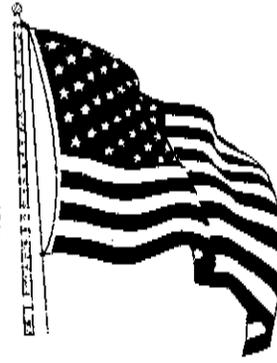




Kings County



- 1 2002

Grand Jury Final Report 2001-2002

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Commission on Aging
Mary Brock Hall
1197 South Drive
Hanford, Ca 93230

(559) 582-3211 ext.2824

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
August 16, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) is the local agency funded through Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging, (K/TAAA). The goal of KCCOA is to provide information and referral, and to offer assistance, support and advocacy for the senior citizens of Kings County, as prescribed and outlined in the Older American Act.

KCCOA offices are located in the north half of Mary Brock Hall in the Kings County Government Center. A twenty-one member board governs KCCOA. It operates a number of programs beneficial to Kings County elderly, including.

1. The Ombudsman Program, a State/Federal mandated program, seeks to resolve problems and complaints made by or on behalf of residents in nursing and residential care facilities for the elderly. It serves fifty facilities in Kings and Tulare Counties.
2. The Senior Nutrition Program operates a kitchen in The Lemoore Senior Citizens Facility. It prepares meals, which are distributed throughout Kings County to seniors sixty years and older, and provides two-thirds of their daily nutritional requirements. Four hundred fifty meals are served at seven sites and seventy "Meals On Wheels" in Kings County.
3. The Adult Day Support Center is located in a modular building adjacent to Mary Brock Hall. This Program provides senior day care, including three meals and two snacks, to an average of ten seniors a day. For those who can afford to pay, the cost is \$25.00 per day.

Kings County Nutrition Center is open Monday-Friday 9:30-1:30 p.m. (Suggested Donation \$1.50 per person per meal).

The 1999-2000 Grand Jury reported that the Director of KCCOA expressed concerns about plans to relocate Social Services and demolish Mary Brock Hall, which currently houses the Commission. The Director indicated that she would prefer that Mary Brock Hall be renovated rather than demolished, and the entire building turned over to KCCOA to be used for its programs.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Director of Services on Aging, who gave us a tour of the building and surrounding grounds. As we walked through the building, she introduced us to the employees with a brief description of their duties. There are seven full time employees and three part time employees paid by KCCOA. The center also utilizes Welfare to Work Program to help get people off welfare, which the Director implied was working.

On our tour we noticed numerous problems with the building and furnishings. The carpet is very worn with some holes, dirty and stained. The walls and ceilings are in need of repair and paint. The Committee did not feel it was pointless to repaint or upgrade, simply because someday the program might be in a different place. Everyone enjoys being in a clean and painted building. We found a nicely shaded area outside including patio furniture, however the area was muddy. It was observed that the handicapped ramp is in need of a non-skid covering.

The center is not just for seniors as the facility also serves the handicapped of all ages. Kings Area Rural Transit (KART) will pick up and deliver those unable to get to the facility. In our findings we also found that the facility needs to have more room in order to accommodate the guests they have. The facility could use a better volunteer network.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair and paint the interior of the building.
2. Take care when watering the patios to keep the furniture dry and yard safe for walking to prevent accidents.

COMMENTS:

The Health and Education committee was given a needed insight into what the KCCOA is about and it's concerns and interests. With several phone calls, and after being directed to the proper department we were able to get new carpet for the center. However, between the time of our visit and installation of new carpeting, most of the outdoor furniture was stolen.

SENIOR INFORMATION and REFERRAL PHONE NUMBERS

Mary Brock Hall (559) 582-3211
Ext. 2828-Reception Desk
Ext. 2826- Information & Referral
Ext. 2824-Director of Services
Ext. 2840 Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Ext. 2823-LTC Ombudsman
Ext. 4447 -Meals On Wheels
Ext. 4296 or 2841 Adult Day Care

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Corcoran Nutrition Center
800 Dairy Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-4419

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
December 20, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Nutrition Program is available in Kings County through the Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (K/TAAA) for all the senior citizens regardless of their income. K/TAAA contracts with Kings County and Tulare County to provide specified services within the communities. The Corcoran Nutrition Center is one of the service centers of K/TAAA. The Corcoran Nutrition Center is located in a building owned by the Corcoran YMCA. The center is named the Kate Boswell Senior Center. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Donations of \$1.50 are requested from those participating in the meals.

FINDINGS:

The Committee visited the center and spoke with the Title V Assistant. They are in the process of hiring a manager. Kitchen help consists of approximately ten people. These are volunteers, GAIN workers and individuals ordered to perform community service by the courts. Also assisting are students from the Shelly Baird Class at Corcoran High School. All kitchen help were wearing hair coverings and aprons. Everything was neat and clean.

On the day the committee visited they were having their annual Christmas potluck with everyone contributing food. Daily participation fluctuates between 50 to 70 people. Meal reservations are made two days in advance but ordered one day in advance. Walk-ins are accepted, as long as food is available. Non-senior participants are charged \$3.50 per meal.

A donation of \$1.50 is requested from seniors, with no one being refused if they can not pay. The announcement about the donation is made and the money is deposited, anonymously, in a box. At one time Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (K/TAAA) limited the number that could be fed at the center. Within three weeks the K/TAAA realized the process was not working and the memo was rescinded.

Food for the center is prepared at the Lemoore Senior Center. It is transported to Corcoran in containers to insure temperature and quality control. Between the time the food arrives and it is served it is checked twice to be sure the temperature is maintained.

The Corcoran Nutrition Center formed a committee and went to the City of Corcoran for Supplemental funds for trips and recreation for the seniors. These funds are given through and administered by the City of Corcoran. The funds have been used to take four trips this year with more planned before the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2002. The center has fund raisers with the money being used to purchase bread, coffee, creamer, etc. For some of the seniors that is the only breakfast they eat.

The center conducts a fire drill yearly. One area of concern was the locked gates leading from the center court yard. Had people gone there to escape a fire they would have been trapped with no way out. Upon mentioning this concern to the Title V Assistant a call was placed to the YMCA Director and he advised them to unlock the two gates closest to the area and see that they were unlocked at all times people are in attendance.

One area of concern was the large window on the South side of the room that have no shades or drapes. When the sun is shining there is a glare that makes it difficult to see other persons in the room.

As the Committee was leaving we noticed some exposed wiring on the ground near the front door. It was made known to the Title V Assistant and she stated she would call the Director immediately. She felt sure it would be corrected right away, as the Director has always been very helpful in the past.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Be sure gates are unlocked, leading from the center court, when people are in attendance.
2. Repair or replace exposed wires and broken conduit near front door.
3. Add shades, drapes or tinting to south window.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Cyesis
595 Katie Hammond Street
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-9541

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
March 14, 2002
March 21, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Cyesis (which means "to be pregnant" in Greek) is a public school for pregnant, school-age girls from the Hanford, Lemoore and Corcoran areas of Kings County. The school is operated by the Kings County Department of Education rather than by a specific school district. One semester in the Cyesis program is equivalent to and accepted as one semester in any other school in Kings County. The Cyesis school has been open since 1968. There are two schools; one in Lemoore and one in Hanford which serves both Hanford and Corcoran. Girls are bussed to and from Corcoran.

FINDINGS:

The Committee visited the Hanford School located adjacent to the Shelly Baird School. The facility faces Babe Ruth. The Committee interviewed the teacher and teacher's aide both seemed very up beat about the school program. The school is housed in two modular classroom buildings, which contains one bathroom, a kitchen with a small dining area, sewing/craft area, classroom area and a small nursery. A nurse is provided by mental health two times per week to counsel and instruct for prenatal care and preparation in parenthood.

The school has four computers, Internet accessible, for the twenty-five students currently enrolled. The girls receive door to door transportation with classes beginning at 10:00 A.M. An incentive for perfect attendance is a \$50.00 gift certificate at Wal-Mart. The fathers are now being allowed to attend the school and at present time there is one father attending.

The Cyesis program has a web site that explains the program and leads to other links including Health, Infant and Childcare issues, All About Pregnancy and other links. These web sites provide very basic information.

Course work is provided in a self-contained classroom. Guest speakers and special programs are used to enrich the students' learning experience. Basic education classes include mathematics, science, social science, history, English and physical education. In addition, there are classes in health and reproduction, prenatal care, sewing/crafts and parenting skills.

The students are required to spend a minimum of one class period a day working with the children in the child care center learning parenting skills under the supervision of a teacher. The students are able to observe and care for a variety of children under the age of twenty-four months.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

This was an esteeming experience and we were educated about an extremely valuable program.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Community School
11835 South 11th Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 589-7080

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow-up
March 8, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this report is to follow-up on a recommendation by the 2000-2001 Grand Jury.

RECOMMENDATION: Purchase land or allocate property that is already owned by the school district for a new school that has sufficient space for physical education and allows for future growth.

The Kings County Office of Education responded with a letter from the Kings County Superintendent of Schools dated July 17, 2001 which stated:

The Kings County Office of Education agrees with the finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. County Offices of Education are not school districts and thus cannot under the California Education Code levy bonds for school construction. The Kings County Office of Education has filed a hardship application with the State of California for funds to purchase land and build a new community school. Our office has received planning money to start the process. We are currently in negotiations for 18 acres of property at 10-1/2 Avenue and Hanford-Armona Road. We have also hired an architect to draw up the plans for the new school. The last state-wide school construction bond, Proposition 1A, is now out of money. We will not be able to build the school until the next state-wide school construction bond is passed by the California voters. If a school construction bond is on the next ballot and is passed, we would probably be able to start construction the early part of 2003.

FINDINGS:

The Committee spoke to the Assistant Superintendent of Alternative Schools and was advised that the property at 10-1/2 Avenue and Hanford-Armona Road is now in escrow. An architect is in the process of drawing the plans for the new school. The Assistant Superintendent of Alternative Schools assured the Committee that if a school construction bond is on the November 2002 ballot and is passed, they would probably start construction early next year, 2003. Since nothing else can be done on the recommendation until the money is available, the Committee cannot see the need to repeat the recommendation although the Committee does not want the project to be lost in the shuffle.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Committee would like to see the Kings County Office of Education continue their efforts toward building a new school.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings Regional Occupational Program
1144 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 589-7026

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
March 14, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings Regional Occupational Program (ROP) is a countywide educational program, of the Kings County Office of Education, offering vocational training to students from the age of 16 through adulthood. A total of 26 courses with approximately 65 classes are offered in Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore. Classes are open entry/open exit and this causes the total enrollment figures to vary. The curriculum is determined by the need of the community with the input from high schools and businesses. All curriculum must be approved by the state. Approximately thirty teachers are employed with the help of aides.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Curriculum Coordinator who accompanied us on a visit of classes on the Hanford West High School campus and at the Hanford Adult School. At the time of the Committee's visit there were 1189 students enrolled countywide.

All high schools in Kings County and the Hanford Adult School have offices for Career Advisors from ROP. These advisors counsel students and assist them in getting into ROP especially if the student is in need of extra credits in order to graduate. Students are made aware of ROP through high school course catalogs, newspapers, job fairs and public agencies (Job Training Office, EDD, Proteus, Welfare Office, etc.). There is no fee for high school students but adults are charged a nominal fee for materials and books.

One class the Committee visited was Computer Technology. These students can become proficient in network designing, computer repair and as technicians. It is a two year-program wherein the student can attain certification on two levels per year.

The Business Technology Center at the Hanford Adult School is a nine-month program. It not only furnishes the students with business training but advises the student on job interviews and dressing for employment. Classes are self-paced by which some students may complete the course earlier than others. Students study computers, business procedures and typewriters and take tests on paper and by computer. On the day of the Committee's visit most of the students were working individually. In the 2000-2001 school year job placement was 95 percent.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Shelly Baird School
959 Katie Hammond Lane
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-5546

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
February 21, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Shelly Baird was renamed for a former student on July 14, 1987 who had attended the school until her death at the age of seventeen. Shelly Baird School cares for students with a variety of special needs. Much of the school is located on Katie Hammond Lane but there are fourteen satellite campuses for students not having to come into Hanford daily. The severity of the child's needs dictates whether they need to be bussed to the Katie Hammond campus. The Shelly Baird complex is under the direct supervision of the Kings County Office of Education (KCOE). The KCOE runs busses to outlying regions of the county to bring students to school.

