



Date: July 30, 2009 for August 5th Agenda

Summary: The 2008-9 Grand Jury has issued its final report. State law requires that LAFCO respond to certain points no later than October 1, 2009.

Staff Recommendation: Discuss pages 41-45 of the Grand Jury report and direct staff to prepare a draft response for consideration at the September 2, 2009 LAFCO meeting.

Submitted by: Patrick McCormick, Executive Officer

I have attached pages 41-45 of the 2008-9 Grand Jury Final Report. This section of the report is titled "Who is Watching Our Special Districts?" The Grand Jury makes findings and recommendations upon which state law requires LAFCO's response no later than October 1, 2009. The main theme of this section is that LAFCO should take a greater role in assuring that all special district boards, particularly small districts that don't have full-time staff, are operating with adopted meeting rules.

On July 11, 2009, I sent a letter to each independently-governed special district in Santa Cruz County asking them to forward their comments on the Grand Jury report to LAFCO no later than August 17, 2009, so that LAFCO could consider their comments before responding to the Grand Jury.

The staff will be prepared at the August 5th LAFCO meeting to explain its understanding of the Grand Jury's findings. The staff recommends that the Commission continue this matter to its September 2, 2009 meeting with a direction that staff return with a summary of agency comments and a recommended response to the applicable findings and recommendations in the 2008-9 Grand Jury Final Report.

cc: 24 Independent Special Districts
County of Santa Cruz
--County Administrative Officer
--Grand Jury

Attachments:

--Pages 41-45 of 2008-9 Grand Jury Final Report
--July 9, 2009 letter from LAFCO Executive Officer to Independent Special District Managers