



CITY OF ESCALON

August 17, 2010

Honorable Robin Appel
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of San Joaquin
222 East Weber Ave Room 303
Stockton, CA 95202

RE: City of Escalon Grand Jury Response to 2009-10 Grand Jury (Case No. 0609, 1009 & 2009/10 Law and Justice Authority and Overview)

Honorable Presiding Judge Appel:

In meeting the deadline and content of response requirements per California Penal Code §933(c), the following is the City Council's response to the Findings and Recommendations indicated in the City of Escalon on Civil Grand Jury Final Report 2009/10 Law and Justice Authority and Overview, Case No. 0609, and Case No. 1009:

Recommendations:

2009/10 Law and Justice Authority and Overview

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends the Escalon Police Department install camera(s) in the detention and sally-port areas.**

The respondent agrees with the findings. Respondent has purchased and installed cameras to meet the video requirements of the detention areas, as well as audio coverage. This monitoring can be accessed via web-based computers within the police department, as well as the dispatch area.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends the Escalon Police Department to evaluate the need to acquire assault rifles.**

The respondent agrees with the finding. Respondent has determined the need for increased weaponry in the evolving criminal climate. Currently, the respondent is performing the necessary research and development to acquire the most cost effective and reliable patrol rifles for the equipping of officers. Respondent hopes to complete this deployment within the next several months.

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2009/10 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Case No. 0609

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends the City of Escalon implement analytical software for their websites and monitors the reports generated.**

The Respondent agrees with the finding. The Respondent is working towards the procuring of analytical software to monitor the city's website usage.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends the City of Escalon draft and institute a policy to govern the city website's external content. This policy must be revisited annually to make changes due to market conditions.**

The Respondent agrees with the finding. The Respondent is in the process of establishing a policy for the content of the city website with an annual review of the policy.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends the City of Escalon implement a specific line item in the annual budget proposal that addresses maintenance, upkeep and future upgrades of the city website.**

The Respondent agrees with the finding. The Respondent will be adding a specific budget line item for the city website. This change will be effective with the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends the City of Escalon implement an annual review of each department represented on the city website that includes a departmental evaluation of their documents and the relevance to the users of the city government website.**

The Respondent agrees with the finding. The Respondent is currently working on a policy for a quarterly review by department of the city website content and relevance to the users of the city government website.

2009/10 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Case No. 1009

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends that City of Escalon develop or update policies and procedures for appointment of BCC members.**

The respondent agrees with the finding. Respondent will be working on developing a written policy for the appointment of boards/commissions/committees (BCC) members.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends that City of Escalon provide and document Brown Act and fiduciary responsibility training to all appointees.**

The respondent agrees with the finding. Respondent currently requires all members of the Planning Commission to take ethics training every other year and provides all BCC

with updated Brown Act information every year. Respondent makes the City Attorney available to all BCC members for questions regarding Brown Act.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends that City of Escalon utilize alternative sources to advertise vacant positions; i.e. Twitter, movie theaters, television, radio, announcements at public events.**

The respondent disagrees with the finding. Due to the size of Escalon and the lack of available staff, respondent finds the time and money spent on these alternative sources of advertising would not be efficient or effective.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends that City of Escalon annually review appointee performance and take appropriate action.**

The respondent disagrees with the finding. Respondent believes that with a majority vote, Council may remove a member of any BCC at any time pursuant to the Escalon Municipal Code.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends that City of Escalon develop policy and procedures defining the processes for appointee removal.**

The respondent agrees with the finding. Respondent currently has in place a removal from office section for each BCC in its Municipal Code and will include it in written policies.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends that City of Escalon develop criminal and credit check standards for appointees.**

The respondent agrees with the finding. Respondent will include the standards in the written policies.

- **The Civil Grand Jury recommends that City of Escalon perform criminal and credit background checks on all appointees prior to appointment.**

The respondent agrees with the finding. Respondent will perform a limited background check, which will include credit and criminal history on all appointees prior to appointment.

Respectfully Submitted,



Walt Murken, Mayor
City of Escalon