



County of Santa Cruz

Grand Jury

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

June 29, 2011

To the Citizens of Santa Cruz County:

The Grand Jury encourages all citizens to become involved with local government. Without the people's voice and scrutiny, government lacks the accountability that makes it responsive to the needs of the citizens. This is the great gift we have been granted in our country, state, and local governments – "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people..." If we don't get involved, we deserve what we get.

The 2010-2011 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report addresses concerns of government process and transparency. During the past year, the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury has spent thousands of hours investigating:

- The process and transparency within the Watsonville City Government
- Integrative planning between the Regional Transportation Commission and local planning departments
- Record keeping, transparency, and processes for cancellation of county property tax penalties
- Vendor selection process for medical, dental, and vision consulting services by Pajaro Valley Unified School District
- Optimal use of County jail facilities

The Grand Jury report requires a response to the findings and recommendations from the indicated officials and departments. Based on a review of the responses, the next Grand Jury may elect to reopen or renew the investigations.

I have been privileged to work with a group of community-minded, intelligent, creative, and energetic people who dedicated their personal time to challenge our local government to be responsive to the needs and expectations of its citizens. This report is the culmination of their collaboration, which has included interviews, site visits, attendance at public meetings, data research and analysis.

The Grand Jury thanks all the people throughout the County who cooperated with our investigations and provided valuable information for this report. The Grand Jury also wishes to thank our statutory advisors: Presiding Judge Paul Burdick, County Counsel Rahn Garcia, and District Attorney Bob Lee. Their guidance and timely responses to our inquiries were instrumental to our investigations.

On behalf of all the members of the 2010-2011 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury, I present the Final Report for 2010-2011.

Gayle M. Larson
Foreperson