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# LETTER FROM THE JUDGES



## Superior Court of the State of California

LaRayne Cleek  
Court Executive Officer/  
Jury Commissioner

**COUNTY OF TULARE**  
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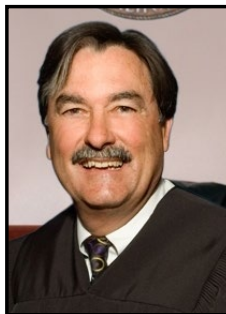
### JUDGE'S COMMENTS

On behalf of the entire bench of the Tulare County Superior Court we want to sincerely thank the 2015-2016 Grand Jury for all the work they have performed on behalf of the citizens of Tulare County. Once again another Grand Jury's term has been completed.

Grand Jurors always assume a great deal of responsibility whenever they agree to be a part of a year's panel. They willingly do this as volunteers without any purpose other than to insure that governmental agencies and individuals are properly performing their duties. The taxpayers of Tulare County were well served by all the time and effort put forth by this Grand Jury. We are especially grateful for the efficient manner in which this year's Grand Jury performed these tasks and the overall cooperation and respect they showed to each other.

Much is misunderstood by the general public as to the functions and purpose of the Grand Jury. It is empowered by statutory authority to investigate local governmental agencies and process citizen complaints involving local government issues. No other agency or group has mandate to be a "watch-dog" to insure that our local government works effectively, efficiently, and to the best interest of all citizens. We need responsible, dedicated people such as those on this year's Grand Jury to serve in the future. If you would like to volunteer to do meaningful work for our community we invite you to apply for service on Grand Jury by contacting the Superior Court at (559) 730-5000 x1359 and ask for an application.

In closing, we applaud each member of this Grand Jury for your dedication to service on behalf of all citizens who live in Tulare County.



Gary L. Paden  
Presiding Judge

Bret D. Hillman  
Assistant Presiding Judge

## **GRAND JURY RESPONSE REPORT 2014-2015 COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Tulare County Grand Jury is empaneled annually to act as the public's watchdog by investigating and reporting on the affairs of the County and local governments. They look into complaints brought by citizens and/or internally initiate investigations about perceived government irregularities. As a fact finding body, the Grand Jury has the potential to make recommendations for constructive changes and possible solutions to a wide range of local governmental problems. This is done by reviewing and evaluating procedures, methods, and systems utilized by county and local governments' various entities to determine if more efficient and economical programs may be implemented. The Grand Jury is authorized to and, in some cases, must do the following:

- Inspect and audit books, records, and financial expenditures to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent
- Inspect financial records of Special Districts in Tulare County
- Examine the books and records of any nonprofit organization receiving County funds
- Inquire into the conditions and management of jails and detention facilities
- Inquire into any charges of willful misconduct in office by County and/or local officials or employees

The Grand Jury does not investigate private entities, nonprofits not connected to the government, state or federal agencies, courts, school curriculum, or other matters not connect with local governments.

The Grand Jury annually issues a final report which contains specific reports addressing one or more issues. California Penal Code §933.05 requires responses from governing agencies, including the Board of Supervisors, city and county governments, schools, special districts and certain non-profit corporations. This ensures these entities performed their functions in a lawful, economical and efficient manner. Each report contains information such as the background regarding the subject matter, reasons for the investigation, the procedures followed in obtaining information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations. All required responders must reply in writing to each finding and recommendations in the specific report, within a given time period.

### **METHODS OF INVESTIGATION**

1. Received and reviewed returned responses to the 2014-2015 Grand Jury Final Reports
2. Reviewed relevant California Government and Penal Codes
3. Compiled statistics regarding the responses

### **FACTS**

1. There were nineteen specific reports contained in the Grand Jury's 2014-2015 Final Report.

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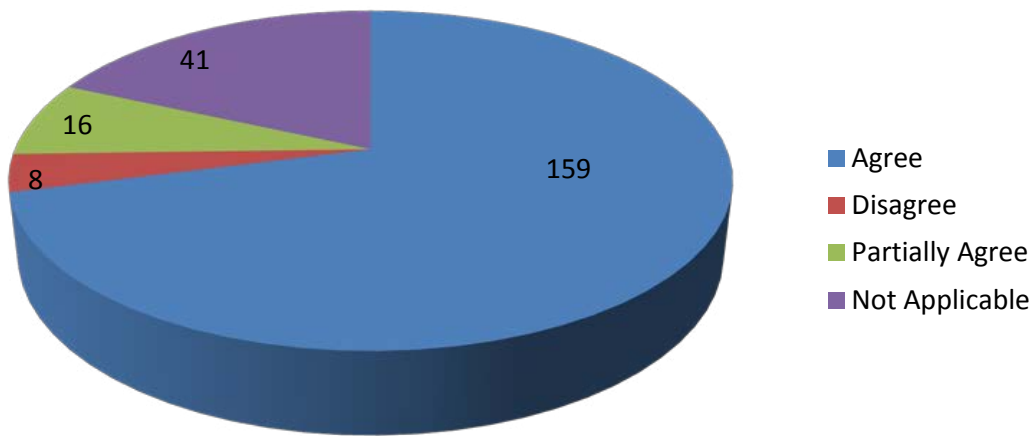
# TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 2015-2016

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2. There were 224 findings and 200 recommendations within the 2014-2015 Final Report.
3. The following diagrams indicate: a) the numbers of concurrence with or, disagreement to the findings; and, b) implementation or non-implementation of recommendations made to the responding entities.
4. The following graphs depict findings of the Grand Jury and responses received as a result of the 2014-2015 Final Report.

## 2014-2015 Findings



## 2014-2015 Responses

