

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Findings

1. We agree with the findings numbered: F3, F7, F8, F10
2. We partially or wholly disagree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F4, F5, F6, F9

Recommendations:

1. Recommendations numbered R6 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implementation actions.)
2. Recommendations numbered R1, R3, R4, R5, R7, R8, R9 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for implementation.)
3. Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury report.)
4. Recommendations numbered R2 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Responses to Recommendations

Recommendation No. R1: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors renegotiate the 2008 ADA Settlement Agreement with the U. S. Department of Justice.*

Response: The county and Board of Supervisors has been negotiating with the Department of Justice regarding the 2008 ADA settlement. Terms of the potential new agreement should come to the Board for their consideration soon.

Recommendation No. R2: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors establish an ADA Advisory Committee which would include persons with disabilities and local disability advocacy groups.*

Response: County staff has successfully worked informally with existing stakeholders regarding ADA modifications that need to take place at the county. This group has been instrumental in establishing priority projects the county should take on considering the limited funding available.

Recommendation No. R3: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Human Resources Department hire a full-time ADA analyst not in lieu of, but in addition to, the existing ADA Coordinator.*

Response: The Human Resources Department has begun the process of creating a new position to fulfill these duties. This new position will be in addition to, not in lieu of, the current ADA coordinator. This new position classification and allocation will be on the Board of Supervisors' August 9 agenda, and upon approval for funding, the hiring process will begin immediately thereafter.

Recommendation No. R4: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors release an annual "State of ADA Compliance and Accessibility Report" to the public.*

Response: This will be one of the duties of the newly allocated ADA coordinator position.

Recommendation No. R5: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County ADA Coordinator ensure that the Humboldt County ADA Coordinator's office number, phone number and email address be visibly represented in all County buildings.*

Response: This will be one of the duties of the newly allocated ADA coordinator position.

Recommendation No. R6: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County ADA Coordinator ensure that ADA grievance processes and grievance forms are easily accessible on County websites.*

Response: The grievance processes and forms are already available on the county website and easily accessible. The county is working on making this information even more apparent and obvious.

Recommendation No. R7: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County ADA Coordinator develop a time-specific action plan to organize the record keeping of ADA activities and send such report to the Board of Supervisors for their review and approval.*

Response: This will be one of the duties of the newly allocated ADA coordinator position.

Recommendation No. R8: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors develop a long-term budget plan to bring Humboldt County into ADA compliance.*

Response: The Board has allocated \$1.2 million for ADA projects in the last two years alone, not including the funds used in capital improvement projects for ADA access. The county is dedicated to complying with the ADA, and will work to address these issues each year as funds are available. In addition, as noted above, ADA compliance changes regularly by way of court decisions and amendments to the law, so allocating funds every year to ADA improvements alone does not guarantee any agency will always remain fully compliant with each aspect of the ADA. However, the Board of Supervisors continues to prioritize compliance with the ADA, balanced with the multitude of demands on limited funds.

Recommendation No. R 9: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors direct the heads of all pertinent departments to conduct routine ADA training workshops for County personnel to better assist the public.*

Response: This will be one of the duties for departments to coordinate with the newly allocated ADA coordinator.