

July 8, 2003

Honorable Clifford R. Anderson, III
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara County Superior Court
PO Box 21107
Santa Barbara, California 93121-1107

**Board of Supervisors' responses to Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report on
'Office of the Public Administrator – Guardian'**

Dear Judge Anderson:

During its regular meeting on July 8, 2003, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following as the Board's response to the relevant findings and recommendations in their Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report on 'Office of the Public Administrator – Guardian'.

Finding #1:

There are no locked facilities in Santa Barbara County for indigent conservatees. County citizens who require twenty-four hour monitoring in a secured (locked) facility must be transported out of the County, resulting in significant costs to the client served or to the County.

Response:

The Board adopts the Treasurer-Tax Collector's response (copy attached) as the Board of Supervisors' response. *(Agree)*

Recommendation #1:

A secured (locked) facility should be available in the County. The County should consider options for expanding in County care of citizens to avoid the expense of transporting and monitoring clients out of the County. Options for consideration include unused hospital space or County buildings.

Response: *The recommendation will not be implemented, as it is not warranted.*

The recommendation that "A secured (locked) facility should be available in the County" is an agreeable recommendation, however, due to the current budgetary constraints facing the County, the recommendation will not be implemented at this time. The availability of funding to cover associated costs of staffing and maintaining a 24-hour facility, without consideration of accompanying rental costs, is currently out of reach for the County.

Finding #2:

An increase in the indigent conservatorship population will impact the County's' funds in the future.

Response:

The Board adopts the Treasurer-Tax Collector's response (copy attached) as the Board of Supervisors' response. *(Agree)*

Recommendation #2:

Every effort should be made to obtain grants to continually assist the indigent population.

Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

Treasurer-Tax Collector will continue to direct staff to apply for and secure grant funding designated for indigent population care expenditures.

Finding #3:

The Office of the Public Administrator-Guardian is within the Office of the County Tax Collector-Treasurer.

Response:

The Board adopts the Treasurer-Tax Collector's response (copy attached) and the Auditor-Controller's response (copy attached) as the Board of Supervisors' response that the Office of the Public Administrator-Guardian is within the Office of the County Tax Collector-Treasurer. *(Agree)*

Recommendation #3:

For the purpose of better fiscal control, an outside auditor should be utilized periodically to verify the fiscal integrity of the Office.

Response: *The recommendation has been implemented*

During Fiscal Year 2002-2003, the Internal Audit division of the Auditor-Controller's Office included the Public Administrator-Guardian division in their internal control cycle audits of County revenue inflows. For Fiscal Year 2003-2004, per the Auditor-Controller's response, "the internal audit division will include the Public Administrator-Guardian in [the annual] audit plan".

The Board would like to thank the Grand Jury for its Report on 'Office of the Public Administrator – Guardian'.

Sincerely,

Naomi Schwartz
Board of Supervisors, Chair

CC: William Anderson, Grand Jury Foreman

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 5/20/03
Department Name: County Administrator
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 7/8/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 20 Minutes on 7/8/03
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Administrator

STAFF CONTACT: Andrea Labbe
Administrative Analyst, 884-8083

SUBJECT: Board of Supervisors' responses to Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report on 'Office of the Public Administrator – Guardian'.

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors

1. Adopt Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator-Guardian responses as the Board's responses to Findings #1 and #2
2. Adopt Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator-Guardian and Auditor-Controllers' response as the Board's response to Findings #3
3. Adopt the attached proposed responses as the Board's responses to Recommendation #1, #2, and #3.
4. Authorize Board Chair to sign the letter forwarding these responses to the Presiding Judge.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 4. A Community that is Economically Vital and Sustainable.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Grand Jury Report requires responses from the [Board of Supervisors, Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, and Auditor-Controller](#) as affected agencies in the subject report.

This Grand Jury Report released [on April 22, 2003](#), contains [three](#) findings and [three](#) recommendations. In accordance with section 933(b), the governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors) must respond

within 90 days after issuance of the Grand Jury report. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors' response must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than [Friday, July 18, 2003](#).

A copy of the Grand Jury Report and proposed Board of Supervisors' responses will be included in the [July 8, 2003](#) report to your Board.

Mandates and Service Levels:

California Penal Code Sections 933c requires that comments to the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations be made in writing. These comments, in themselves, do not change existing programs of service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

[None from the recommended action.](#)

Special Instructions:

This response of the Board of Supervisors must be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than [Friday, July 18, 2003](#). Please return the signed letter, which includes the written response, to Jennie Esquer, County Administrator's Office, for distribution to the Superior Court. The signed letter, written response and a 3 ½" computer disc with the response in a Microsoft Word file must be forwarded to the Grand Jury

Attachments:

1. Board of Supervisor Letter and Response to the Presiding Judge
2. Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator-Guardian Responses
3. Auditor-Controller Responses
4. Copy of Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report on 'Office of the Public Administrator – Guardian'

CC:

Bernice James, County Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator
Robert W. Geis, County Auditor-Controller