

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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**Recommendations**

Funding should be made available to alleviate the dangerous lack of communication in the jail. A fix should be found so the public does not have direct access to the fence surrounding the outside jail yard. The Board of Supervisors should strongly push for funding in order to build a new jail within the new courthouse. Also, they should tour the jail and substations, do ride alongs, and meet the deputies in their districts to better understand the restrictions faced by lack of funding.

# Federal Stimulus Funding

## Specific Issues

When the Grand Jury 2010-2011 was first formed, many were not aware that the County was receiving any of the funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or the Stimulus Program. After investigation and interviewing County officials, we have found that millions of dollars were being spent in our area.

## Purpose Statement

Obtain knowledge about County Ad Hoc Stimulus Task Force group regarding funding various County projects stimulating the economy and job growth.

## Summary of Investigation

During our investigation, we interviewed staff from several County agencies as well as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO); the County Auditor; the Executive Director of the Plumas Corporation; the Chairperson of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors; the Stimulus Task Force of Plumas County; and the Sheriff of Plumas County.

## Findings

1. Lack of communication and inaccurate information between agencies regarding stimulus funds.
2. State funding available for drug and alcohol programs in the County currently not being used.
3. Hospital funding has been restricted due to the recent loss of Measure A in the recent special election in November 2010.
4. The Sheriff has attempted to obtain more staff, but his request was denied due to funding restrictions.

During our investigation, the committee found the following projects that were funded by stimulus dollars:

- a. The US Forest Service Beckworth Airport Project received funding to expand runways and build firefighter barracks in the amount of 2.2 million dollars.
- b. The new Spanish Creek Bridge construction run by Caltrans for 28 million dollars.
- c. Private agencies working with County agencies such as Broadband communications for 13.8 million dollars.
- d. County agencies acquiring money for weatherization improvements for low-income housing.

Throughout our investigation, obtaining stimulus funding required various regulated restrictions. For example, federal road repairs (in the Bucks Lake area) required improvements only to Federal highway routes and no soil was to be disturbed aligning these routes.