:

*"We think in America that it is necessary to introduce the people into every department of government as far as they are capable of exercising it, and that this is the only way to insure a long-continued and honest administration of its powers."*

--- Thomas Jefferson to Abbe Arnoux, 1789

*"I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform."*

--- Thomas Jefferson

One may ask, "Is the Grand Jury effective?" The response is "Yes". Although the responses to the Grand Jury's 2008-2009 Final Report will not be available for a few months, the responses to the Final Grand Jury Report for 2006-2007 is an example of the grand jury effectiveness, with approximately 80% of the responses stating the recommendations *were implemented or would be implemented*.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to the members of the "Grand" Jury. I heard from several county officials, dignitaries, and citizens that this years' jury was exceptional. Stated best by a County Board Supervisor, "This year's jury put the "Grand" back into the Jury. I could not agree more!

Respectfully,

Rosemary Mulligan, Foreperson  
2007-2008 El Dorado County Grand Jury



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

495 Main Street  
Placerville, California 95667

Department 1 (530) 621-6451  
Fax: (530) 622-5729

June 7, 2008

Dear Grand Jury Members:

As Supervising Judge of the 2007/2008 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 and dedication to the Grand Jury. Your report shows the long hours you have put into making this a successful Grand Jury.

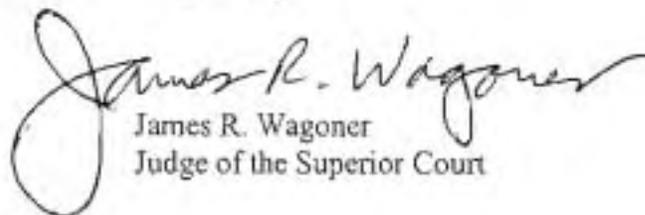
One of the primary functions of the Grand Jury is to help our county government and special districts operate more efficiently. This function is even more important now in our light of our current budget situation. In fulfilling this function, you have included suggestions and recommendations for better government in your report. Equally as important, your report also informs your fellow citizens of areas where our county government and special districts are already well organized and efficient. The addition of the commendations in the report as well as your presentations at Board meetings are, I am sure, most welcome to the recipients.

The Grand Jury functions only through citizens like you who are willing to devote time and energy to this important work. Your hard work has helped fulfill the Grand Jury's goal of better government for all of the citizens of El Dorado County.

Special thanks go to Ms. Rosemary Mulligan, the Foreperson of the 2007/2008 Grand Jury. Rosemary has been a hard-working and able leader in this difficult and time-consuming position. Her management and organizational skills have not only assisted in fulfilling the Grand Jury functions for this year, but in improving the Grand Jury process for future years.

Each of you has served El Dorado County and your fellow citizens well, and I congratulate you on your 2007/2008 Grand Jury service.

Very truly yours,

  
James R. Wagoner  
Judge of the Superior Court



## EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2007-2008

(Pictured from left to right)

Chuck MacLean, Pro Tem

Bill Jones

Judy Cook

Jeanne Harper, Secretary

Leigh Brilliant

Dick Dichiara, Sergeant At Arms

Steve Sedgwick, Parliamentarian

Ken Lavin

Bob Bartlett

Donna Bergmeister

Mel Harris

Kathy Walter

William (Gary) Miles Ettlinger

Dorothy Van Asten

Rosemary Mulligan, Foreperson

Absent - Deb Haas



PLEASE  
DO NOT LEAVE  
CHILDREN  
UNATTENDED  
IN THIS AREA



## FOREWORD

The Grand Jury is not in agreement with some of the initial responses to Parts I and II of the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report released in March and April 2008 respectively. After reading the information provided below, the Grand Jury suggests that the respondents reconsider their position.

## PART I

### **Assisting Road Repair Community Service Districts**

Case No. GJ 07-26

The Grand Jury appreciates the timely response to Part I of the report but is disappointed with the reply. The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides training to Zones of Benefit (ZOB). However, citizens that belong to Road Repair Community Service Districts are tax-paying citizens and road engineering information that applies to ZOBs would be very useful to Road Repair Districts. Since the information is already available, the cost and time associated with the training is minimal.

While it is not the County's direct responsibility to assist Road Repair Districts, a modest effort by DOT would greatly benefit them and the County. The Grand Jury is recommending that DOT have an open and friendly attitude toward Road Repair Districts.

### **Clean Tahoe Program**

Case No. GJ 07-011

The Grand Jury believes it has a responsibility to make recommendations that will save the taxpayers money, **if implemented**. The Clean Tahoe Program, funded primarily by the City of Lake Tahoe and the County, was investigated along with alternatives for accomplishing its mission with overhead cost savings. Merging Clean Tahoe into a larger organization and outsourcing were reviewed using financial data that was validated as accurate and applicable. The Grand Jury found potential savings of more than \$90,000

per year on a recurring basis through outsourcing. The City of South Lake Tahoe and the County should jointly seek to implement this change.

## **PART II**

### **Consolidation of Fire Protection Districts**

Case No. 07-025

The Grand Jury is impressed with the seamless response to fire and medical emergencies from the Emergency Communications Center located in Camino. The Grand Jury is aware of the controversy surrounding Fire Protection District consolidation. Nevertheless, the Grand Jury found that consolidation followed by elimination of **redundant administrative positions** would amount to cost savings approximately equal to the County's Supplemental Fund provided to selected Fire Protection Districts. This County subsidy, amounting to more than \$1,200,000, is unfair to County citizens outside these subsidized districts. Therefore, the Grand Jury urges the BOS to eliminate this unfair and unnecessary subsidy.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Grand Jury of 2007-2008 was honored to work for the citizens of El Dorado County. We believe that constructively addressing controversial issues is necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of governmental operations. The Grand Jury strongly encourages the implementation of the recommendations found in this report.