Three hundred students between the ages of three and twenty-two are presently enrolled. There are thirteen classrooms on site, each with one teacher and an average of two classroom aides. There are fourteen satellite campuses around the county. Each classroom has from eight to ten students on average.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Assistant Principal who conducted the tour and the interview. The Assistant Principal informed the Committee of an In-Home Infant Program in conjunction with United Cerebral Palsy of Kings County and Central Valley Regional Center. This program is for the school to assist the parents in caring for their children from birth to three years old.

The room that serves as the cafeteria also is a multi-purpose room used for dances, assemblies and other school functions. The meals are cooked at the Hanford Central Kitchen. Some classes prefer to eat in their classrooms.

The classrooms the Committee toured were impressive, in that they were well kept and orderly. Each contains its own library that is applicable to the needs of the students. All classrooms have computers. In the 2000-2001 school year, the school received a Digital High School state grant for technology. The grant was for finances to "enable classrooms to hook up to Internet."

There are presently being constructed at six schools around the county new or replacement classrooms. The Committee also noticed that the capacity of the Shelly Baird campus is at capacity.

The schools main goal is to help students become physically independent and socially active. Specialists include speech therapists, adaptive physical education instructor, nurse, psychologist, home instructor, physical therapist (for motor skills), occupational therapist (for fine skills), visual therapist and assistant for the deaf and hard of hearing.

When students are attending one of the satellite campuses and they are at graduation level they participate in the Graduation ceremony but receive a Certificate of Completion. On their 21st birthday they have a promotion ceremony at Shelly Baird School.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The KCOE should move the school to a site that has enough room for expansion of the growing student population.

COMMENTS: None.

AREA OF INQUIRY: Kings River-Hardwick Union School District
10300 Excelsior Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-4475

REPORTING COMMITTEE: Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Informational Tour,
January 24, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The committee meet with the Superintendent/Principal and Vice Principal. The Kings River School District was created September 17, 1860. Kings County was established in 1893, Kings. Kings River School is one of the oldest schools in the Valley. At one time the school encompassed a large area in the northwest corner of (then) Tulare County, bounded on the north and west by the county line, on the south by Cross Creek, and on the east by the foothills of the Sierra Mountains. Excelsior (established in 1875 and unified in 1957-58), Hardwick (established in 1907 and unified in 1962-63) and Wayne School (established in 1914 and unified in 1950-51). These schools eventually underwent unification with Kings River. Thus Kings-River Hardwick School was created.

There are 600 students enrolled this year in kindergarten through eighth grade. There are also 24 students in the preschool program. Thirty percent of the students are interdistrict. A 3.5 million-dollar state funded construction project was completed in 1996 with a final cost to the district of four million.

FINDINGS:

The Kings-River Hardwick School has strong community support, a rural setting, with agricultural heritage and a strong sense of family values. Kings River-Hardwick School has established itself as a Charter School and uses the Core Literacy Program. The State SAT-9 test score are above the 800 score that is required by the year 2006. The school score stands at 822. The SAT- 9 Test, tests students in Language Arts, Math and Reading. In every grade the parents are given the requirements for that grade. It is not unusual for fifteen to thirty parents to show up on any given day to volunteer for outdoor physical education instruction. Parent's night has been established to help adults relearn algebra, reading and other classes. These classes will enable the parents or caregivers the ability to help the students at home. Most parents have some college education.

There are 29 classroom teachers and four support teachers. Class size reduction has been implemented in kindergarten through third grade. The ethnic composition of the school is 70 percent Caucasian, 25 percent Hispanic and 5 percent other. No bilingual classes are offered at this time however 75 percent of the teachers have been certified through the Cross-Culture Language Academic Development Program (CLAD). This program trains

teachers on how to work with the students through the use of visual aids to help them gain proficiency in the English language.

The school has an on-site cafeteria where all meals are prepared daily. There is a free/reduced Breakfast and Lunch Program and 25 percent of the students qualify. A snack bar is available for students fourth through eighth.

The school has academic and social programs for student's success. Included in the programs are Student Progress, Academic Awards Eligibility Requirements, Superintendent's 4.0 Club, Principal's List, Honor Roll, Wildcat Society, Awards Assembly, Campus Visitation, Books and Instructional Materials, School Dances and Parties. Kings River-Hardwick is among the highest-performing school districts in the state. The district supports a minimum of two field trips each year for every grade level. The school provides a wide variety of innovative programs to its students, parents and teachers. Programs include Progressive Kindergarten through eighth grade education and summer school, extensive physical education program and sports league, full-time music specialist, Special Day and Resource Specialist Programs, parent education program, child care/pre-school services and civic involvement program. The Reading and Literature Curriculum is designed to promote student development. The reading is made up of three major components: basal reading, core literature and extended literature. Kindergarten through third grades have a total reading program which emphasizes phonics, literature, and higher-order thinking skills. In grades four through eighth all students select a required number of books from the district reading list. The library supports the lists of books; a student may go to the computer and find out if the book he/she has chosen is available before going to the library. The district has an extended education program that extends learning beyond the classroom.

The school has developed a Science and Technology Curriculum. The Horticultural Center, located adjacent to the school on one quarter acre, offers a blending of the academic science and academic site. The Science Lab is fully equipped and is for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

The computer lab has thirty-one computers that make it possible for fifth through eighth grade students to be taught keyboard skills. Fourth and fifth graders are taught Power Point, Microsoft Word, and Excel. There are two mini labs, which have nine computers. Fiber optic cable has been placed throughout the school and every classroom has at least one compatible computer that is networked.

Two parents help with the band program that meets four days a week after school; all students are given band during school hours. Chorus is offered to fifth through eighth grades. Students perform in festivals during the year; also available for the students is a bell program.

The district attendance rate is 96 percent. Parents are actively involved on campus, in the Parent Booster Club and School Site Council and as classroom and library volunteers. Several businesses in the community support the school; students also work with

community organizations. Students are expected to be responsible and parents or caregivers are to do their part in helping the student achieve.

There are two new busses that burn Green Diesel Fuel thanks to a grant that the school applied for and received. All busses will run on Green Diesel Fuel; however, the older buses don't get as good mileage or burn fuel as clean. There was some concern on the part of our group with the students that don't take the bus and have to use Highway 43. While heading toward our meeting it was observed that one of the cars with children was almost hit by a semi truck. Only students in the school district are allowed to take the bus unless there is room on an established route; interdistrict parents can take students to the district boundary.

The school had student's artwork displayed throughout the Office and classrooms. Each classroom was decorated with the student's work.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The schools grounds were well maintained and inviting.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kit Carson Union School District
9895 Seventh Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-2843

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Interview and Educational Tour.
January 31, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Kit Carson School was built in 1952 for Kindergarten through eighth grades. Kit Carson Elementary and Mid Valley Alternative Charter School are included in the Kit Carson School District. Mid Valley Alternative Charter School allows students to be taught at home and has approximately 38 students enrolled.

Kit Carson Elementary has 401 students enrolled this year with 21 classroom teachers. Class size kindergarten through third grade is less than 20 to 1, all above grades average less than 30 to 1. The ethnic composition of the school is 63 percent Caucasian, 35 percent Hispanic and 27 percent other.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Vice-Principal and the District Superintendent who conducted a tour of the campus. They indicated the school hoped to qualify for a modernization grant this spring to give the school a face lift in time for their 50 year celebration.

The school has a cafeteria /auditorium where all meals are prepared. A new innovation for dispensing milk in plastic bags has reduced, by one-half, the amount of waste going to the Kings Waste and Recycling Authority facility. The school has a Free/Reduced/Breakfast/Lunch Program with 50 percent of the student body eligible for free/reduced meals. The cafeteria/auditorium has student art on display with ribbons displayed for the various winners selected by the Kings Art Center.

There is a main computer lab with capacity for 35 computers, two computers were down at the time of our visit. Seventh and eighth grades use the lab three times per week, the rest, kindergarten through sixth grade use is once per week.

The library consists of two portable classrooms made permanent. The buildings have been renovated and well lighted with several large windows and overhead fluorescent lights. The school utilizes an Accelerated Reader Program with color coded books, this program appears to have helped raise SAT 9 reading scores. Part of the school's Migrant Student Program is books on tape in which both student and parent can read along in both English and Spanish.

All students are taken on field trips each quarter, i.e. Fresno Metropolitan Museum, train trips, Sun Maid Raisin plant, and various other interesting places. Students with high academic achievement and behavior earn additional trips. All trips are paid for through student council, math-a-thon and the Tiger Society.

The school does not have an Art Program or Music Program. They do have a Special Resource Program with 16 students. These students, once evaluated, can spend from 5 percent to 50 percent of the educational day with special academic assistance.

The Mid Valley Alternative Charter School is located on the Kit Carson campus. Parents and students come to the Mid Valley School every two weeks to receive materials, receive guidance and check progress of students. There is a Pee-Wee (kindergarten through third) 4-H program supported by the Kit Carson Fire Department.

The main form of communication from the school to the home is "The Mid-Week Message". This message is sent home with students every Wednesday of the school year with the exception of the first and last week. The school sends no other school wide communications; therefore, they encourage each child to bring this publication home every week. The school has a website with excellent links

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Inform parents and students of school website and educational links.
2. The school is encouraged to proceed with its "Face-Lift" program.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Lakeside Elementary School
Lakeside Union Elementary School District
9100 Jersey Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-2868

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
February 14, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The current Lakeside Elementary School was built in 1953 and reconstructed during the period 1989-1991. Lakeside is a fourth through eighth grade school. The school consists of thirteen classrooms and three portable classrooms. The portable classrooms are used as follows; one is used for the school band, one is used as a Title 3 (English as a Second Language) classroom and the third is used as a staff lounge. The school has an auditorium which doubles as a cafeteria.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Principal for a brief question and answer period, followed by a tour of the school and grounds. The school has 236 students with an ethnic breakdown as follows; 54 percent Hispanic, 19 percent Caucasian, 15 percent African American, 11 percent Asian, and 4 students of Native American descent.

The Lakeside School Staff consists of fourteen Certified Teachers (only one of which is bilingual), ten Instructional Aides (four of which are bilingual) and an office staff of four. The Custodial Staff consists of one afternoon/evening custodian who cleans the school, four bus drivers who double as groundskeepers at both Lakeside and Gardenside Schools and one Maintenance/Operations and Transportation Manager who fills in where needed. The Committee was informed that 100 percent of the students are bussed to school daily.

The cafeteria at Lakeside prepares the food for both Lakeside and Gardenside Schools. The hot food is delivered to Gardenside School by truck, in a steam table, which maintains the proper temperature during delivery and also serves as a serving table. The cafeteria staff consists of one manager/server and two cooks/servers. The day the Committee visited Lakeside the cafeteria was well maintained and the food was very appealing. The principal informed the Committee that 95 percent of the students were on the free/reduced lunch program and that the school serves approximately 115 breakfasts daily.

The library consists of approximately 6000 books and 400 videos and is in the process of upgrading the check out system to a new computer system. The new Accelerated Reading Program is being implemented at this time and will soon be completed. This program allows students to choose books that are color coded to their own reading level.

There is a television and VCR in each classroom and each classroom has five to six computers. The computer lab has 30 computers available, all are Apple IMAC's. The school spends approximately \$4,850 per year on each student.

The playground equipment was in serviceable condition although appeared to be quite old. The principal informed the Committee that the equipment receives safety inspections at least twice a year, and had just recently been inspected. The grounds were in good condition. The Committee noticed that there were several old outside drinking fountains that were no longer in use, that had a very unsightly appearance and should be removed and the pipes capped off, as there are drinking fountains inside each classroom.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Remove old drinking fountains and cap pipes.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Gardenside Elementary School
9615 Temple Drive
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-3792

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 10, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Gardenside Elementary School was constructed in 1966. There are 13 regular classrooms, three portables and a cafetorium serving kindergarten through third grade. Gardenside houses grades kindergarten through third with students continuing on to grades four through eight at Lakeside Elementary School. Over the last several years the 36-year old buildings and grounds have had some renovations. Improvements include complete replacement of the central heating and cooling system, re-roofing, painting, installation of sprinkler systems and timers, fencing and planting of trees. Their library is currently undergoing an upgrade in both quantity and quality of available books for the students.

