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County of San Diego

WALTER F. EKARD
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
(619) 531-6226
FAX: (619) 557-4060

CLERK - SUPERIOR COURT
SAN DIEGO, CA
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
ASST. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
(619) 531-4940
FAX: (619) 557-4060

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, STE. 209, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

August 5, 2008

The Honorable Kenneth So
Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge So,

On August 5, 2008, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved responses to the six 2007-2008 San Diego County Grand Jury reports which addressed findings and recommendations to the County of San Diego. The Board further directed that these responses be sent to your office.

The six reports for which responses are attached are titled:

- Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Board
- Notification and Training in Child Protective Services
- Proud to be in County Procurement
- A Warmer World – A Challenge and an Opportunity
- Conditions and Management of Detention and Other Law Enforcement Facilities in San Diego County
- The Fire Next Time – Will We Be Ready?

Since these are all the reports issued by the 2007-2008 Grand Jury that address recommendations to the Board of Supervisors or departments under its jurisdiction, the attached material represents the County's complete response for 2007-2008. If you have any questions, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors

the Detention Report. The social worker submits the Detention Report to the Juvenile Court at the first hearing, which is held within 3 court days of the child's removal. The parents, via their attorneys, are provided copies of the Detention Report and a copy of the Petition at this time. Due to the required legal procedures, no written information can be provided to the parents at the time of removal.

The Health and Human Services Agency's Child Welfare Services (CWS) division has developed a booklet entitled "A Parent's Guide to Child Welfare Services" to help parents understand the legal process involved in a child's removal. The booklet also explains that parents will have an opportunity to present their side of the case to the Juvenile Court.

Recommendation 08-56 - The 2007/2008 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency: Mandate that Child Protective Social Workers re-take the primary core courses of their initial training approximately one year after beginning their field casework.

County Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Child Welfare Services acknowledges that there is a steep learning curve for new social workers that is best addressed by a combination of classroom learning and field experience.

CWS has recently convened a Social Work Training Revision Work Group composed of staff with a background in social work training and field experience. The group continues to review initial and advanced training with the goal of graduating new staff from Social Worker Initial Training with an integrated understanding of policy, practice and application in the field. The training also emphasizes mentoring and coaching. It is anticipated that with this new training structure, there is no need for social workers to re-take primary core courses.

ATTACHMENT C

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2007/08 GRAND JURY REPORT "PROUD TO BE IN COUNTY PROCUREMENT" Issued May 20, 2008

Finding #01: After comparing County Procurement's performance metrics against other similar municipal procurement staffs, County procurement staff is at or near capacity, operating as efficiently as practical. Additional resources in terms of staffing may be required to maintain the service levels the County of San Diego has come to expect from their procurement staff.

County Response: Agree. The Chief Administrative Officer's Proposed Operational Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-09 and 2009-10 includes the addition of two additional full-time employees.

Recommendation 08-63 – The 2007/2008 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the County of San Diego Department of Purchasing and Contracting: Put in place management controls to ensure that staff workload is distributed to allow a continued high quality of service.

County Response: This recommendation will be implemented. The Purchasing Agent for the County will establish management controls to allow for the balancing of workload among its staff to maintain its current high quality of service.

ATTACHMENT D

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2007/08 GRAND JURY REPORT “A WARMER WORLD – A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY” Issued May 22, 2008

Finding #05: San Diego County Government has a responsibility to inventory global warming emissions in County operations and in the community at large, set reduction targets and create and implement an action plan.

County Response: We partially agree with this finding. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), as a requirement of AB32, is currently developing a plan to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in California. This plan will be implemented through several regulations CARB will adopt. This plan will also provide the guidance for the requirements of local government as they relate to GHG emissions. The Plan is projected to be completed in November 2008. It is not clear if CARB will retain jurisdiction to enforce those regulations or if it will delegate authority to local governments. In addition, the County plans to create a GHG inventory, set reduction targets and create and implement a Climate Change Action Plan as a part of the General Plan update.

Finding #06: San Diego County has not yet developed a climate protection action plan.

County Response: We agree with this finding. The County is working to develop a comprehensive strategy that will enhance the sustainability of County business operations and communities, building on the many energy efficient and environmentally sound practices already in place in County departments. Additionally, the County is working on a General Plan Update. This update is based on smart growth principals and land use planning that will reduce GHGs by locating future development near existing communities and infrastructure, which will result in a reduction of vehicle miles traveled. The policies being considered for the General Plan Update to reduce GHGs and encourage sustainable practices will result in an implementation plan that:

- Prepares a climate change action plan with a baseline inventory and emissions reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions from all sources;
- Develops regulations and procedures to encourage the design and construction of new buildings in accordance with “green building” programs;
- Develops regulations that encourage the use of energy recovery, photovoltaic and wind energy in appropriate areas; and
- Promotes methane recovery in landfills.

Finding #07: San Diego County needs a climate action plan in order to comply with State legislation and to begin the process of stabilizing and reducing GHG emissions.

County Response: We partially agree with this finding. The CARB, as a requirement of AB32, is currently developing a plan to achieve reductions in GHG emissions in California. This document will provide the guidance for the requirements of local government as they relate to GHG emissions. The requirements have not been finalized to date. The Plan is projected to be completed in November 2008. The County is