

## **KINGS COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION (KCAO)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Congress passed the “Economic Opportunity Act of 1964” to mobilize the human and financial resources of the Nation to combat poverty in the United States.” In 1964 the Kings County Board of Supervisors formed the Kings County Community Action Organization (later modified to remove “County”) for the purpose of developing, administrating and coordinating a community action program. KCAO administers Federal, State and County funds, as well as donations.

### **WHY THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATED**

An anonymous complaint was received by the Grand Jury which was considered to be of sufficient importance to merit an investigation. Prior Grand Juries had been told by attorneys of KCAO that the Grand Jury had no authority to investigate the KCAO. This “authority” matter has been researched by the County Counsel, and it has been determined that KCAO is subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Jury under provisions of Penal Code 933.6 while acting on behalf of the County.

### **AUTHORITY**

Penal Code 933.6 states “a Grand Jury may at any time examine the books and records of any non-profit corporation established by or operating on behalf of a public entity.”

### **METHOD OF INVESTIGATION**

The Chief Executive Officer of the KCAO was interviewed by the Grand Jury on August 13, 2010. In addition, the four contracts between the County and KCAO were studied.

### **BACK GROUND AND FACTS**

KCAO has many programs and services. Among them are child development, youth services, crisis support and Head Start. The contracts with the County are for:

1. Child care under the CalWORKs program, due for renewal on September 30, 2010
2. Adolescent Family Life program
3. Emergency food services for the city of Lemoore
4. Food service for Kettleman City and Stratford

All of the contracts have provisions limiting overhead costs and provide for auditing by the county.

According to the Hanford Sentinel, KCAO has recently reached an agreement with the City of Lemoore to create the first large-scale, centralized food bank in Kings County.

After further investigation, the anonymous complaint was determined to be primarily a personnel matter and was considered to be beyond the purview of the Grand Jury.

As a matter of comparison, KCAO has 267 personnel while the City of Hanford has 250.

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

None

**COMMENTS**

The KCAO appears to be handling the County contacts properly.

**RESPONSE REQUIREMENT**

None.