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October 1, 2002

Honorable Larry Dier
Modoc County Superior Court
Courthouse
Alturas, CA 96101

Re: Modoc County)' Grand Jury Report - FY 2001-02

Dear Judge Dier:

The Modoc County Board of Supervisors offers the following responses as requested by the Grand Jury Report for fiscal year 2001-2002

1. *Grand Jury Report - Audit*

Issue: Auditor/Recorder. The Board of Supervisors is always examining the staffing responsibilities of its departments. Consideration was given during budget deliberations for the addition of one staff position requested by the County Auditor. Budget restraints prevented the request from being approved. The Board will reconsider the request in subsequent budgets.

2. *Grand Jury Report - Health and Welfare*

Issue: Health Services Department. The Board of Supervisors is in concurrence and satisfied with Mr. Phillip Smith's, Director of Health Services, response.

The Board of Supervisors thanks the Grand Jury for the 2001-02 Report.

Sincerely,

WILLY HAGGE
Chairman

Enclosure

Response to the Modoc County Grand Jury Report
For Fiscal Year 2001-2002

The Grand Jury Report for the Fiscal Year 2001-2002 includes a requirement that the Director of Health Services respond to the recommendations that:

- ⇒ "The department and local law enforcement should keep open lines of communication, and meet regularly to discuss issues and implementation of 5150 procedures."
- ⇒ "The County should pursue establishing a Sober Living Facility."

Addressing the former, the department and law enforcement meet on an as needed basis to discuss and problem solve issues that present themselves in our coordination of activities that serve the needs of our county residents. Among those issues are difficulties surrounding 5150 procedures. Included in these problem solving sessions is consideration of our other county partners, i.e., in the case of 5150 procedures the hospital. Open lines of communication are a cornerstone of small county functioning made possible by our size and the ease of access all departments have to each other.

The latter concern is one that will be addressed as financial limitations are overcome. Early this last fiscal year money was available to invest in the creation of a facility that would have served the county's need for a Sober Living Facility. However, the project was abandoned when the restrictions on the spending of those funds were interpreted by the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to mean that only residents who qualified under a single funding source could be allowed to use that facility. The hope of finding a source for funding that would allow for the creation of a living environment that would protect those county residents who are struggling with clean and sober living continues. Every effort will be made to find that funding.

Once that is done, the second hurdle, that of convincing county residents that such a facility possesses no threat will be tackled. Many in the county protested that initial effort to provide this service, confusing it with a treatment facility that would potentially open its doors to residents of other counties. A Sober Living Facility will be dedicated to use by only our county residents who are actively involved in a program that addresses their dependency issues. This monitored facility will be a contributing member of the community in which it is located as activities that support the community is an essential part of recovery.