

# SUTTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

AMANDA L. HOPPER  
District Attorney



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**ENDORSED FILED**

September 10, 2015

SEP 24 2015

Honorable Brian R. Aronson  
Presiding Judge  
Sutter County Superior Court  
446 Second Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By JACKIE LABWELL Deputy

Re: Response to Grand Jury Final Report

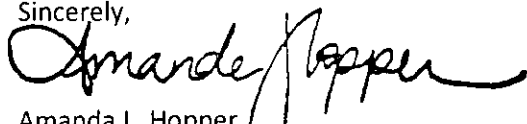
Dear Judge Aronson,

Submitted herewith is Sutter County District Attorney's response to the Final Report of the 2014-2015 Sutter County Grand Jury. Penal Code Sections 933 et al. require elected officials to respond to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. This response is submitted to you directly as required by Penal Code Section 933.05.

The District attorney agrees with the Grand Jury's findings and appreciates the attention given to this investigation. The members of the Grand Jury provide a necessary and important public service and should be commended for their time and efforts. The District Attorney also appreciates and shares the Grand Jury's concerns for this office and its functionality.

The District Attorney, with the assistance of the Sutter County Supervisors and the County Administrative Officer, continuously focuses on improving the office's ability to provide public service to meet the needs of the community. In an effort to earn the confidence and respect of the people of Sutter County, every effort is made to increase efficiency and effectiveness, while maintaining integrity and the highest ethical standards.

Sincerely,

  
Amanda L. Hopper  
Sutter County District Attorney

cc Sutter County Administrative Office  
Sutter County Board of Supervisors

**RECEIVED**

SEP 10 2015

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
TRAFFIC DIVISION

### **Grand Jury Recommendation 1**

*The SCGJ recommends that the Auditor/Controller be allocated the necessary resources to conduct an internal audit of the District Attorney's Office at the request of the District Attorney.*

### **Response 1**

The District Attorney continues to support and request an internal audit. Should the Auditor/Controller attain the resources to conduct such an audit, the District Attorney will make any and all information available to the auditor.

### **Grand Jury Recommendation 2**

*In view of the fact that the District Attorney's office derives funding from grants from various agencies which are to be used for specific purposes, the SCGJ recommends that the District Attorney be provided the resources to employ a full time accountant.*

### **Response 2**

This recommendation has been implemented. The Sutter County Board of Supervisors approved and allocated the necessary salary and a full-time Staff Analyst has been hired and is filling the position.

### **Grand Jury Recommendation 3**

*With the passage of Proposition 47, the District Attorney's workload has increased tremendously. So much so, that the District Attorney has dedicated one Deputy District Attorney to primarily handle these cases. This has shifted that person's workload onto the remaining attorneys. The SCGJ recommends that an additional attorney be hired to handle the increased workload.*

### **Response 3**

This recommendation requires further analysis. While the District Attorney agrees with the report and recommendation, there are budgetary concerns that limit the ability to hire additional staff. The District Attorney will continue to assess and evaluate the needs of the office and should the funds become available, will request an additional attorney position.

### **Grand Jury Recommendation 4**

*In view of the nature of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program and its primary objective which is to protect victims and witnesses, the District Attorney's Office may not be the best agency to manage the program. There is the potential for a conflict of interest where the District Attorney is sworn to prosecute to the full extent of the law, and this may not be in the best interest of the victim or witness. The SGJ, therefore, recommends that this program be overseen by another agency, e.g., the Probation Department or Health and Welfare.*

### **Response 4**

This recommendation requires further analysis. The District Attorney has made this request to the Sutter County Administrative Officer and there is ongoing discussion regarding the timing and appropriateness of facilitating such a transition. The District Attorney's Office will continue its efforts to improve and maximize the efficacy of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, wherever the program is housed.