



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

**Board of Supervisors**

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**Belia Ramos**  
Chair

August 15, 2017

The Honorable Mark S. Boessenecker  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Napa  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559

**FILED**

**AUG 21 2017**

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court  
By: C. Ramirez  
Deputy

Dear Judge Boessenecker:

As required by Penal Code Section 933(c), enclosed are responses to the Grand Jury's 2016-2017 Final Reports, "The Napa County Fairgrounds: The County's Orphan Asset," "Napa Child Abuse Hotline (707) 253-4261 or (800) 464-4216," "Juvenile Hall," "Napa County Jail - Where are we headed?" and "Napa Valley Transportation Agency Vision 2040 Plan."

Grand Jury activity takes place over the course of a number of months. The Board acknowledges the members of the 2016-2017 Grand Jury for the time they have devoted in preparing the reports.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Belia Ramos in black ink.

Belia Ramos  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 21 2017**

**Napa Superior Court  
Court Executive Office**

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District 4

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District 5

NAPA COUNTY  
RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT ON  
THE NAPA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS: THE COUNTY'S ORPHAN ASSET

August 15, 2017

**Finding 1:** The Napa County Fairgrounds is a substantial asset, both to Napa County, and especially to the City of Calistoga and the surrounding northern Napa Valley community.

**Response, Board of Supervisors:** The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

**Finding 2:** At the outset, the Board of Supervisors delegated the operation and maintenance of the Fairgrounds to a private, not-for-profit organization to which it provided little or no oversight and that this arrangement has never been seriously reviewed.

**Response, Board of Supervisors:** The Board of Supervisors (BOS) disagrees in part with this finding. Napa County began its contractual arrangement with the private, not-for-profit organization known as the Napa County Fair Association (NCFA) in 1994; however, it has been in a longstanding relationship for many years prior to that date. Pursuant to State law the BOS has always reviewed and approved the annual budget for the NCFA. Beginning in 2013 with the loss of State funding, the obligation to formally approve and then submit the annual budget to the State was removed. As evidenced in the revised Agreement between the County and NCFA, the annual budget is submitted to the County but does not require Board approval.

In 2008, the BOS requested that the NCFA adopt the Ralph M. Brown Act for greater transparency in its meetings. Also in 2008 the Board requested that the NCFA broaden its outreach to encompass the entire Napa Valley. The NCFA expanded its Board to include a broader representation from throughout the county and beginning in 2013 the BOS appoints three members to the NCFA Board. A partial list of accomplishments in the past decade include: revised employee benefit package; established written Procedure Manual; creating Board development through training in such areas as ethics and Brown Act; converted to a 501(c)(3); completed a rewrite of the Bylaws and restated Articles of Incorporation; participated in the Valley Fire; created a volunteer program; and successfully negotiated cell tower rentals.

Through its County Executive Officer and Auditor-Controller, Napa County has provided oversight to the Executive Director of the Fair Association. The County's leadership team meets with the Executive Director (since 2010 when the current Executive Director was hired) regarding ongoing issues dealing with the facilities and general operations, and provides guidance on long-term sustainability of the Fairgrounds. The BOS recently appointed two members to work two-by-two with City Council of Calistoga members to review the