FINDINGS:

Upon the committee's arrival, the principal was conducting school business, upon completion of his business the principal conducted a tour of the facilities. The Principal of Gardenside Elementary School is also the Principal of Lakeside Elementary School as well as the Superintendent of the Lakeside School District. Gardenside Elementary School currently has 191 students. The ethnic breakdown of Gardenside Elementary School is Hispanic (41.6%); Caucasian (22.3%); African American (20.8%); Asian (13.4%); other (1.9%). Each certificated teacher has 18 students. Since each classroom has an instructional aide assigned, the adult-to-student ratio is 1:9. Gardenside also has two certificated teachers (Spanish-speaking) and five bilingual instructional aides, (two Spanish-speaking, two Hmong-speaking and one Portuguese-speaking) to provide native language support and instruction to their limited-English-proficient students. With 70% of their students qualifying for Title 1, there is a full-time Title 1 teacher who works with those that meet program criteria in math, reading and/or language arts. These are only a few of many special supportive services available to the students. At present, there is a minimum of three computers in each classroom and it is anticipated that an additional computer will be added to each classroom by the end of the current school year.

The library has an Accelerated Reader Program where each book in the library is color coded as to grade level. The children check out a book and read it, then the child is tested on the book in the classroom and the results are entered into the computer for credit towards the Governor's Reading Award. Gardenside Elementary School won this award this past year that carries a \$5,000 first place prize.

We found that 90% of the students qualified for a free/reduced breakfast and lunch program.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Committee feels that there should be a way of obtaining funds for new playground equipment, which is badly needed.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Lemoore Elementary School
573 Bush Street
Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 924-6820

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 24, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Lemoore Elementary School, kindergarten through sixth grades, is located on 16 acres in the central section of Lemoore. The student population is approximately 600 students with the following ethnic makeup, 37 percent Caucasian, 50 percent Hispanic, 9 percent African American, 2 percent Filipino, 2 percent Native American and 4 Others. The staff includes 38 certified persons (32 teachers and 6 other certified employees). In addition, there are 28 full and part time employees. The campus includes 29 permanent and seven portable classrooms. There is also the Lyndon B. Johnson Head Start facility being operated on the grounds by the Kings Community Action Organization. There is one Shelly Baird classroom on campus.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Principal who conducted the tour of the campus. All students walk to school except handicapped which are mostly bussed.

The library includes a computer lab and teacher work area. The computer lab contains 30 computers none over two and a half years old. The classes are scheduled regularly to work in the lab. The library contains reading material from pre-kindergarten through eighth grades in many languages. There are over 40,000 books that are checked in and out by computers.

The cafeteria has a fully equipped kitchen and serves breakfast and lunch daily. Breakfast is served to approximately 106 students mostly free or reduced. Lunch is served to approximately 400, about 335 are free or reduced. There is a choice of salad bar or regular meal during lunch. Lunch is served over three periods.

The Committee visited several classrooms that were large, clean, well organized and uncluttered. All rooms are equipped with televisions, VCRs, overhead projectors, three to four computers and at least one printer. The lower grades have listening posts. All computers are hooked up to the Internet.

There are four incentive programs at the school: one is given by individual teachers to their classes; one quarterly assembly with awards for attendance and academic achievement for grades four through six; a GPA Club, which has incentives for students

to raise their grade point averages; and the teachers have awards for various different "attaboys" for general classroom behavior and citizenship.

Touring the campus the following was also noticed, all restrooms were clean and well stocked. There are two water fountains on campus that are defective. One fountain near room 6 of the Lincoln Building has something obstructing the fountain head. One fountain in the cafeteria is inoperative. Several gutters were leaking around campus. The playgrounds are well kept and the sand was replaced by wood chips under the playground equipment. They have recently added new benches and picnic tables, with more benches still in the near future to be added. They have recently replaced trees which were diseased and infested.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Repair drinking fountains.

COMMENTS: The school has a weather lab station connected to Channel 24 television, that is presently off-air awaiting upgrade.

AREA OF INQUIRY: Meadow Lane Elementary School
325 Meadow Lane
Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 924-6840

REPORTING COMMITTEE: Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Informational Tour
January 31, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Meadow Lane Elementary School is approximately 35 years old, and was renovated in 1998. The school has about 660 students kindergarten through sixth grade. Approximately 200 students transferred to the new Cinnamon Elementary School, which opened this school year. There are thirty teachers and twenty-nine classified employees including three maintenance employees. There are a total of thirty-two classrooms, a library, computer lab, office, staff room, cafeteria, resource specialist lab and a speech lab. Kindergarten through third grade ratio is twenty to one or less. The ethnic balance is fifty percent Hispanic, thirty percent Caucasian, ten percent African American, eight percent Filipino and two percent other.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Vice-Principal and the Assistant Superintendent of the Lemoore Elementary School District. There are three pre-service staff development days held before school starts in the fall. Teachers also have voluntary in service after school, during the year. Every year for the past four the SAT-9 scores have risen. There are five academic coaches, certificated teachers, which work with students similar to athletic coaches. The Vice-Principal took the Committee on a tour of the school.

First the Cafeteria was visited which is also used as a multi-purpose room. The kitchen was well kept, neat and clean. There was a sign in the cafeteria that stated the Kings County Environmental Health Services Report was available on request. We asked for and were shown the report. The cafeteria on average serves 120 to 130 breakfasts and 480 lunches of which ninety percent are free or reduced.

The computer lab has 23 computers and one networked printer. The lab is small, crowded and used to store the video library for the school. The computer lab technician works five hours a day. Classes are scheduled in 40-minute periods. The lab is not open to students before or after school.

The library is small and crowded. There are 37,000 items checked out yearly, this includes videos, video equipment, maps, globes along with books and magazines. Reading level is from kindergarten through high school. The library holds a book fair

twice a year that brings in money for the library, one thing recently purchased was a rug map of the world.

The classroom visited was large with plenty of space for students. There is a portable library in each room, which is checked out through the library. Each classroom contains a television, VCR, an overhead projector and an average of five computers. Recently twenty-five computers were purchased. All computers are hooked up to the internet. The water fountain in the classroom visited does not shut off automatically. There is an Emergency Folder posted by the door, which contained several different class rosters.

The bathrooms visited, had the following discrepancies: in the girl's bathroom near room 23, no water in one sink, there was no soap in the dispenser, the automatic hand dryer was inoperative and no paper towel holder was present. One water fountain near room eleven was inoperative.

The wing with the office and rooms three through six has a rain gutter with no downspout. The water just runs out of one end of the gutter onto the sidewalk.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Move or enlarge the size of both the library and the computer lab.
2. Repair bathroom faucets and fixtures. Keep soap dispensers filled.
3. Put in a downspout.
4. Update rosters in emergency folders in classrooms.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Pioneer Union Elementary School
8810 14th Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-8831

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Interview & Tour
January 17, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Pioneer Union Elementary School was originally built, on this site, in 1852 and can be considered a true pioneer school. The old school was razed and rebuilt in 1950 with modernization periodically since. Pioneer Union Elementary District became the first district in California to be granted Charter status. The Pioneer Charter promotes a strong parent, student and teacher relationship.

The school recently relocated and permanently placed all temporary classrooms, 35 classrooms are currently being used for this purpose. One classroom is being used for Shelly Baird students. There are two computer laboratories with 30 to 32 computers in each. All students receive weekly training in the use of computers.

The school currently has 730 students (80 percent Caucasian and 20 percent mixed Asian, Hispanic and African American) in Kindergarten through fifth grade with a budget of five to six million dollars. The staff includes 35 certified classroom teachers, including a music teacher and a resource specialist. The teachers are supported by bilingual aides, classroom aides, two aides for English Second Language, and learning Impaired Program and two librarians.

Class size for kindergarten though third grade is 20 or less, grade's four and five are 27 to 28 students. As the students arrive each day they are greeted by a smile and a friendly Principal or teacher to guide them to where the students need to go.

FINDINGS:

The Committee interviewed the District Superintendent and was conducted, by the Vice-Principal, on a tour of the campus. The buildings were all recently painted and the grounds well maintained. Grade levels are grouped Kindergarten through Third, Fourth through Fifth, with play areas by each classroom grouping.

There is a preschool classroom and playground subsidized by the State, located next to the library. The library has books from picture books through 7th and 8th grade level. The library has a "Page Turner Club" where students are listed by colored dots for reading level.

The school has one classroom devoted to Art Enrichment. All grades get formal instruction at least once per week.

There is positive learning environment with a weekly curriculum of lessons in Conflict Resolution. This program teaches students skills to solve social issues in a respectful manner. Student achievement is recognized for academics and good behavior. An activity is planned to reward responsible students each Friday.

The school has a gymnasium/cafeteria/activities auditorium. There is a Free/Reduced Lunch Program and approximately 20 percent of the students in the district qualify. There is no Breakfast Program. All meals are prepared in the cafeteria, which was spotlessly clean. Once a quarter the gymnasium is used for family night for carnival, magic shows and other assembly programs. There is a concession stand separate from the cafeteria where students may purchase snacks (notably health food items).

The Committee was informed that once each quarter parents are invited to view all lost and found items, i.e., clothing etc. These items are hung along the fence next to the office. This method has proven very successful in reclaiming lost items and is quite colorful when viewed while passing by.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Pioneer Middle School
101 W. Pioneer Way
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-0112

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 10, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Pioneer Middle School is part of the Pioneer Union School District and is located in north Hanford. Construction of Pioneer Middle School was completed in the Fall of 2000, serving sixth, seventh and eighth grades. There are 24 classrooms, a band room, cafeteria, a gymnasium/auditorium and a media center. There are currently 388 students enrolled, 50 percent Caucasian, 30 percent Hispanic and 20 percent Asian and African-American.

Pioneer Union School District is the first charter school district in California. This allows the school to function in a similar manner to a Private School, only with public funding. By making literacy a priority, the Pioneer staff believes that students will achieve better in all academic areas. Thus Pioneer Middle School is rated fifth in the valley.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Assistant-Principal who conducted a tour of the campus. He stated that "they have a nurse visit once a week and some of the office staff have had special medical training as well".

The cafeteria was undergoing expansion construction to provide inside seating for all students. All meals are prepared fresh daily in the cafeteria. We noted a large display of student art work posted on the walls. The staff has found this to be beneficial to school morale. There also was a snack bar where students may purchase various food items during recess break.

The gymnasium is large enough to accommodate two full size basketball courts, with soft floor covering through out. The "gym" is also used as their auditorium with a stage for special assembly performances and other programs.

Adjacent to the gymnasium is the media center. There are 32 computers in the laboratory portion, of a well stocked library.

The band room is in a separate building, which is large enough to accommodate 50 to 60 students. The band program is small and extra curricular, it is strictly voluntary for after school, same as athletics.

There are four classrooms devoted to Art and Science. The school strongly believes in the "core" class program which is basically: Language Arts, Math, Science and History. Every student is required to take these courses, they are not required to take Spanish after the fifth grade.

The Committee noted the students to be very courteous and trustworthy. Students backpacks were left outside the classrooms without fear of being violated or stolen.

Faculty members follow through on any and all disciplinary action, the teachers care! At the time of our visit, one half to two thirds of the students, were on a field trip because of above average academic performance. The school also has a minimum day on Wednesdays, in which classes end at 2:15 P.M. to allow the teachers to collaborate and/or receive additional instruction.

