

NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The Nevada County Civil Grand Jury has the responsibility to review departments of Nevada County to determine the degree to which they are meeting community needs.

PROCEDURE FOLLOWED

The Grand Jury toured three local libraries and interviewed library personnel and other knowledgeable persons.

FINDINGS

1. The Nevada County libraries are the Madelyn Helling, Grass Valley, Foley Historical and Truckee.
2. The passage of County Measure B, the one-eighth of one percent sales tax, in 1998, has resulted in the collection of approximately \$900,000 per year, which is about half of the total operating revenue for the libraries.
 - This tax expires on October 31, 2003.
 - At present, there is no identified replacement source of funds for Measure B.
 - Measure B money has funded major increases in hours of operation, circulation, staff, and number and quality of adults' and children's programs. Among the special programs introduced is the free literacy service open to all ages.
 - The number of library volunteers has increased to 238 who contribute approximately 35,000 hours per year.
3. State Proposition 14, the Library Bond Act, which passed in March 2000, provides for more than \$350 million for construction and expansion of libraries.
 - The Nevada County Library plans to apply for a grant when monies become available in 2002.
 - Grant money will be used to increase the capacities of the Grass Valley and Truckee Libraries.
4. Future plans include multi-use libraries in conjunction with Bear River High School and Ready Springs Middle School in Penn Valley as well as an additional branch in North San Juan.

CONCLUSIONS

1. If no new funding source is found when Measure B expires, the gains of the last two years would be lost, resulting in drastically reduced services.
2. In order to receive consideration, grant applications for construction projects must include preliminary plans, specifications and costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the county identify a permanent source of funds to maintain the present level of library services.
2. The Grand Jury recommends that all necessary preliminary work accompany the grant application for Proposition 14 funds.

RESPONSES REQUIRED

Nevada County Board of Supervisors, due August 9, 2001

Nevada County Librarian, due July 10, 2001

RESPONSES

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

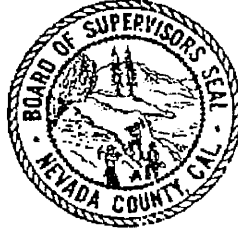
950 Maidu Avenue • Nevada City • California 95959-8617

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JUL 26 2001

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July 24, 2001

The Honorable Kathleen Butz
Presiding Judge of the Nevada County Courts
Nevada County Court House
Nevada City CA 95959

Subject: Board of Supervisors Responses to the 2000-2001 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Interim Report No. 11, dated May 11, 2001 regarding the Nevada County Libraries.

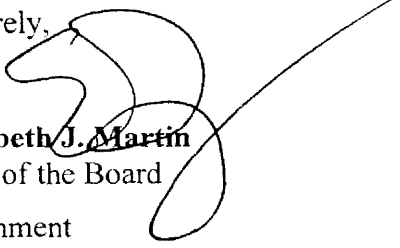
Dear Judge Butz:

The attached responses by the Board of Supervisors to the 2000-2001 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Interim Report No. 11, dated May 11, 2001, are submitted as required by California Penal Code §933.

These responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on July 24, 2001. Responses to findings and recommendations are based on either personal knowledge, examination of official county records, review of the response by the County Librarian, or testimony from the Board chair and county staff members.

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2000-2001 Grand Jury for their participation and effort in preparing this Interim report.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth J. Martin
Chair of the Board

Attachment
ejm:pjw:pb

cc: Foreman, Grand Jury
Ted Gaebler, County Administrator
County Counsel
County Librarian

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPONSES TO
2000-2001 CIVIL GRAND JURY INTERIM REPORT NO. 11
DATED MAY 9, 2001
RE: NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARIES**

*Responses to findings and recommendations are based on either personal knowledge,
examination of official county records, review of the response by the County Librarian or
testimony from the board chairman and county staff members.*

I. GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION:

Nevada County Libraries

A. RESPONSE TO FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Findings:

1. **The Nevada County Libraries are the Madelyn Helling, Grass Valley, Foley Historical and Truckee.**

Agree

2. **The passage of County Measure B, the one-eighth of one percent sales tax, in 1998, has resulted in the collection of approximately \$900,000 per year, which is about half of the total operating revenue for the libraries.**

Agree

- **This tax expires on October 31, 2003.**

Disagree. Measure B will expire on September 30, 2003.

- **At present, there is no identified replacement source of funds for Measure B**

Agree

- **Measure B money has funded major increases in hours of operation, circulation, staff, and number and quality of adults' and children's programs. Among the special programs introduced is the free literacy service open to all ages.**

Agree

- **The number of library volunteers has increased to 238 who contribute approximately 35,000 hours per year.**

Agree

3. State Proposition 14, the Library Bond Act, which passed in March 2000, provides for more than \$350 million for construction and expansion of libraries.

- **The Nevada County Library plans to apply for a grant when monies become available in 2002.**

Agree

Preparations for submitting a grant application in 2002 have already begun.

