

# Grand Jury Reports

Board of Supervisors Meeting  
September 12, 2023

Presented by

Caleb Dardick, CEO and Jeffrey Thorsby, BOS



# Grand Jury Purpose & Overview

- Investigate the operations of all county agencies, special districts, schools, and other entities that receive public money.
- Issues are chosen by the jurors based on citizen-initiated complaints and on the will of the jurors.
- The jury is required to annually inspect all public prisons in the county.
- The jury may investigate the efficiency of all local government activity, audit financial records, and review all public records.
- The deliberations are conducted in secrecy and jurors are sworn to maintain confidentiality for life.

# Purpose & Overview, cont.

- Grand Jury Issues Reports include Findings and Recommendations
- Identified public agencies are required to respond to the findings per Penal Code Section 933.05 within 90 days
- Responses incorporate:
  - Examination of County records
  - Interviews
  - Review of CEO and County Counsel
  - Incorporate any requested department responses

# 2022-23 Grand Jury Reports

- **2022/23 Grand Jury Issued 4 Reports**
  1. **Donner Lake: A Pearl in Peril**
  2. **Nevada County School Boards: An Educational Opportunity**
  3. **Nevada County – Challenges in Managing Contracts**
  4. **Washington Ridge: A Well-Run Facility with Great Community Benefit**

# Requested Responses of the County

- 2022/23 Grand Jury Reports

1. Donner Lake: A pearl in Peril

2. Nevada County – Challenges in Managing Contracts

# Reponses Summary

## Donner Lake: A Pearl in Peril

### 2022-23 Grand Jury Report Recommendations:

- **The Town of Truckee initiate a partnership with the County of Nevada and DIPS, for the purpose of conveying a consortium with Truckee River Watershed Council serving as the coordinator and facilitator including but not limited to:**

**State Parks, Tahoe Donner Association, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Donner Public Utility District, Truckee Donner Recreation and Parks District, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee Sanitary District, Nevada County Transportation Commission, Caltrans, and Lahontan Water Quality Control Board**

Response: Nevada County does not have jurisdiction over the area of concern as the area is in the Town of Truckee Town limits. However, Nevada County would be open to participating in a consortium at the request of the Town of Truckee.

# Reponses Summary

## Donner Lake: A Pearl in Peril

### 2022-23 Grand Jury Report Recommendations:

- **The Town of Truckee, Nevada County and DIPS establish an initial mission and charter for the consortium that should:**
  - **Address the significant risks to the safety of Truckee residents, their homes, critical utilities, and importantly, the health and sustainability of Donner Basin.**
  - **Seek and secure the funding to engineer and build the infrastructure necessary to manage the excessive runoff from the hillside and interstate down to Donner Lake.**
  - **Establish a working relationship with Lahontan and Caltrans. This is critical to the success of the Consortium's mission.**

Response: Nevada County does not have jurisdiction over the area of concern as the area is in the Town of Truckee Town limits. However, Nevada County would be open to participating in a consortium at the request of the Town of Truckee, including establishing a mission or charter.

# Reponses Summary

## Nevada County – Challenges in Managing Contracts

### 2022-23 Grand Jury Report Recommendations:

- **Within six months, implement a centralized contract-management system, supported by enough trained staff and up-to-date software to serve all County departments**

Response: Will Not be Implemented. An enterprise contract management system is a large effort requiring extensive research and the County has prioritized the replacement of the financial system that will impact the contract management process.

- **Within three months, budget administrative costs for County expenses of managing contracts under grants that do not allocate such funds.**

Response: Will Not be Implemented. Administrative costs are budgeted and analyzed during the annual budget preparation process. The County seeks to cover administrative costs during the grant application and award process.



# Reponses Summary

## Nevada County – Challenges in Managing Contracts

### 2022-23 Grand Jury Report Recommendations:

- **Within three months, improve requirements in contracts with nonprofit vendors to ensure the County's ability to manage those contracts effectively and to ensure vendor financial responsibility and transparency.**

Response: Has been Implemented. The County has updated contract templates and tools to assist departments with non-profit contracts. Additional improvements have been identified and will be implemented.

- **Within three months, implement improved procedures for advancing contract funds.**

Response: Will Not be Implemented. The process for advancing contract funds is being developed however will not be completed in three months.

- **Within three months, require nonprofit vendors to use fund accounting.**

Response: Will Not be Implemented. This is not required by law or regulation and would be impossible for almost all our medium and small vendors to accomplish.

# Reponses Summary

## Nevada County – Challenges in Managing Contracts

### 2022-23 Grand Jury Report Recommendations:

- **Within three months, only contract with non-profit vendors that agree to operate consistently with the Ralph M. Brown Act.**

Response: This will Not be Implemented. As this is not a current legal requirement, this recommendation would severely limit the vendor pool.

- **Refrain from new contract amendments or extensions unless the additional amount involved is less than \$50,000.**

Response: This will Not be Implemented. Contract scope and timelines change along with the needs of the department. There is an established process for amendments that will continue to be followed.

- **Within six months, expand outreach program to broaden the potential vendor pool.**

Response: This has not yet been implemented. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but an outreach program will be initiated within the next six months.

# Recommendation

## Approve the Responses to the Grand Jury Reports (2 actions)

1. Donner Lake: A Pearl In Peril
2. Nevada County – Challenges in Managing Contracts