Pioneer Middle School has a co-op agreement with Chapman University for use of several classrooms for night classes and this arrangement has worked well with the school. The campus was clean (except for the construction area) of any trash and the grounds were well maintained.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

What especially impressed us was the courteousness and trust worthiness of the students.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Avenal Elementary School
Tamarack Elementary School
500 South First Street
Avenal, CA 93204
(559) 386-5173

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
November 8, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Avenal Elementary School was constructed in 1939-1940 with major renovations completed in 1999. A second elementary school is under construction for completion in spring 2002, this school is named Tamarack Elementary. Avenal Elementary presently has 645 students enrolled kindergarten through fifth grade. There are also approximately 434 students enrolled in Tamarack Elementary School which has portable classrooms on this campus. Grades kindergarten through third have implemented the 20 to 1 student teacher ratio and fourth and fifth grades averages 30 to 1 ratio. There are 30 teachers (all credentialed) 18 aides, 17 support staff including one Resource Specialty Program teacher, one Special Day Class teacher, a nurse and nurse clerk. There are seven custodians, three day time and four evening, with one day time assigned to grounds keeping.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the principal and the principal's secretary in the teachers lounge. We were given a map of the school and then conducted on a tour of the school. The ethnic break down for the students is 90 percent Hispanic and 10 percent Caucasian and African American. All students receive free breakfast and lunch. The meals are prepared on site in the main cafeteria which then transports meals to a secondary dining hall for kindergarten and first grade students, this dining hall is also used as a multipurpose room. Fourth and fifth grade students assist in serving in both dining areas.

The school has 28 classrooms and 17 portable classrooms; the Tamarack students are using 16 of the portables with the 17th being used for Community Day School. The Community Day School serves second to sixth grade students who have been expelled from regular classes, currently there are seven students.

There are two computer laboratories, one has 30 computers, 1 scanner, 2 printers and internet hookup, used primarily by fourth and fifth grades. The other has 20 computers and one printer. It is utilized for creative endeavors where teachers bring students one period weekly.

Kindergarten is half day with A.M. and P.M. classes. There is a pre-school area adjacent to the kindergarten classrooms.

All classrooms are equipped with media equipment; overhead projector, VCR, television monitor and projector screens with at least one computer per classroom. Starting with the first grades, teachers are bilingual and students can speak some English, reading and writing all Spanish; however, math and social studies are English and reviewed in Spanish. The school has an extensive bilingual program, English Emergence and English as a Second Language program. There are special day classes for migrant families in the migrant center.

The school has a Psychologist for testing by referral from teachers and/or parents. The severely handicapped are bussed to Shelly Baird in Hanford.

There is a full time nurse's clerk daily and a Registered Nurse one day per week.

The school SAT 9 test results are up 5 percent over previous years. A Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) officer teaches the fifth grade students one day per week. A Gang Resistance Education Awareness Training (GREAT) Program is taught by the Probation Officer to the second through fourth grades weekly.

The school was neat and clean except the walkway covers need to be repaired and painted. Room 18 had dirty flags and questionable flag etiquette. One bathroom visited was void of hand soap and the sink in need of repairs. The fire extinguisher bracket in the office did not have a fire extinguisher in place.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair and paint walkway covers.
2. Replace flags in Room 18.
3. Be sure all bathrooms have soap in the dispensers and sinks in adequate repair.
4. Locate and mount fire extinguisher in office.

COMMENTS:

The Committee noted for a 60 plus year old school, the grounds were neat and the cafeterias clean and modern.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Avenal High School
601 East Mariposa Street
Avenal, CA 93204
(559) 386-5253

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
November 8, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Avenal High School was built in 1937. The west wing of the high school was remodeled during the 1974-1975 school year, five years ago the halls were remodeled, four classrooms changed by adding drop ceilings and central heat. Major changes are occurring in the Agriculture Department. A bus barn has been converted to agriculture classes and a laboratory.

The school has a theater with a seating capacity of one thousand people. The Avenal State Prison has helped in the repairing of theater seats and has used fabric resembling the original seats.

At the time of the Committee's visit, student enrollment was 533 in grades nine through twelve. The High school staff consists of a Principal, Vice Principal, Athletic Director, two Counselors, forty-three staff members, five Custodians and one Groundskeeper. A Sheriff's Substation is located on the school campus. The ethnic breakdown is four hundred ninety six Hispanics, twenty-eight Caucasian, eight African-American and one Asian-Indian.

FINDINGS:

The Committee interviewed the Principal and was given a tour of the campus. During the first week of school the students are given a Blue Book on rules of the school. Both the students and parents are encouraged to sign the book and return the page that is a contract. The signing of this contract demonstrates that both parties have read the agreement and will follow the rules.

The school uses what they call the Academic Passport Program, students are given a binder with an assignment planner to keep track of their homework. This informs the parents of the student's homework. The school operates on trimesters. Incoming Freshmen use a program called Career Path to help prepare for their college career based on their interests. After school tutoring is mandatory for those who fail basic Math, Science, English, or Social Studies in the first reporting period of their freshman and sophomore years, to keep them from falling behind. The Academic Recovery Program offers a seventh period class, before summer school or during Christmas break after a student has failed. (This program helps the student to graduate).

The school is equipped with five computer laboratories with one more planned for next year. At any one time there is a total of one hundred to one hundred twenty computers hooked to the Internet. There are two computers in each class for the students and one laptop per teacher. At present, the computer used by the Library is a Hewlett-Packard, using Athena soft -ware for the general library and Eureka software for students to search for job opportunities and other research materials. The library will be upgraded to Dell Computers in the near future. This program will allow access to over 150 reference magazines. There is a full time computer technician available to the students for assistance with their questions.

The cafeteria serves free breakfast and lunch to all students who are encouraged to eat. The free meals are a federally funded program. Breakfast is served after the first period because the school found that more students would eat if they didn't have to arrive early. Three hundred and seventy seven students are now eating breakfast, compared to one hundred and fifty when breakfast was being served before school. The school has discovered that students really do function better when they eat breakfast. Eighty percent of the students eat lunch. The cafeteria can serve the students in eleven minutes, however seating is limited and the students must find a place to eat wherever they can. Seniors are the only students that are allowed to leave campus and only if their grades are good.

While touring the campus the Committee noticed that the students had no fear of leaving their book bags in the hall, on tables or just about anywhere. We were told that because of the sheriff Substation on campus theft and crime have virtually disappeared.

The school has a Continuation Day School which presently has fifteen students.

Additions will be added to the school, classrooms and a new ball field. The school will have a new gymnasium with a projected completion date in the fall of 2002.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Provide more seating area for the students to eat their meals.

COMMENTS:

The students were polite and appropriately dressed. A Sheriff Substation has made a positive change on the campus.

SUMMARY

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Health and Education Committee of the 2001-2002 Kings County Grand Jury started the year with only six members. One juror was later added and the Foreman, Foreman Pro Tem and Sergeant-at-Arms generously volunteered to serve. The Committee was undaunted throughout the year in its' pursuit of performing all the visitations it was determined needed to be made. As a result a total of 46 visitations and interviews were made and 44 final reports were written. Some visits this year were follow-ups on the recommendations of the 2000-2001 Grand Jury.

Even though most of the visits were unannounced, the Committee usually found the sites were able to accommodate us. Although some visits had to be rescheduled, because of unforeseen problems arising, in general we found everyone to be very cooperative.

As a result of two visitations some concerns were addressed early in the year. We felt the worn carpet in Mary Brock Hall could be dangerous for senior citizens, and the public in general, if they should trip on it. A call was placed to Building Maintenance and within a few days the carpet was replaced. In classroom 507 of John F. Kennedy Junior High School there was an odor that seemed to be coming from the carpet. A call to the Maintenance Department of Hanford Union Elementary School District resulted in the carpet being thoroughly wet-cleaned and aired during the Thanksgiving break. All parties are happy the problem seems to be taken care of.

Innumerable hours were spent by this Committee in performance of their tasks. The Committee was split into three Sub-committees during the months of January and February and each was assigned a weekly visit. Our motto during those months was "One Visit-One Report" weekly. All the Committees performed their tasks and turned in their reports more-or-less on schedule.

In traveling throughout Kings County we noted the new schools and have added them to the Visitations Log for the benefit of succeeding committees.

As Chairman, I very much appreciate the hard work the Committee has done this past year. Not only did they work hard, put in long hours and write reports they also showed good humor and high morale at all times. Thank you very much.

Norma McGuire, Chairperson
Jim Rohrkemper, Assistant Chairperson
Marvin Costa
Patricia Crouch
Roger Griner

Fred Lawall
Glen Myers
Shawn Poirier
Jack Rea
Quinton Ross

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Avenal State Prison
One Kings Way
Avenal, CA 93204
(559) 386-0587

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 22, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Avenal State Prison (ASP) was the first institution constructed during the Prison Growth Era of the 1980's and 1990's. It was the first prison solicited by a local community and is located on the former site of the Tachi tribe of Yokuts Indians. When it opened in 1987, ASP was the first all-new prison built in California in twenty years. The institution was originally known as California State Prison Avenal. On February 22, 1988, it was officially named Avenal State Prison.

ASP is a Level II institution that originally had 17 dormitory housing units for general population inmates. It was designed for a capacity of 2,320 inmates. Due to the large influx of felons committed to the California Department of Corrections in recent years, the institution was enlarged to the current capacity of 6,919 beds. The inmate population has continued to grow and six two-hundred-bed dormitories have been built, one on each facility, to alleviate overcrowding. When in full occupancy, ASP will house 6,978 inmates. ASP has a total staffing of 1,458.

The following programs are available to inmates: visual art classes, including abstract painting, printmaking, drawing and ceramics; music classes, including the guitar, harmonica, choral music and drama; and literary classes, including poetry and prose.

Any artwork created by prison inmates in these programs is offered to the public at special sales, some of which is displayed at state government buildings.

FINDINGS:

We especially enjoyed visiting the industries on our tour of ASP. There are a number of vocational programs at ASP. First we visited the Vocational Auto Body Upholstery and Vocational Auto Body Training programs. Participants learn their craft from beginning to end, rather than concentrating on a single phase. This makes them more employable when they leave the prison.

The wood production enterprise was most impressive part of our tour of the inmate industry. The wood production enterprise trains inmates to use state-of-the art furniture manufacturing equipment which was highly computerized. We were impressed with the

complexity of the equipment and the professionalism of the inmates who operate it. The end products, beautiful desks, tables, chairs and countertops, are sold to other agencies. All the wood work has a five year guarantee.

We visited the infirmary, which has twenty eight beds, with facilities for isolation and administrative segregation. The infirmary operates on a 24-hour basis. Important surgical procedures are performed at contracting facilities outside prison walls.

Next we visited the poultry processing plant. The prison formerly raised its own chickens, but it has become more economical to purchase local chickens already dressed. The poultry processing plant runs two shifts to process fryers, quick freeze them and then ship them to other state institutions. A recent innovation has been the introduction of boneless chicken strips, which can be served stir-fried with various seasonings.

Finally we toured the egg production facility. It has multiple barns of egg-laying hens and produces shell eggs, frozen egg product and fresh egg product for California Department of Corrections Institutions. We found the barn we visited surprisingly clean, and the chickens well-cared for. The supervisor told us that every egg is inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a more stringent inspection schedule than commonly used for supermarket eggs. We learned about a relatively new product, a form of liquid fresh eggs that keeps for weeks. Prison Industry Authority (PIA) produces about 100,000 eggs each day.

Eggs are washed, candled, weighed, packaged and distributed statewide within seven working days. In eleven years of on time orders PIA has had no complaints on the quality of the eggs.

Also available are vocational landscaping, printing and drafting classes.

The highlight of our tour was an excellent lunch prepared by inmates. We enjoyed the company of the Warden and his staff while sampling several varieties of chicken strips processed at the prison. We were told that the prisoners were fed the same food, including dessert.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

California State Prison-Corcoran
3001 King Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-8800

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 15, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

California State Prison-Corcoran (CSP-Corcoran) is located in Kings County near the City of Corcoran, CSP-Corcoran is built on the site of Tulare Lake, on land that once belonged to the Tachi Tribe of Native Americans. The prison grounds cover 942 acres, with 63 acres fenced. The prison facility itself consists of 1,678,000 square feet. CSP-Corcoran houses its inmates at three levels of security: Level I, where inmates are allowed to leave the prison on work details and similar assignments; Level III, where prisoners are allowed to leave the immediate vicinity of their cells to take part in vocational training and other schooling, but not to leave the prison itself; Level IV, where prisoners are too violent to be released into the general prison population. Level IV prisoners are housed in Security Housing Units (SHU). Level I consists of camp-type setting with dormitories. Level III cells are six feet by 11 feet. Level IV cells are slightly larger (6.5 feet by 12.5) because the inmates are confined to them most of the time. These cells are in the SHU. The total living space for prisoners is approximately 665,348 square feet.

