July 13, 2010

The Honorable Chris Chandler
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Sutter
446 Second Street
Yuba City, CA 95991

Dear Judge Chandler:

I am writing in response to the Final Report of the 2009-2010 Sutter County Grand Jury. While the City of Live Oak appreciates the effort put forth by Grand Jury members and the positive summary of my conversation with the Government and Administration committee on December 17, 2009, some clarifications and corrections are necessary:

With regard to the impacts of ongoing state budget problems, while I did report that “Live Oak is weathering the storm well,” it is not accurate to say that “State budget cuts have not affected Live Oak because the city does not depend on state funding.” As with all municipalities, Live Oak receives revenue distributed by the state and the State Legislature has consistently redirected funds away from cities and counties. Any loss of revenue affects the level of service we are able to provide. My comments were meant to express the fact that because Live Oak is dependent on property tax, the city has been very conservative in spending and has been able to predict accurately decreases in revenue enabling the city to “weather the storm well.” Like all cities in California, we are concerned every year about what additional revenue the State of California will attempt to redirect.

The summary of projects is complimentary to the work moving forward in the City and is much-appreciated. The following comments are offered simply for clarification. The historic railroad depot, once restored, will be made available to Sutter County One-Stop for use as a retail skills training project site, not for “youth and rehabilitation services.” The Live Oak Community Trail, the pedestrian/bike trail referred to in the report, will cover one mile starting at Apricot Street, not April Lane. Finally, “The improvements to the Highway 99 Corridor Collaboration with Caltrans” referred to in the report is actually an effort to create a Highway 99 Streetscape Master Plan. The project is being completed in collaboration with Caltrans and the City of Live Oak. When finished, the plan will guide improvements along the corridor.

Again, we appreciate the recognition in the Grand Jury’s report of the many community improvement projects underway in Live Oak.

Sincerely,

Jim Goodwin
City Manager

cc: Mayor and City Council

Patrick W. Calkins, Foreperson, Sutter County 2009-2010 Grand Jury

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