

April 3, 2008

Mr. Bob Nisbet, Director of General Services
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Nisbet:

The following constitutes an Activity Report, prepared in accordance with the California Penal Code, sections 925 and 928, regarding the Veterans Memorial Building located in the City of Lompoc.

This Veterans Building was constructed in 1936 and has been designated a City of Lompoc Historic Landmark. Veterans and the citizens of Lompoc have expressed concern over the condition and use of the building. It would be difficult and costly to bring the building into compliance with current regulations because of its age and landmark status. The estimated unfunded cost to upgrade this 20,000 sq. ft. building is in excess of \$3 million.

As a result of these concerns, the 2007-2008 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury inquired into the status of selected issues regarding the Veterans Building, including building maintenance, handicapped access, user rates, and landmark status. The Grand Jury understands that these issues have been under discussion for an extended period of time and are being resolved. The Santa Barbara County General Services Department will:

1. Continue funding maintenance costs of the building.
2. Install a wheelchair lift to connect the lobby to the main floor.
3. Review the rates charged for rental of the facility, especially for non-profits, and adjust, if appropriate, to correspond with other veterans' buildings within the County.
4. Consider, with the City of Lompoc, the possibility of converting the veterans building designation from a City landmark to either a State or Federal landmark. This change could potentially make the facility eligible for grant funds for future improvements.

The Grand Jury looks to a timely resolution of these issues as it will have a positive impact on the veterans, the County, and its residents. This report does not require a response.

Sincerely,

Ted Sten
Foreman

Cc: Board of Supervisors