Like other modern California State Prisons, CSP-Corcoran is circular in design, so that if problems with inmates arise, security personnel can respond quickly to all areas. The electrified fences at CSP-Corcoran are powerful enough to deter any attempt to escape over the fence. Seventy mill amperes is enough to kill; the fence at CSP-Corcoran has 650 mill amperes.

CSP-Corcoran presently employs 1794 people. Of these, 1240 are correctional employees and 554 are ancillary or support. The annual budget is \$115,000,000.

Many vocational skills are taught to level III inmates at CSP-Corcoran, such as dry cleaning, upholstery repair, woodworking, computer, electronics, electrical maintenance and automotive trades. Inmates who have attained journeyman level of a trade are paid a small hourly wage. Items made in these classes are sold, and the proceeds go into a fund to pay the instructors and purchase materials.

Each inmate is provided three meals per day, two hot meals and one sack lunch. These total approximately 3,200 calories per day. CSP-Corcoran has a 96-bed acute-care

hospital with two emergency rooms and two operating rooms. It covers 65,000 square feet and cost \$20 million to build. Inmates that cannot be treated at the prison where they are incarcerated are taken to CSP-Corcoran for medical care.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Chief Deputy Warden at CSP-Corcoran for a presentation on the prison and its policies. CSP-Corcoran, like all California State Prisons, has a no hostage policy. The policy means that if anyone is taken hostage, the prison staff will not bargain with inmates for them.

The Committee was extremely impressed with the Acting Warden and his administrative assistants. The Acting Warden has been employed by the California prison systems for over twenty years. The officers run and control the prison. However, according to the Acting Warden, if any officer mistreats or abuses his power over inmates he is disciplined immediately. He stated he has a no-nonsense policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

California Substance Abuse
Treatment Facility and
State Prison at Corcoran
900 Quebec Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-7100

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 15, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The mission of California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran (CSATF/SP) is to provide long-term housing and services for men who have been convicted of felonies and remanded to the state for incarceration and also to provide intensive substance abuse treatment for inmates.

Ground breaking on CSATF/SP began in May 1995, activation of the finished facility took place August 4, 1997. It was the thirty-third prison built in California.

Due to space limitations, this institution was built in a rectangular configuration, departing from the "New Prison" concept. The New Prison concept places units in an array around a central administrative unit so that problems with inmates can be dealt with in a timely fashion.

CSATF/SP building design is set up in four clusters, each with a central hub that allows greater security. Each cluster has group meeting rooms, counselor offices, classrooms and two separate tiers of six four-man dormitories.

Inmates requiring treatment in the area of mental health, in-patient care and respiratory illnesses are housed in 40 individualized rooms in the correctional treatment center.

CSATF/SP Corcoran has the largest substance abuse treatment facility in the United States. It covers 280 acres and 1,600,000 square feet with a perimeter of 2.8 miles of electrified fence. Inmates are confined in all four levels of security, from minimum to maximum. Currently there are 6,122 inmates and 1,582 employees. The facility is designed to hold 3,600 inmates. It is projected to have 7,500 in the near future.

FINDINGS:

The Warden and his Administrative Assistant briefed the Committee concerning the operations of the facility and treatment of inmates. We learned a separate area is provided for geriatric inmates, the handicapped and weaker prisoners suffering from various diseases.

Two contractors provide drug and substance abuse treatment: Walden House, Inc. and Phoenix House of California. Counseling is available seven days a week in various fields of treatment. CSATF/SP provides a comprehensive six-to-eighteen month program to inmates with a minimum of twenty hours of treatment per week for each inmate.

The drug treatment program at CSATF/SP consists of four phases: Orientation, Therapeutic Community, Pre-reentry and Aftercare.

Inmates participate in a broad range of programming each day:

1. Individual and group substance abuse counseling
2. Relapse prevention education
3. Living skills workshop
4. Anger management
5. Family services programming
6. Changing criminal thought processes
7. Discharge/exit treatment planning
8. Re-entry planning
9. Pre-vocational and vocational services
10. HIV/AIDS Education
11. Random urinalysis
12. Twelve step support groups
13. Academic Education
14. Religious Programs

Vocational education and training in many fields are offered to inmates to learn trades that will benefit them upon release from prison. There are 22 different trades offered.

The Committee did learn of one problem at CSATF/SP, due to the great distances between facilities, correctional personnel find it difficult to get to areas that need immediate attention. The maximum distance from one end of CSATF/SP is 1.3 miles. This may present a problem when immediate medical assistance is needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Administrative Assistant of CSATF/SP for an interesting and informative tour.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Fire Department
280 N. Campus Drive
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211, Ext. 2881

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law & Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tours
January 28, 2002
February 11, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Kings County has a fire chief and an Emergency Service Coordinator. Kings County has a total of eleven fire stations divided into three battalions:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Battalion No. 2 | Battalion No. 3 | Battalion No. 4 |
| Island | Kettleman City | Guernsey |
| Burriss Park | Avenal | Kit Carson |
| Hardwick | Stratford | Corcoran |
| Armona | South Lemoore | |

Each battalion has a battalion chief and training officer. Training goes on year-round for all personnel. New recruits are trained for six to seven weeks prior to station assignment.

The Kings County Fire Department is represented by two unions; the California State Fire Fighters Association and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

All firemen have a schedule of 48 hours on and 48 hours off. This is a 72-hour workweek. A law mandated from Cal-OSHA now requires "two men in-two men out" policy. No fireman is to enter a burning building until there are four men on the scene (two men outside and two men to enter). All must be qualified firemen.

FINDINGS:

STATION #1: Burriss Park, 6575 Clinton Avenue, Kingsburg, CA 93631, (559) 582-2733. This station built in 1987, is a one-man station, with six volunteers. The engine that was expected in 1998 has arrived. The station had approximately 250 calls in 2001.

STATION #2: Hardwick, 14680 Excelsior Avenue, Hanford, CA 93230, (559) 582-4698. The main room was immaculate. This room is also used for community services meetings. Station-2 Truck, a small one ton truck is equipped with "Jaws of Life", a defibrillator and medical first-aid equipment.

STATION #3: Kit Carson, 9522 Sixth Avenue, Hanford, CA 93230 (559) 582-4042.
This station is a one-man station. The station has a Captain and one engineer on alternating shifts. There are 18 volunteers with only three active volunteers. The County is still intending to combine the Kit Carson and Guernsey Fire Stations at the new location on Houston and Highway 43.

STATION #5: Armona, 11235 14th Avenue, Armona, CA 93202, (559) 584-5206.
The Committee visited as a follow-up to the Grand Jury Recommendations of 2000-2001 and was advised that all have been met.

STATION #6: Island, 7735 21st Avenue, Lemoore, Ca 93245, (559) 924-2150.
This one-man station has a volunteer list of which only about half the members are active at any one time because their job requirements limit their response. There is a total of nine volunteers which meet two times a month for training. Station No. 6 has three fire engines. This station responds to an average of 237 calls per year.

STATION #7 Lemoore, 1259 S. Lemoore Avenue, Lemoore, CA 93245, (559) 924-2626.
This is a one-man station and has 13 volunteer fire fighters on call. At the time of the visit this station had responded to 68 calls for the month of January. The volunteers meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Two engines were donated by the Palace Indian Gaming Center.

STATION #8 Guernsey, 17160 S.10th Avenue, Hanford, CA 93230 (559) 582-0024.
This is a one-man station with 12 volunteers, which have responded to 700 calls in 2001. This station has a thermo imaging camera provided by donations from the community at no cost to the county. This allows detection of the presence of a person located inside without actually having to enter the building. This station is the only station that has received a supply of fire retardant F-500 foam.

STATION #9 Kettleman City, 109 Brown Street, Kettleman City, CA 93239, (559) 386-5338.
This is a two-man station, which has four volunteers who responded to approximately 400 calls in 2001, 75% being medical and I-5 traffic related.

STATION #10 Stratford, 20300 Main Street, Stratford, CA 93266, (559) 947-3012.
This station is a one-man station having two fire captains alternating shifts and 14 volunteers. They responded to over 200 calls in 2001, 75% being medical emergencies.

STATION #11 Corcoran, 1033 Chittenden Avenue, Corcoran, CA 93212, (559) 992-2156.
The response to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury report is that there is discussion with the City of Corcoran regarding the need for a ladder truck.

STATION #12 Avenal, 516 Fresno Street, Avenal, CA 93204, (559) 386-5555.

This is a two-man station with a nine member volunteer force. In 2001 this station responded to 596 calls, 80% being medical calls. Avenal volunteers meet two times a month for training and one time a month for business meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County District Attorney
Family Support Division
525 W. Third Street
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 Ext. 4163

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Interview
March 4, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Kings County District Attorney Family Support Division is composed of the director, three lawyers and seventy-nine full-time employees. The office's four functions are:

1. Establishment of responsibility for support of children
2. Enforcement
3. Collections and disbursement
4. Legal and clerical

There are three compliance and standards officers, which are management positions, fully paid by the state, whose overall responsibility is assuring division compliance with Federal and State regulations.

FINDINGS:

The Interim Director of the Family Support Division met with the Committee in the Grand Jury Chambers. The Committee was informed that services of the Family Support Division are available to any parent who needs help in establishing a support obligation or collecting child support payments. The non-custodial parent can request to make his/her payments through the Family Support Division.

There are generally four ways the Family Support Division (FSD) obtains a case:

1. Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) cases in the Health and Human Services are automatically referred to the FSD.
2. A custodial parent or a non-custodial parent not receiving welfare can request a case to be opened in the FSD.
3. The court may order family support and/or medical support payment to the

FSD for distribution, usually in a divorce.

4. Another jurisdiction, county or state, files a petition with Kings County's FSD to establish a court order or enforce an existing order.

The demand for the services of the Division is high. The Division currently has in excess of 10,000 active cases.

As of July 1, 2002, the Department will be separated from the District Attorney's office. It will become Department of Child Support Services and report directly to the Board of Supervisors. State (34%) and Federal Government (66%) funds this Department. The Department must submit a quarterly budget to the State for its approval. No fees are paid to the Department by the custodial or non-custodial parents. They have a Uniform Reciprocal Agreement with thirty-three countries and all fifty states. Paper work can be done in any state or other country with money collected or dispensed in California.

The Department reviews child support orders every three years to see if support needs to be modified. A computer program, Disso-Master, figures the amount of child support to be paid.

The Division has moved to its new location where it has room to bring in more workers, the old building was too small.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY: Minors Advocate Office
Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 Ext. 4576

REPORTING COMMITTEE: Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Informational Tour
August 27, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Minors Advocate Office was established approximately ten years ago to serve the needs of minors requiring legal assistance in criminal, civil, or Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations.

The staff consists of two attorneys, one clerk, and one investigator.

FINDINGS:

Each attorney may represent only one minor in a particular case. When additional minors are involved, the county hires outside attorneys on a contractual basis. This office represents approximately 95 per cent of minors going to court. The same laws apply to minors 14 years or older, as apply to adults concerning the Three Strikes Law. If the minor is judged "fit" she/he will be judged as a minor, with no jury trial. If the minor is judged "unfit" she/he is judged as an adult with a jury trial. If the crime is serious enough, and the minor is at least sixteen years old, they can be tried as an adult.

The Committee met with an attorney from the office. He indicated there are no cameras anywhere in the office. Each telephone has a panic button. The office area is small enough that employees feel safe.

Since a large percentage of juveniles committing crimes suffer from severe emotional disturbances, they have instituted psychological exams. The psychologist is an expert that renders findings for the court at the sentencing.

