



County of San Diego

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AUG 5 2005

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AUG 8 2005

SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

August 3, 2005

The Honorable John S. Einhorn
San Diego Superior Court, Presiding Dept.
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

RESPONSE FROM COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ON FINAL 2004-2005 GRAND JURY REPORTS

Dear Judge Einhorn:

On August 2, 2005, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved responses to the four 2004-2005 San Diego County Grand Jury reports which addressed recommendations to them. The Board further directed that these responses be sent to your office, pursuant to the Penal Code requirements.

The four reports for which responses are attached are titled: Homeless in San Diego; The Politics of Medical Marijuana: A Question of Compassion; Brush, Wind and Fire: An Active Approach to Preventing Future Tragedies; and the Supervisor's Community Funds

Since these were the only 2004-2005 Grand Jury reports to address recommendations to the County Board or departments under their jurisdiction, this completes our organization's commitment to submit responses to reports issued during the 2004-2005 Grand Jury session.

If you have any questions concerning the attachment or any related matter, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2004-2005 GRAND JURY REPORT
“THE SUPERVISORS’ COMMUNITY FUNDS”
Issued May 31, 2005

Finding: The current approach to handling the CPFs does not assure that the funds are available to all eligible organizations.

Disagree. County Community Project funds are allocated to members of the Board of Supervisors to use to meet needs they have identified as priorities within their districts or the region. As the elected County representatives for their districts, County Supervisors regularly set priorities and make decisions that address community needs within their districts. The decisions they make regarding Community Project funds, as well as their decisions on all County budget and resource allocation issues, are all public information.

Information on the County Community Projects program is disseminated throughout the year in a variety of ways, which means there are many opportunities for the public and eligible non-profit organizations to become aware of the program and fund recipients. The Community Projects program is included and described in the County’s Operational Plan each fiscal year, which is posted on the County’s website. Throughout the year, each Supervisor’s Community Project award recommendations are voted on by the Board of Supervisors at noticed, public meetings, with information on each award listed on the Board’s meeting agenda, which is also a public document posted on the County website. Information on the decisions Supervisors make regarding Community Project funds is available to the public via cable television, as well, since all Board of Supervisors’ meetings are broadcast to the public over the County’s government access television station. And, Supervisors publish information on their respective Community Projects awards in newsletters and on their webpages. Community Project awards are also reported to the public in community and regional newspapers.

Recommendation 05-19: The Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors document the Community Projects Fund program.

This recommendation has been implemented. Information regarding the Community Projects program is and will continue to be included in the County’s annual Operational Plan. Members of the public can view this document, which is posted on the County’s website, and interested parties may comment on proposed allocations or make requests for funding during the County’s annual budget hearings.

Members of the Board of Supervisors will also continue to work with community organizations to identify grant opportunities that meet community needs in accordance with Government Code section 26227.

Recommendation 05-20: The Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors provide sufficient publicity to assure all organizations can apply for funds.

This recommendation has been implemented. As stated above, the Community Projects program is publicized throughout the year in a variety of ways, so there are already many ways that non-profit community organizations can learn about the program. The Community Projects program is described in the County's Operational Plan each fiscal year, which is posted on the County's website. Throughout the year, each Supervisor brings his or her Community Project award recommendations to the full Board of Supervisors for approval at noticed, public meetings. Information on each proposed award is listed on the Board's meeting agenda, which is also a public document posted on the County website, and information on the Supervisors' Community Project decisions is available to the public via cable television since all Board of Supervisors' meetings are broadcast to the public over the County's government access television station. Supervisors publish information on their respective Community Projects awards in newsletters and on their webpages. Community Project awards are also often reported to the public in community and regional newspapers.

Recommendation 05-21: The Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors publish an annual list of the recipients of the CPFs.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable. All decisions regarding Community Project funds are made at regularly-scheduled, duly-noticed public meetings of the Board of Supervisors. Copies of the agendas and records of the actions taken at these meetings are public records and are already available from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office.