



LOIS M. SAHYOUN
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Fifth District

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Second District

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First District

April 1, 2003

Honorable George Abdallah
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of San Joaquin
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 303
Stockton, CA 95202

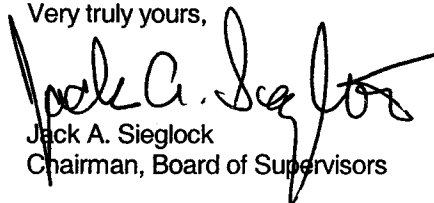
Dear Judge Abdallah,

Response to Grand Jury Final Report Case No. 0102 Parks and Recreation


Pursuant to Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code, attached is the County's response to Grand Jury Final Report, Case No. 0102, Parks and Recreation.

Please contact County Administrator Manuel Lopez at (209) 468-3211 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,


Jack A. Sieglock
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attachment – Response to Grand Jury Final Report, Case No. 0102

ASSESSOR RECORDER
GARY W. HARRIS
03 APR 29 PM 3:34
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
BY  DEPUTY



Office of the
County Administrator

APR 15 2003

COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

Courthouse, Room 707
222 East Weber Avenue
Stockton, California 95202-2778
(209) 468-3211
Fax (209) 468-2875

April 1, 2003

Board of Supervisors
Courthouse
Stockton, CA

Dear Board Members:

Response to 2002-03 Grand Jury Report – Case #0102 (Parks and Recreation)**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the proposed response to the 2002-03 Grand Jury Report regarding Parks and Recreation (Case #0102); and,
2. Authorize the Chairman to sign and submit the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Reason for Recommendation

In February 2003, the San Joaquin County Grand Jury issued a report regarding Park Ranger staffing and fee collection procedures at County parks. County staff reviewed the report and prepared the attached response for your consideration. California Penal Code Section 933.05 requires your Board of Supervisors to submit comments on the report's findings and recommendations to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

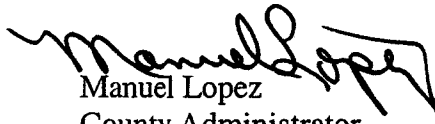
Fiscal Impact

There is no cost in approving the response to the Grand Jury Report.

Action To Be Taken Following Approval

Following signature by the Chairman, the response will be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Very truly yours,



Manuel Lopez
County Administrator

Attachments – Grand Jury Report Case #0102, Response to Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

c: County Counsel
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Board Clerk for 04/15/03

Facilities Management Director
Grand Jury Foreman

BL#04-02

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY CASE #0102
PARKS AND RECREATION

FINDINGS

FINDING 1:

The San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Department budget has been reduced from 2 million to 1.9 million dollars for the 2002 fiscal year, therefore, there are no funds available to hire another Park Ranger. The San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Department is not actively recruiting for another Ranger position, although this position is allocated for in the budget. Due to a hiring freeze within the County, the money allocated for this position is used to hire off-duty Deputy Sheriff's to assist with patrolling the parks on busy holiday weekends.

RESPONSE:

Disagree with the finding. The Parks and Recreation Budget was \$3,163,586 in fiscal year 2001-02 and \$3,172,928 in fiscal year 2002-03. Both of these budgets included funding for a Park Ranger III and a Park Ranger II/I. The statement is correct that San Joaquin County is not recruiting to fill the vacant Park Ranger II/I position. The recruitment has been delayed as staff is evaluating law enforcement duties and responsibilities in the County Park System. Salary savings from the vacant Park Ranger position have not been used for off-duty Deputy Sheriffs as funding was already provided within the Parks and Recreation Budget for this purpose.

FINDING 2:

San Joaquin County has not actively recruited for a Park Ranger for approximately three years.

RESPONSE:

Agree with the finding.

FINDING 3:

Due to limited staffing, the fee collection is handled by one individual at each park, and receipts are not always issued.

RESPONSE:

Disagree with finding. Parks and Recreation has historically used one fee collector during normal fee collection periods. However, if greater attendance at a given park is anticipated, additional staff will be assigned to expedite the collection process as deemed necessary by department management. This scheduling is usually during holiday weekend periods. Although actual "receipts" are not issued, pre-numbered tickets are issued as parking fees are collected. Staff records the daily beginning and ending ticket numbers and balance collected fees against the number of tickets issued, thus providing accountability for monies collected. The ticket issued to park visitors serves as verification that they have paid the parking fee.

FINDING 4:

The complainant's allegation regarding safety has some merit. One single Park Ranger to cover all fourteen parks limits the ability to deal with situations at the many diverse locations. Due to budgetary limitations, nothing can be done at this time. The County of San Joaquin has only one active Park Ranger and has a hiring freeze with no active recruitment to hire another ranger in the future.

RESPONSE:

Agree with finding.

FINDING 5:

There is a safety issue with fee collection at the drop boxes and park entrances since these are not done in dual custody.

RESPONSE:

Disagree with finding. Department management will monitor the situation from a safety and security standpoint and assign staff as appropriate within available financial resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS**RECOMMENDATION 1:**

The SJCCGH recommends that the Parks and Recreation Department actively recruit another Park Ranger, as this position is allocated in the budget.

RESPONSE:

Recommendation will require more analysis. Future funding for this position is uncertain due to potential State and County budget reductions. Consistent with the Board's Administrative Hiring Control Policy, it would not be appropriate to recruit for the position at this time. However, over the next few months as the 2003-04 Proposed Budget is prepared, the department will assess its ability to fund the current position and evaluate options to address law enforcement needs within the County park system.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

The fee collection procedure should be reviewed and updated. This collection should be done in dual custody for safety and security reasons.

RESPONSE:

The recommendation that the fee collection procedures be reviewed and updated for improvements has been implemented. On March 6, 2003, the County Auditor-Controller was requested to review current fee collection procedures and identify potential system improvements. It was requested that the review be conducted during peak usage periods and that findings be issued by November 2003.

The recommendation that fee collection be done in dual custody will not be implemented at this time. Department management will continue to monitor the situation from a safety and security standpoint and assign staff as appropriate within available resources.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

The metal money drop box (iron rangers) located at boat launches and park entrances should be checked daily.

RESPONSE:

The recommendation will not be implemented. The amount of fees collected via "iron rangers" varies significantly throughout the year. As a result, high-use periods warrant more frequent collections than during slower times of the year. Department management will continue efforts to balance collection frequency with available staffing resources.

Before the Board of Supervisors

County of San Joaquin, State of California

B-03- 465

MOTION: **Mow/Marenco**

This Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Approves the proposed response to the 2002-03 Grand Jury Report regarding Parks and Recreation (Case #0102); and
2. Authorizes the Chairman to sign and submit the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order was passed and adopted on 4/15/03, by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

Ornellas, Mow, Gutierrez, Marenco, Sieglock
AYES:
None
NOES:
None
ABSENT:
None
ABSTAIN:

- c: County Administrator
- County Counsel
- Facilities Management Director
- Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
- Grand Jury Foreman
- Board Clerk



LOIS M. SAHYOUN
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin
State of California

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lois M. Sahyoun", is written over a horizontal line.