There is a high volume of recidivism in the minor citizenship. It costs \$34,000 a year for minors to be sent to California Youth Authority. Attorneys attend seminars yearly to keep current on new laws pertaining to minors.

At the present time there are no group recovery homes in Kings County for minors.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Sheriff's Department
1444 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2993

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tours
October 1, 2001
October 8, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Jail is divided into two separate facilities, the main jail and the branch jail. The total population allowed by the State Board of Corrections is 320 inmates. The current jail population has surpassed that number. This is a combination of sentenced and unsentenced prisoners. Anyone convicted of a felony and sentenced to more than one year can be sent to state prison. If an inmate sues the county due to overcrowded conditions, Federal Court can intervene through a court ordered maximum population cap with the hiring of a master to oversee the population and early release of inmates at the county's expense.

To avoid a federal lawsuit, the Sheriff sued the Board of Supervisors in Kings County Superior Court that resulted in a court order mandating the Sheriff to control the population of the jails through early release of inmates due to overpopulation. The Court Order defines maximum population of cells and order of release by criminal offense.

In 2001 a total of 3,225 inmates participated in the following alternative sentencing programs:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Electronic Monitoring | 580 |
| 2. Adult Offender Work Program | 875 |
| 3. Community Services | 1061 |
| 4. Weekend Work Program | 709 |
| 5. Work Furlough | 0 |

FINDINGS:

The Committee visited the Kings County Sheriff's Department to meet with the Sheriff and tour the jail facilities. The Committee was highly impressed with the people who

manage it. Built in 1964, the main jail is aging, overcrowded and in obvious need of replacement. It does not meet current earthquake standards. Despite state and federal mandates, its population was 380 on the day we visited and reached an all time high of over 400 by mid-September. It was concluded that this jail is totally inadequate to meet the needs of Kings County in the Twenty First Century.

There is only one cell to accommodate handicapped prisoners and insufficient isolation cells for inmates that are too dangerous to be with other inmates. The jail needs a larger block of isolation cells and a modern floor plan to allow more efficient monitoring of prisoners, including those in isolation and the general population.

Because there are no classrooms, inmates in the main jail have limited opportunity to participate in educational, religious and rehabilitation programs.

According to the Sheriff the current facility is too small, old and outdated to be remodeled. Enlarging the jail and making necessary repairs is not financially feasible. The only solution is to build a new jail.

The branch jail, located some distance from the main jail, was built in 1984 with a federal grant to house minimum security prisoners. Recent legislation has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of prisoners requiring maximum security accommodations, so the branch jail has been retrofitted to meet this need. A new addition, opened in 1999, is designed to hold the most violent offenders. The Committee was impressed with the efficient design of the new addition, which enables one officer to monitor the entire area from a control room. It was designed to meet state standards for juvenile detention centers, so it would be turned over to the Kings County Probation Department when a new jail is built.

The branch jail has the facilities to offer opportunities to inmates who wish to improve themselves. Current programs include: Bible study, independent study, high school completion through the General Education Diploma Program, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, drug and alcohol therapy, and computer classes.

The Sheriff is currently seeking solutions to health related problems. He feels the jail needs a 24 hour on-site nurse and the capability to perform psychiatric evaluations more than one day a week. There is one nurse present during the day to administer medications and determine whether inmates need further medical treatment. A doctor is on call to advise the nurse in making these decisions. If prisoners complain of medical problems during the night, deputies must take them to the hospital emergency room, resulting in reduced manpower at the jail. A nurse on site 24 hours a day would solve this problem.

The Sheriff has joined with County Administration, the Chief Probation Officer, members of the Board of Supervisors and a citizens advisory/action committee in seeking funds to construct a new Kings County Jail which would also include Sheriff's Administration, Sheriff's Operations and a Dispatch Center. The construction of a new

facility would have several direct benefits. The new jail will have an increase in bed space and new utilities, as well as a more efficient design, more isolation cells and handicapped access. The Branch Jail will be turned over to Probation for additional juvenile inmate housing. The old Main Jail will be demolished, freeing up the property for development. Combining the Sheriff's Department Divisions into one facility will increase efficiency.

A limited term 0.5 percent sales tax for eight years has been proposed to fund the new jail. It is expected to appear on the March 2002 ballot.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Replace the current jail with a larger one that meets earthquake standards.
2. Have a nurse on duty at all times.
3. The nurse should have the authority to determine if an inmate needs immediate psychiatric assistance.
4. Psychiatric evaluation should be available at all times.

COMMENTS:

The Committee agrees with the Sheriff's suggestion that the county institute a limited term 0.5 percent sales tax for eight years to fund a new jail, providing that the money from this tax is used solely for the purpose of constructing the jail. Kings County desperately needs a new jail, and this appears to be only way we will ever get one. The staff of both facilities is noteworthy for its professionalism and service to the citizens of Kings County.

AREA OF INQUIRY: Chief Deputy Coroner/ Public Administrator
1444 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2821

REPORTING COMMITTEE: Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Informational Tour
August 20, 2001
October 8, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Chief Deputy Coroner, conducts investigations on all violent deaths and deaths for which no attending physician can certify cause. He notifies the next of kin of the death and safeguards property on the body. The Chief Deputy Coroner is appointed by the Sheriff.

FINDINGS

The Committee interviewed the Chief Deputy Coroner and also visited the county morgue. We were advised of investigative techniques and procedures, principles of identification, preservation, and presentation of evidence for use in court. In Kings County the Sheriff is the Coroner. Duties of the Coroner are: Investigate all deaths that appear to be suspicious and occurring within Kings County and to act as Public Administrator. The duties of the Coroner are handled by the Chief Deputy Coroner/Public Administrator, who is appointed by the Sheriff. The incumbent in this position has performed these functions for more than thirty years. He responds to all death scenes, assumes the responsibility for the necessity for autopsy, notifies next of kin, evaluates findings to determine cause of deaths, orders autopsy when necessary and completes death certificates. Under no circumstances can any one remove the body from a crime or accident scene until the Chief Deputy Coroner or his representative is present.

The Committee visited the Kings County Morgue with the newly appointed Chief Deputy Coroner. The morgue is located in the basement of the old county hospital, known as the Kings Building.

The cold box at the morgue has a capacity of 15 to 18 bodies at a temperature of 45 degrees. The Coroner handles approximately 400 deaths per year with 120 requiring autopsies. Autopsies are limited if possible to any questionable death. The pathologist for the autopsies is hired on a per case basis. The normal fee is approximately \$700.00. At times the local mortuaries will use space at the county morgue when their facilities are crowded.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

SUMMARY

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

After the 2001-2002 Grand Jury was impaneled, the Law and Public Safety Committee was formed with ten members. The Committee realized that they had a large obligation and worked hard to perform their duties.

The Committee visited the Sheriff's Department, Coroner and Probation Department (where the 2000-2001 recommendations were curtailed because of budget issues). We also visited the Boot Camp, Female Treatment Center, Juvenile Center, Minor's Advocate and District Attorney Department. We also toured Corcoran Police Department and visited the State Prisons located in Kings County. All the recommendations for the year 2000-2001 have been met.

During the course of the year the Committee interviewed the King's County Sheriff, District Attorney Chief Investigator, Family Support Administrator, Chief Probation Officer and Hanford City Police Chief.

The Committee toured the Sheriff's Department and visited the County Jails. The most critical need we learned was the lack of space for holding prisoners. Voters were asked to approve a one - half percent sales tax increase for eight years to build a new jail facility, the measure was turned down by the voters.

We visited the Kings County Fire Stations. Kit Carson and Guernsey Fire Stations will be combined at the location of Highway 43 and Houston Avenue. Recommendations of the 2000-2001 Grand Jury have been met. Corcoran Fire Station is in negotiations for funds for a new ladder truck. A visit to the Corcoran Police Department verified that all recommendations have been met. A tour of the newly expanded Kings County Animal Control Shelter revealed how well it was maintained. It is operated under the Kings County Sheriff's Department.

As Chairperson, I thank every member of the Committee for their dedication and many hours of hard work.

Joe Curry, Chairperson

Eldora Trigueiro

Jack Rea, Assistant Chairperson

Russell Nail

Kathryn Espino

Quinton Ross

Mitchell Grundbrecher

Dallas Schiewe

Norma R. McGuire

Leonard Silva

AREA OF INQUIRY:

City Of Avenal
919 Skyline Blvd.
Avenal, CA 93024
(559) 386-5766

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tours
August 31, 2001
September 28, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The City of Avenal is an incorporated city in the County of Kings which is located near the Sierra Madre Mountains. It has a population of 8,700 not including 6,919 inmates of the Avenal State Prison. The town was built around the turn of the century when oil was found in the surrounding hills. The administrative staff consists of 27 full-time employees and two part-time employees.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the City Manager, Public Works Director, Director of Planning, and the Finance Director/Administrative Analyst. The financial status has improved steadily under the City Manager and the City has operated in the black for the past seven years. The City Manager has been employed by the City for 17.5 years.

The Director of Public Works has been employed by the city since March 2001. The Public Works Supervisor has seven full-time employees and could use more part-time help. All Public Works offices are in the City Hall Building. There were no handicap stalls and signs in the parking lot at City Hall.

The Director of Planning and Development is the staff advisor to the City Planning Commission who is appointed by the City Council. He develops plans and grants for the healthy development of the city through economic growth and quality of life. He has been in this position about one year. The Planning Commission, which meets monthly, is currently working to bring new business into the community, which would be a great asset.

The Finance Director/Administrative Analyst has the responsibility of inputting financial records for payroll benefits and determining risk management. There are three employees under his supervision.

WATER TREATMENT PLANTS 1 & 2:

The Utility Supervisor is in charge of waste water and water treatment plants. There are five full time employees, they are all certified Grade 1-2. The Operator/Utility Supervisor is Grade 3. City water has been supplied from the California Aqueduct since 1971. The water from the treatment plant is pumped to holding tanks on the hills above the city, from the holding tanks the water flows by gravity into the city water system. Water is tested on site daily and sent to a Fresno laboratory for testing weekly. There are three tanks supplying water to the City of Avenal. Plant #1 is under construction, 90% complete,

estimated completion date before 2002. The plant filtering system goes through four stages and one chlorine treatment process.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

There are four pieces of heavy equipment located in the public works yard. In addition, there is a hydroflusher belonging to the sewage department. There are three full time employees in this department. There is an open storage building and repair shop. There is a shop storage area at one end with flammable material and batteries. The fire extinguishers were not located where the signs indicated.

FLOYD RICE PARK:

The single city park consists of five acres of land and has one employee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Handicap parking area and signs.
2. Need stalls and signs in parking area.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Corcoran Cemetery District
4170 Waukena Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-3209

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 19, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Corcoran Memorial Park was established in 1948. It was operated as a private cemetery. In 1962, after being abandoned in the middle of the fifties, it was purchased by a Community District Committee and designated as the Corcoran Cemetery District.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Superintendent of the District for an overview and tour of the cemetery. The district has two full time and one part time employees who are responsible to a Board of Trustees consisting of five appointed members. The trustees serve four year terms and can be re-appointed at the expiration of their term.

The requirements for burial include residency within district boundaries, a \$100.00 perpetual care fee, and payment for burials which typically costs about \$1300.00.

When asked about capacity for future needs, the director explained that at the present rate of eighty burials a year, the facility will not require additional land for several decades.

The annual operating budget is just over \$131,000, all of which is offset by revenues received for services and property taxes. An independent audit completed June 30, 2001 confirms that the district is being managed in a fiscally responsible manner.

The superintendent conducted a tour of the grounds and maintenance shop which in the Committee's view are exceptionally well maintained. A burglar alarm system has been installed in the office, shop and gate near the maintenance area to deter vandalism and theft.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Armona Community
Services District
10956 14th Avenue
Armona, CA 93202
(559) 584-4542

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour and Interviews
August 24, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The interview was conducted with two board members, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman. The district has one full time office person and two full time field personnel. The water plant was installed in 1996. The system purifies the water, eliminates color and insures adequate water pressure for home use and fire fighting.

