



County of Santa Cruz

GRAND JURY

701 Ocean Street, Room 318-I
Santa Cruz, California 95060
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June 2004

Greetings Citizens of Santa Cruz County,

It is with great pride and pleasure that we present the 2003-04 Grand Jury Final Report. We are forever indebted to you the citizen for the opportunity we have had to be of service. I openly encourage all citizens to read this report critically and to read the responses when they are published. Grand Juries can only be successful with a concerned and enlightened citizenry. Our public officials and government must strive to educate and enlighten those they serve.

I know there will be those that discredit this work and call it the uninformed ramblings of the disaffected few. They will call it politically motivated and ill-researched. We were selected randomly and represent most points of view in the county. Our only common trait is our desire to serve. Our information is as good as the sources that provided it. If we cannot, with unfettered access and concentrated effort, understand our own government; how will busy people with limited access fare? It is fortunate the Grand Jury System exists. It allows the citizens to look objectively at government and give input to those willing to listen. It also allows citizens without the time or luck we had to hear how government responds to the input of the citizenry.

I come away from this process believing the majority of those we interviewed or had contact with were hardworking dedicated professionals doing tough jobs in tough times. All the more reason the citizens should be involved and provide feedback. This process is wonderful in that government must respond to this report. How they respond is the telling factor.

If we are stimulate thought and discussion we have succeeded. We know this is the mechanism for change. Perhaps not today or next year, but the seeds have been sown.

Thanks to all who cooperated and aided us in our quest for truth. Join us now in our quest for justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Otis H. Johnson".

Otis H. Johnson