

June 2005

Greetings Citizens of Santa Cruz County,

It is with great pride that we present the 2004 – 2005 final report. The Grand Jury is charged by state law with review and oversight of county agencies and their contractors. It is our hope that the issues raised, the problems found and the information extracted will contribute to more responsive, more accessible and more responsible government. We also hope that this report will aid in your understanding of the Santa Cruz County government.

This report is a compilation of information provided by your public officials and the insights we gained during those interviews. Our charge is to get the facts straight and get the information to you with no bias. We have done that here, and it is our great hope that much good comes from our efforts.

Our current budget picture is bleak, and we must all do our part to ensure we make the most of our limited funds. We all have a responsibility to ensure we have the best, most efficient government possible.

We would like to thank the various entities and employees that took the time to educate us and answer our questions. I would also like to thank the other eighteen jurors who have given generously of their most precious commodity, their own time. We are anxious for your response.

Sincerely,

Earl Kieser, Foreperson
2004 – 2005 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury