



County of Santa Cruz

Grand Jury

701 Ocean Street, Room 318-I
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2099

June 29, 2010

Dear Reader:

For the past year, nineteen citizens of Santa Cruz County have served on the civil grand jury. They devoted thousands of hours to studying, investigating, researching, and finally writing the accompanying reports on seven aspects of city and county government. The 2009-2010 reports address pending legislation, a citizen's personnel commission complaint, jail inspections, public defender contracts, residential treatment facilities, the library system, and the financial status of a county water district. Each report communicates the outcome of the investigation through findings, conclusions, and recommendations. And this year's grand jury added a new report, tracking the responses to last year's recommendations in a continuity report.

As foreperson for the 2009-2010 Grand Jury, I have had the opportunity of working with a group of smart and dedicated people who care deeply about the efficiency of the governmental operations of the cities and county in which we live. They learned a great deal about how public agencies operate through departmental investigations, personal interviews, field trips and public meetings. The intelligence, creativity, energy, and collaboration of the jurors has made this year a tremendous success.

The grand jury thanks Presiding Judge Paul Burdick for his astute selection of jurors and for his guidance and support throughout the year. We extend special accolades to county counsel, Rahn Garcia. We are grateful for his prompt and expert service to the jury; he guided us with sensitivity and wisdom through unique circumstances and situations throughout the year. The grand jury also thanks the personnel of each agency who provided information for this report. Without their valued service and opinions about Santa Cruz governmental operations, these reports would not have been possible.

Finally, the civil grand jury encourages all citizens to be involved in the operations of the cities and counties in which they reside. Without the people's voice, government is only a bureaucracy. With the involvement of the people, government is a living, vital part of our lives.

On behalf of all of us on the 2009-2010 Grand Jury,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorna Horton".

Lorna Horton
Foreperson