FINDINGS:

The district has a two-year contract with a Water and Sewer Specialist Company to manage the water treatment facility. All district treatment employcees are trained for certification under the specialist. He is certified Grade Four and all employees are at least Grade Two or above. The district is responsible for water, street lights, garbage disposal, sewer system and the scheduled use of the school gymnasium for non-school activities.

The district has passed both the state fresh water and sewer waste water test. The arsenic level is less than .07 percent which is well below specifications. The water specialist company has four employees on call, one of which can be reached 24 hours a day for emergencies.

There are approximately 1,000 service connections in the district. On April 14, 1999, at a regular board meeting, extension of approval was given a developer to build 435 new homes. This has been reduced to one phase of 50 homes due to cost overruns by the developer. The district has two wells. Well number two is chlorine treated and well number one is filtered for purification.

The electrical conduit in Armona was buried about 6 feet deep when the water table was at 24 to 26 feet. At present the water table is approximately seven feet. There has been a float installed to by pass controls to start two pumps that will empty the water from the lift station. The Sewer Specialist is formulating a plan to move the conduit and pumps above ground. The sewer plant consists of two pumps and three evaporation ponds.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Home Garden Community
Services District
11677 2nd Place
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-4053

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
August 24, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Home Garden Community Services District was formed in 1959 to provide sewer, water, garbage disposal and street lighting for this unincorporated area.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Office Manager of 11 years, the Chairman of the Board and the Water Master to learn the operation of the district. The Board retains an attorney for legal advice and acts as Secretary/Treasurer. The district has a five member board with each serving four year terms. The staff consists of one office person, one Water Master and a one half time assistant whose hours vary. The Water Master is on call 24 hours a day. The district relies on contracts with others for garbage collection, sewer maintenance and street lighting, but manages the water service itself. There are two wells in service and one well that can be used for extreme emergency such as fires. The third well's water is not potable.

The district contains approximately 437 connections. Fees for services are established on a fixed monthly rate regardless of amount of use. The school is the only metered structure with two attached meters to monitor use. Water quality is tested monthly by the Kings County Health Department and findings are mailed annually to each user in the district. A review of the annual budget and independent audit confirms that the district is in good financial condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The District should have an elected board member as a Secretary/Treasurer.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kettleman City Community
Services District
110 General Petroleum Avenue
Kettleman City, CA 93239
(559) 386-5866

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
September 21, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Kettleman City Community Services District personnel consists of a full time office manager, one part time office clerk and two full time operators-in-training. During the summer there are two part time maintenance employees. The treatment facility treats water from the deep wells that supply drinking water to the community. The water supply undergoes careful analysis on a regular basis to verify compliance with all state and federal standards.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Kettleman City Public Works Office Manager. The manager led us on a tour of the facilities. Current tests on both water wells have indicated benzene concentrations above the mandatory maximum level. The facility has a Shallow Tray Aeration System that lets benzene in the water evaporate into the air.

The cost of this new facility is being paid with a federal grant of 75 percent of the cost and a loan from the Farmers Home Administration for the remaining 25 percent, payable over 25 years. The average monthly household bill for water, sewer and solid waste is between \$45 and \$55. All customers are connected to water meters.

The tour continued at the waste water treatment plant. This facility treats about 160,000,000 gallons on weekdays, but the volume doubles on weekends due to the traffic on Interstate 5.

An outside contractor oversees the operation of the water treatment plant and the waste water treatment plant.

All funds for the operation and maintenance of the facilities of the district come from fees charged for services rendered.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The employees are to be commended for the work done with the resources available. They were very professional and knowledgeable.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Stratford Public Utility District
19681 Railroad Street
Stratford, CA 93266
(559) 947-3037

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
September 2, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Stratford Public Utility District has a five member board which meets monthly. The District covers 300 acres and works with a budget of \$220,000. There are two water wells with the main well electrically powered and the back-up is natural gas powered.

FINDINGS:

The Committee interviewed the District Manager and Office Manager. The State of California tests the water yearly and sends the water quality report to the district. Services provided to residents and businesses include sewage, street lighting, garbage collection and water. All water is metered and garbage is collected once a week. The average bill for these services is between \$45 to \$50. There are now 340 homes and businesses served. The county maintains the roads and cleans the park.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

City of Corcoran
1033 Chittenden Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-2151

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY

Informational Tour / Follow-up
October 19, 2001
November 1, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The City Hall of Corcoran is located on Chittenden Avenue. The City's population is at about 21,897 including the prison and the prison substance abuse treatment facility, continuing to grow at the rate of about two percent per year. The City has sixty full time employees and ten part time employees.

FINDINGS:

The committee met with the acting City Manager, who is the Finance Director, the Director of Community Development and the Deputy City Clerk. We also met with the Mayor, one of the City Councilmen and the Public Works Director. Each gave the Committee an overview of the duties and responsibilities of their office. The recommended fee study on building permit fees, is on going and will be presented to the Grand Jury in January, 2002.

The Committee toured the city parks on a Corcoran Area Transit bus provided by the city. The Public Works Director served as our guide.

CORCORAN RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT:

A follow-up visit was done by the Committee due to the recommendations written by the 2000-2001 Grand Jury. The Public Works Director indicated that there is no money in the budget for hiring more maintenance personnel.

FATHER WYATT PARK:

Plans to build restrooms at the park are still in place. Sand at the playground was tilled and cleaned and is scheduled to be tilled and cleaned monthly. The infant seat at the playground swings has been replaced. The picnic tables have been replaced with metal handicap accessible ones. Installing posts along the street sides of the park to deter joy-riders from driving cars on the grass has not been done.

CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

Repairs have been done to the multi-level playground structure. This structure is scheduled for replacement. Sand in the playground area has been cleaned and all weeds removed. Repairs were done to the drinking fountain.

JOHN MAROOT PARK:

The graffiti in the restrooms and on the tunnel slide has been removed. Graffiti is an ongoing problem in this area.

BURNHAM SMITH PARK:

The drinking fountain has been cleaned. The graffiti on the playground equipment has been removed and the swing has been replaced.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**Cesar Chavez Park:**

Discuss with Corcoran Unified School District better ways of keeping the park clean.

COMMENTS:

The committee is impressed by the positive outlook and the actions taken since the Grand Jury's previous visit. The Public Works Director informed the Committee of a new park that has not been named.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Hanford Municipal Airport
954 E. Hanford -Armona Road
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2589

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 25, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Hanford Municipal Airport is on 297 acres at the south end of town. Of these 297 acres, 51 acres are leased to agricultural farmers and a vineyard covers 80 acres. Between 20,000 and 25,000 flights a year utilize the airport. The runway has been lengthened from 3,962 feet to 5,180 feet. A new runway light system has been installed. The entire airport has been fenced. This to keep dogs, trespassers and automobiles off the runway.

Income for the airport is produced from privately owned hangars, City of Hanford owned hangars and City of Hanford owned shelters. Hangar rentals are between \$410 and \$685 per year. Monthly rental for shelters is \$57, generating \$40,000 per year. Lessccs must have \$1 million liability insurance. The manager's office is located in a rented trailer.

FINDINGS:

The Airport Director and the Assistant to the City Manager met with the Committee in the manager's office. The Director gave us a tour of the airport. The Director informed the Committee there is no commercial flights from the airport and no crop dusters are allowed to use the airport. There is no charge for takeoffs and landings. Plans for the future is to be the first in the area to practice precision landing. Also planned is additional taxiway lights in 2002 and sealing and striping of the runway.

The airport operates on an annual budget of \$78,000 per year plus federal and state grants. They apply and receive various grants throughout the year. Every grant applied for by the Hanford City Council has been received. The Hanford City Council is very supportive of the airport. The 45 acres recently purchased will be leased for agriculture.

Located at the airport is the Hanford Flight Center, which is a charter service. This service offers tours for up to six people. The Experimental Aviation Association program called "Young Eagles" provides free flights for children, followed by family-style barbecues. These flights are furnished by volunteers of the community to youth who show an interest in flying. The young people are given certificates that they completed the program.

The Hanford City Public Works Department takes care of all repairs assisted by inmates from the Corcoran State Prison. There is a disaster plan in effect for the airport. The small park at the south end is heavily utilized.

As a follow up to the recommendations of the 2000 - 2001 Grand Jury the Committee found the following: first, there are plans for the removal of existing hangar and construction of new restrooms and office within two years. Second, the outside public restroom facility has not been replaced or renovated. Third, the fire extinguishers have been inspected and met standards as of December 20, 2001. Fourth, since there is very little vandalism, there is no plan to install an automatic night alarm system. Fifth, there is still a need to enlarge the runway turnoff to accommodate the larger aircraft. Sixth, they still plan to develop the southwest corner of the airport for corporate or commercial aircraft.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Follow up on the recommendations of the 2000 - 2001 Grand Jury.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Hanford Parks & Recreation Department
900 S. 10th Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2561

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Interview/Follow-up
December 14, 2001
January 11, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Hanford Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all city parks.

These include:

1. Coe Park, located on South Douty Street
2. Centennial Park, located on West Hanford-Armona Road between 11th and 12th Avenues
3. Lacey Park, located at Douty and Florinda Streets
4. Earl F. Johnson Park, located on Grangeville Boulevard and Brown Street
5. Hidden Valley Park, located at 11th Avenue and Courtner Street.

FINDINGS:

The Committee went on a guided tour of the parks, with the City Park Superintendent. Overall, we found the parks in good condition, however we found some parks to be in need of attention.

Coe Park:

Of the seven recommendations that the 2000-2001 Grand Jury wrote in their report, we found that only three have been addressed. The repair or replacement of the picnic tables; ten tables, at a cost of \$850 each have been installed. The drinking fountain near the women's restroom was replaced. The drinking fountains and restrooms have been made handicap accessible. The other recommendations will be addressed with the

redevelopment of Coe Park during 2001-2002. The city received a \$500,000 grant for this purpose with construction to start in the spring of 2002.

Centennial Park:

A beautiful park and as it continues to grow, we feel this will be a very valuable asset to the community. There is plenty of space available for users. The children's area the superintendent designed is nicely spaced and safety zoned, per state regulations and provides adequate security for the small children using the facility.

We found that all previous Grand Jury recommendations have been addressed and corrected. We noticed that several drinking fountain drains were plugged with sand, however the fountains were functional. The southeast picnic area seems to be inconvenient to the elderly and handicapped as there is no paved path to the area.

Earl F. Johnson Park:

Seems to be the least maintained park in the city. The lawns were pocked with gopher mounds, the playground was in bad shape, the restrooms were small and not handicapped accessible. The landscaping needs a lot of work.

Lacey Park:

This is one of the best maintained parks the Committee visited. It is clean, one of the only ones that had soap and tissue in both the men and women facilities. We noticed the park is well patrolled by law enforcement. The past Grand Jury recommendations have been addressed. With grant money of \$66,000 that is already on hand, we hope a percentage of that grant will be used to address the children's wading pool. One concern we had was the large cracks in the sidewalk surrounding the pool, these cracks should be repaired.

Hidden Valley Park:

This park has improved since the last Grand Jury's report. The playground now has new equipment, that is safe to use and the impact material has been renewed. The park is clean and the recommendations have been addressed. The committee noticed that there are "no swimming or wading" signs posted at the slough edge. The slough should be drained and cleaned. The wood on the bridge has rotted and deteriorated past repair and should be replaced including handrails and the walking planks.

The Committee went on a second tour to the **Softball Park** located on South Harris Street. We were told that the ballpark was to be phased out and moved to the new

complex at 13th avenue and Grangeville Boulevard within the next five years. We then went to the **Community Gardens**. This was developed by the city for those people that do not have room to plant gardens where they live. The city furnishes the water at each garden plot. There is no charge for these plots but people with plots must be the caretakers.

Next we visited the **City Plunge**. The area is well maintained. Just behind the plunge is a small park that the skate boarder and roller blade youngsters can go to practice.

The Committee also went to the **Little League Complex** on Campus Drive. There are two sections with four little league diamonds in each section. The complex is being maintained exceptionally well.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Replace restroom facilities at Earl F. Johnson Park
2. Repair broken or unsafe playground equipment at Earl F. Johnson Park
3. Replace bridge at Hidden Valley Park.

COMMENTS:

With the one exception noted, Hanford's citizens are fortunate to have many well-maintained parks and recreational facilities. There is a five-year plan to build an educational complex at Grangeville and 13th Avenue. A new college, a new high school and new ballparks will be built at this location on 180 acres. The Committee was pleased with the superintendent's vision for developing the parks.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

City of Lemoore Administration,
Public Works and Parks Recreation
Departments
119 Fox Street
Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 924-6700

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Interview and Informational Tour
November 9, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Lemoore is a small city incorporated in 1900 as a charter city, and still the only charter city in Kings County. It has a population of 20,850, not including the Lemoore Naval Air Station population of 7,000.

The Lemoore City Council is made up of five members serving four-year overlapping terms. The Mayor is elected for a two-year term by the City Council.

Personnel for the City of Lemoore consists of 99 full time employees and 20 to 40 part-time employees depending on the season. Included in the personnel are the following department heads, not counted in the 99 full time employees. Parks and Recreation, Police Department, Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department, Community and Economic Department, Finance and Public Works. The City Engineer and the City Attorney are contracted.

The operating budget for the city is eleven million dollars annually. Payroll is about five million annually.

The city collects about one million dollars annually in taxes. They get nine point three million dollars in grants. The rest of the budget comes from fees and charges .

FINDINGS:

The City of Lemoore continues to develop since the previous visit of the Grand Jury. The city hopes to increase the sales tax revenues from new businesses. The West Hills College / Lemoore continues to attract more students with the new campus being built on the west side of Highway 41. Completion of the construction is expected in the spring of 2002.

The city has completed the new police station located at Fox and Cinnamon Streets.

There are twenty eight sworn officers plus three making a total of thirty one. There are eighty five neighborhood watch groups around the city.

The volunteer fire department has a class three rating with the Insurance Services Offices. There are thirty seven members that respond to about one thousand calls annually.

There are about fifty nine acres of parks in Lemoore. The parks and recreation department has volunteers that help with community events for the youth, adults and senior citizens of the area.

The committee was taken on a tour of the parks in response to last year recommendations. All have been taken care of with the exception of the roofing of the small building at that location.

Public works takes care of about eighty two miles of roads. There are fifty three hundred customers for water, sewer and refuse in the city. They pick up about fifteen thousand tons of refuse annually. The city handles about two thousand five hundred acre feet of sewage annually. Public works has seven full time employees and some part time employees seasonally.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

Lemoore is an economically viable community, marked by educational, cultural, recreational and business opportunities. Providing quality services and protection and setting the conditions for economic vitality and high quality life.

SUMMARY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Local Government Committee had a very interesting and extremely productive year. Looking at the visitation log for 2001-2002, we made 58 of 72 areas of visitation. Informational tours were made to many city departments. Particular attention was given to the City of Avenal, Lemoore Cemetery District, Hanford Municipal Airport and the City of Hanford Parks.

The Committee also conducted inquiries and interviews while researching and responding to numerous citizen's complaints. There were several recommendations from the 2000-2001 Grand Jury that were followed-up to insure compliance.

The Committee's attention to Avenal and Hanford building permit fees has brought closure to the situation. After review of the audits and fees schedules the Committee is satisfied the two cities are in compliance with the state law that governs the charging of fees.

The Committee also went to the City of Hanford Refuse Department to check if they are still checking the seals on the Waste Department trucks. The Committee is satisfied that they are making sure the trucks are not leaking.

The Committee is impressed with how well all the City Government Department Managers and Employees exhibited pride, professionalism and attention to detail, with a special ATTABOY to the City Manager of Lemoore and his staff.

The year began with Joe Curry as Chairperson. As he was also Chairperson of the Law and Public Safety Committee, he relinquished his seat as Chairperson of the Local Government Committee. I thank him for staying on as a member of the Committee because he laid the groundwork for me and made my position more pleasant.

The Local Government Committee, without every one's diligence, dedication and many hours of hard work, would not have been able to complete our task. As Chairperson, I would like to thank you all.

Jack Rea - Chairperson
Kathryn Espino - Assistant Chairperson
Eldora Trigueiro
Joe Radcliff
Norma McGuire
Marvin Costa
Joe Curry
Joseph Bonner III
Quinton Ross

2001-2002 Grand Jury

County Government Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Board of Supervisors | * | | | |
| County Administrative Officer | | | 1 | |
| Human Resources -- Employment | | | 1 | |
| Agriculture | | | | |
| Commissioner / Sealer | | * | 3 | |
| Agriculture Extension Services | | | 3 | |
| Alcohol and Drug Programs | | | | |
| Cornerstone | * | * | | |
| Kings View Outpatient Community Services | * | * | | |
| Assessor / Clerk / Recorder | | | | |
| Assessor/Clerk | * | | | |
| Recorder | * | | | |
| Elections | * | | | |
| Purchasing Agent | | * | | |
| Chemical Waste Management | * | * | | |
| Human Services | | | | |
| Administration | * | | | |
| Job Opportunities and Benefit Services (JOBS) | * | | | |
| Social Service Program | * | | | |
| Special Investigation Division | * | | | |
| Information Services | * | * | | |
| Kings Area Rural Transit Agency (KART) | * | | | |
| Kings Waste And Recycling Authority | * | * | 5 | |
| Kings County Library | * | * | | |
| Administration | | | | |
| Armona | | * | | |
| Avenal | * | * | | |
| Corcoran | | * | | |
| Hanford | * | * | | |
| Kettleman City | | | 7 | |
| Lemoore | * | * | | |
| Stratford | | | 7 | |
| Kings County Housing Authority | | | 9 | |
| Parks | | | | |
| Burriss Park and Museum | * | * | 11 | |
| Hickey Park | * | * | 11 | |
| Kingston Park | * | * | 11 | |

2001-2002 Grand Jury

County Government Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Planning Department | * | | 15 | |
| Public Works | | | | |
| Government Center/Parks Shop | * | * | 17 | |
| County Shop | | | 21 | |
| Shop/Road Department | | | 23 | |
| Special Purpose and Assessing or Taxing Districts | | | | |
| Clarks Fork Irrigation | | | | |
| Empire West Side Irrigation | | * | | |
| Island Irrigation | | * | | |
| Kings County Water | * | * | 25 | |
| Laguna Irrigation | | | | |
| Lakeside Irrigation | | * | | |
| Stratford Irrigation District | | | | |
| Treasurer – Tax Collector | | | 27 | |
| Veterans' Services/ Public Guardian | | | 29 | |

2002-2003 Grand Jury

Health and Education Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Armona Union School District | | | | |
| Armona Elementary School | | | 33 | |
| Parkview School | | | 35 | |
| Central Union School District | | | | |
| Akers School | | | 37 | |
| Central Union School | * | | 39 | |
| Neutra School | | | 41 | |
| Stratford School | | | 43 | |
| Corcoran Joint Unified School District | | | | |
| Administration | | | 45 | |
| Bret Harte School | * | * | | |
| John C. Fremont School | * | * | | |
| Mark Twain School | | | 47 | |
| John Muir School | | | 47 | |
| Corcoran High School | | * | 51 | |
| Corcoran Community Day School | | | 53 | |
| Kings Lake Education Center | | | 55 | |
| Delta View Joint Union District & School | | | 57 | |
| Hanford Elementary School District | | | | |
| Administration | * | * | | |
| Jefferson Elementary School | | | 59 | |
| James Monroe Elementary School | | * | 61 | |
| Joe Simas Elementary School | | * | 63 | |
| Lee Richmond Elementary School | | | 65 | |
| Lincoln Elementary School | | * | 67 | |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School | | | 69 | |
| Roosevelt Elementary School | * | * | 71 | |
| Washington Elementary School | | | 73 | |
| John F. Kennedy Junior High School | | | 75 | |
| Woodrow Wilson Junior High School | | | 77 | |
| District Central Kitchen | * | | 79 | |
| Hanford Joint Union High School District | | | | |
| Hanford High School | | * | 81 | |
| Hanford West High School | | * | 83 | |
| Health Clinics | | | | |
| Avenal | * | | | |

2002-2003 Grand Jury

Health and Education Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Corcoran | * | | | |
| Hanford | * | | | |
| Kettleman City | * | | | |
| Lemoore | * | | | |
| Health Department | | | | |
| Administration | * | * | | |
| California Children's Services (CCS) | * | * | | |
| Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) | * | * | | |
| Environmental Health Services | * | * | | |
| Laboratory | | * | | |
| Public Health Nursing | * | * | | |
| Tobacco Control Program | * | * | | |
| W. I. C. Nutrition | * | * | | |
| Women's Health & Family Planning | * | * | | |
| Hospitals | | | | |
| Corcoran District Hospital | * | * | 85 | |
| Island Union District & School | | | 87 | |
| Kings Community Action Organization | | | 89 | |
| Kings County Commission on Aging | * | * | 91 | |
| Congregate Meals (Senior Nutrition) | * | | | |
| Avenal Center | * | | | |
| Corcoran Center | | | 93 | |
| Hanford Centers | | | | |
| Kings Senior Day Care Center | | | 91 | |
| View Road Senior Center | | * | | |
| Lemoore Center | * | | | |
| In Home Supporting Services | * | | | |
| Meals on Wheels (home-bound seniors) | * | | | |
| Kings County Office of Education & Schools | | | | |
| Administration | * | | | |
| Cyesis Program | | | 95 | |
| Kings County Community School | * | * | 97 | |
| Kings County Regional Occupation Program | | | 99 | |
| Special Education – Shelly Baird | | | 101 | |

2002-2003 Grand Jury

Health and Education Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kings River-Hardwick-District & School | | | 103 | |
| Kit Carson Union School District & School | | | 107 | |
| Lakeside District | | | | |
| Lakeside School | | | 109 | |
| Gardenside School | | | 111 | |
| Lemoore Union Elementary School District | | | | |
| Cinnamon Elementary School | | | | |
| PW Engvall School | | | | |
| Lemoore Elementary School | | | 113 | |
| Meadow Lane School | | | 115 | |
| Liberty Middle School | | | | |
| Lemoore Union High School | | * | | |
| Pioneer Union School District | | | | |
| Pioneer Primary School | | | 117 | |
| Pioneer Middle School | | | 119 | |
| Reef – Sunset Unified School District | | | | |
| Avenal Elementary School | | | 121 | |
| Avenal High School | | | 123 | |
| Kettleman City School | * | * | | |
| Reef – Sunset Middle School | * | * | | |
| Adelante (Continuation) High School | * | * | | |
| Sunrise (Continuation) High School | * | | | |
| Tamarack Elementary School | | | | |

2001-2002 Grand Jury

Law and Public Safety Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| California State Prisons | | | | |
| California State Prison - Avenal | * | * | 127 | |
| California State Prison - Corcoran | * | * | 129 | |
| Substance Abuse Treatment Facility-Corcoran | * | * | 131 | |
| City Fire Departments | | | | |
| Hanford | | | | |
| Station # 1 | * | | | |
| Station #2 | * | | | |
| Lemoore Volunteer Fire Station | * | | 169 | |
| County Counsel | * | | | |
| Kings County Fire Department | | | | |
| Departmental Office | * | | | |
| Burris Fire Station # 1 | | | 133 | |
| Hardwick Fire Station # 2 | | | | |
| Kit Carson Fire Station # 3 | * | * | | |
| Armona Fire Station # 5 | | * | | |
| Island Fire Station # 6 | | | | |
| South Lemoore Fire Station # 7 | | | | |
| Guernsey Fire Station # 8 | | | | |
| Kettleman City Fire Department # 9 | | | | |
| Stratford Fire Station # 10 | | | | |
| Corcoran Fire Station # 11 | | * | | |
| Avenal Fire Station # 12 | | | 133 | |
| District Attorney | | | | |
| Civil Investigations | | | | |
| Criminal Investigators | | | | |
| Family Support Investigators | | | 137 | |
| Family and Child Support Division | | | 137 | |
| