

GRAND JURY REPORT: SERVICE CUTS TOO STEEP

CALAVERAS PANEL RECOMMENDS RESTORATION OF SOME STAFF

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SAN ANDREAS - Calaveras County's 2010-11 grand jury issued a final report Thursday calling for increased staffing in several government agencies.

In particular, the grand jury found that operations at the Calaveras County Jail, the Calaveras County Animal Shelter and the Angels Camp Police Department are all negatively affected by staffing cuts that happened over the past few years.

In the case of the jail and the animal shelter, the report notes plans are under way to build new, larger facilities. The grand jury report urges the relevant officials to proceed with that construction and restore staffing levels in all three agencies to better serve the public.

The report also investigated a number of other county government departments. Recommendations from those investigations include that the county government should make full use of accounting software it purchased years ago, and that the Auditor-Controller's Office needs to hire employees capable of doing audits in house to avoid the cost of hiring consultants.

The grand jury also investigated the disparities in public school district funding between the northern and southern parts of the county.

One finding: While Calaveras Unified, on the north side of the county, has only \$4,985 per student per year, the three districts serving communities along Highway 4 have between \$6,791 and \$9,305 per year per student.

The grand jury recommended that the three districts along Highway 4 consider consolidation to reduce administrative staff and cut costs.

To see the full report, go to the county's website at co.calaveras.ca.us.

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