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COPY

June 27, 2000

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

**RE: COMMENTS ON 1999-2000 VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
REGARDING VENTURA COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 4088**

Dear Judge Campbell:

This letter is submitted pursuant to Penal Code section 933 to provide comment on the Grand Jury's recent report regarding Ventura County Ordinance No. 4088. The Grand Jury has requested that the Auditor-Controller respond to all recommendations of their report.

- 1. Grand Jury Recommendation No. 1: The budgets of the public safety departments and the allocation and proposed use of Proposition 172 moneys should be reviewed annually by the Board of Supervisors as part of the overall budget process and in accordance with the California Budget Act.**

Response: We concur with this recommendation. The Proposition 172 revenue is included in the annual budget process. The Chief Administrative Office reviews the requested budgets prepared by departments and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. No Proposition 172 funds are moved out of the trust fund and recognized as revenue unless properly authorized by the Board of Supervisors in the budget process.

2. **Grand Jury Recommendation No. 2: The Sheriff's Department should budget more accurately so that excess funds, now included in its budget and returned to the General Fund at the end of the year, are available to other agencies during the course of the fiscal year. If necessary, the County's contingency fund should pay Sheriff's Department overruns caused by unforeseen emergencies.**

Response: We respectfully submit no response to this recommendation. This recommendation falls outside the purview of the Auditor-Controller's Office. The Board of Supervisors makes the policy decisions in the allocation of the County's resources in the annual budget process.

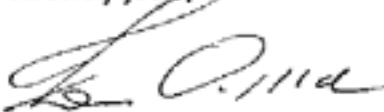
3. **Grand Jury Recommendation No. 3: The Board of Supervisors should rescind the constraints of Ordinance No. 4088 and reconsider the allocation of Proposition 172 funds to public safety agencies during their annual budgeting process.**

Response: We respectfully submit no response to this recommendation. It is felt that this recommendation involves legal and policy considerations that are not in the purview of the Auditor-Controller's Office.

4. **Grand Jury Recommendation No. 4: The public safety departments should work together with the CAO and Board of Supervisors to ensure availability of funding for staffing of the Juvenile Justice Complex when it is completed.**

Response: We respectfully submit no response to this recommendation. Although a collaborative approach is desirable and long-term financial planning is essential, it is felt that this recommendation falls outside the purview of the Auditor-Controller's Office.

Sincerely yours,



THOMAS O. MAHON
Auditor-Controller

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cc: Harry L. Hufford, Interim Chief Administrative Officer