



County of Santa Cruz

Grand Jury

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

June 25, 2013

To the Citizens of Santa Cruz County:

We are pleased to present the Final Report of the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury for 2012-2013. For the last year, we have served on your behalf as an independent investigative body whose charge is to look for ways to improve the efficiency and transparency of local government agencies. To that end, we have conducted interviews, toured facilities, attended meetings, visited websites, and pored over documents in order to better understand those agencies and how their service to the public might be enhanced.

In this work, we have served as your eyes and your ears. What we can't do for you is be your voice. While we can make recommendations for improvement, we possess no enforcement power on our own. For that, we rely on you to become engaged: for example, contact your representatives and let them know that you, too, would like to see local government agencies better serve their constituents.

In writing this report, we specifically tried to frame our observations not as 'here's what you're doing wrong' but rather as 'here's what you could do better.' We ask those officials addressed in this report to respond in the same spirit.

We thank all the people -- public servants as well as private citizens --- who helped us in our investigations by providing much of the information contained in this report. (One of the first things we learned as grand jurors was how many dedicated public servants there are in Santa Cruz County!) We also thank our legal advisors: the Honorable Timothy Volkmann, our Supervising Judge; District Attorney Bob Lee; and Chief Deputy County Counsel Rahn Garcia. We appreciate their ability to provide guidance without limiting the independence that allows us to do our work.

With thanks for the opportunity to serve you,

Santa Cruz County Grand Jury 2012-2013
Lise Peterson, Foreperson