

county of ventura

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
M. L. "Lin" Koester
Chief Administrative Officer

September 1, 1999

Honorable Charles Campbell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

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Subject: Grand Jury Report Response

Dear Judge Campbell:

The following information represents the response of the Chief Administrative Office to the 1998-99 Ventura County Grand Jury report titled: *The Ventura County Adopted Budget Book Review*.

The Chief Administrative Office concurs with the specific responses provided by the County Auditor-Controller's Office in their letter dated July 28, 1999. The Auditor's Office is responsible for the publication of the County's Adopted Budget Book in accordance with State Controller regulations. Although additions may be made to the book, it has served in the past more as an internal County information resource rather than a public document. It also fulfills Government Code Section 29093 requirements for the Auditor to annually file a copy of the adopted budget with the State Controller.

The report recommends preparation of a second Adopted Budget Book and lists examples of information that could be included. Some of the listed items are already included in the County's Preliminary Budget Book which is produced by the Chief Administrative Office several months earlier than the Adopted Book for use at Final Budget Hearings. However, the idea of creating a second book which would combine some of the information now in the Preliminary and Adopted Books, plus add more, has merit and would be more useful for the public. At the same time, the increased cost of a second book is another consideration that must be recognized.

The Auditor's Office and Chief Administrative Office are currently implementing a new budget preparation automated system for the FY 2000-01 budget process. It will provide more flexibility for preparation of reports and different budget formats, thus enhancing future opportunity to create a second or consolidated book. This possibility will be further explored with the Auditor's Office during the coming year.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this report. If you have any questions, please contact me at 654-2896.

Sincerely,

Albert C. Bigler
Albert C. Bigler

Chief Deputy Administrative Officer

c: Ventura County Grand Jury
M. L. Koester, Chief Administrative Officer
Thomas O. Mahon, Auditor-Controller

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