A joint effort between the County Librarian, the County Facilities Project Manager, the City Administrators of Grass Valley and Truckee, school district officials, Truckee Recreation and Park District, Sierra College, the Friends of the Libraries, and other interested citizens to develop a facilities expansion proposal is presently underway. Consultants will be hired to prepare various reports needed to accompany the grant application and FREED will be involved to ensure compliance with ADA requirements. The County Librarian will also be directly involved in the process of selecting and hiring an architectural firm to oversee the design of the facility expansion proposal.

The Board has approved a conceptual proposal for increasing the capacity of the Truckee Library and will support submission of a grant request for Proposition 14 funds to be used for this purpose.

- **Grant money will be used to increase the capacities of the Grass Valley and Truckee Libraries.**

Agree

The Board has approved the conceptual submission of a grant to increase the capacity of the Truckee Library but has not formally done so for the Grass Valley Library.

4. Future plans include multi-use libraries in conjunction with Bear River High School and Ready Springs Middle School in Penn Valley as well as an additional branch in North San Juan.

Agree

Recommendations:

1. **The Grand Jury recommends that the county identify a permanent source of funds to maintain the present level of Library services.**

The recommendation requires further analysis to be completed by January 31, 2002.

The County Librarian and the County Administrator are presently evaluating all possible primary and alternative sources for library funding when Measure B, the one-eighth of a percent sales tax to provide additional funding for enhanced library services, expires on September 30, 2003. Following this evaluation, a recommendation for funding library services at their current level will be made to the Board by January 31, 2002.

The preliminary expectation at this time is that a recommendation will be made to place an Initiative on the November 2002 ballot to extend the one-eighth of a percent sales tax.

2. **The Grand Jury recommends that all necessary preliminary work accompany the grant application for Proposition 14 funds.**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be when the grant application is submitted in 2002.

As indicated in the response to Finding No. 3, work is presently underway to prepare all supporting documentation needed to accompany a Proposition 14, Library Bond Act grant application in 2002.

B. OTHER RESPONSES REQUIRED:

Nevada County Board of Supervisors – due August 9, 2001
Nevada County Librarian – due July 10, 2001

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MADELYN HELLING
COUNTY LIBRARY

980 Helling Way - Government Center
Nevada City, California 95959
(530) 265-1407 Headquarters
(530) 265-7050 Branch Library
(530) 265-7241 Fax

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July 5, 2001

Hon. Carl F. Bryan II
Nevada County Superior Court
201 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Judge Bryan:

This letter is in response to the recommendations of the Nevada County Grand Jury regarding the Nevada County Libraries.

Finding #2: Improvements to Library services due to passage of County Measure B in 1998. I agree with these findings with one correction -- Measure B will expire on September 30, 2003.

And Recommendation #1: Permanent source of funds to maintain Library service levels.

Because County revenues are not expected to increase dramatically for the next few years, the Library's proposal is to return to the electorate and seek renewal of the one-eighth of a cent sales tax during the November 2002 election.

Steps have already begun for this campaign including formation of an ad hoc campaign committee, chaired by Mr. Terry McAteer Superintendent of Schools. The Friends of the Libraries have also pledged support. Some preliminary work has begun, such as community surveys, but the major activities won't begin until early 2002. The next steps for the campaign committee include hiring a professional campaign consultant who will assist with strategies. The campaign will be in full swing in early fall 2002.

Finding #3 and Recommendation #2: State Proposition 14 grant funds for library construction projects.

Grant applications will be available in 2002. The Library has started some preliminary work necessary to complete the applications. The County Librarian has begun working with the county's Facilities Project Manager, administrators of the City of Grass Valley and the Town of Truckee, representatives from various school districts (including the county Superintendent of Schools), the Truckee Park and Recreation District, Sierra

Grass Valley Branch
207 Mill Street
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
(530) 273-4117
(530) 273-5619 Fax

Local History Branch
211 North Pine Street
Nevada City, Ca 95959
(530) 265-4606

Truckee Branch
10031 Levon Avenue
Truckee, Ca 96161
(530) 582-7846
(530) 582-0240 FAX

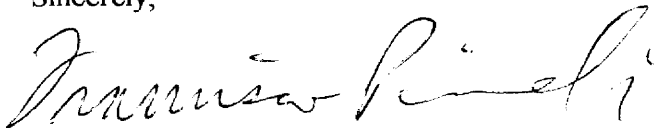
Nevada County Grand Jury
Response, page two

College, the Friends of the Libraries and interested citizens. A facilities committee has been formed in the Town of Truckee to work on their proposal. The Board of Supervisors has approved the Library's proposal in concept until funds are available.

Upcoming plans include hiring various consultants to assist in needed reports, such as a CEQA specialist, an independent appraiser, geotechnical, community needs assessment, building program, and technology planning consultants. FREED will be involved in the ADA recommendations. I will be initiating the process to identify and hire an architectural firm(s) for these projects.

The Library will be well positioned to respond when applications are available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francisco Pinneli".

Francisco Pinneli
County Librarian

cc: Ted Gaebler, County Administrator

NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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PROCEDURE FOLLOWED

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RESPONSES REQUIRED

Nevada County Board of Supervisors, due in 90 days
Nevada County Librarian, due in 60 days.

PUBLICATION DATE

May 11, 2001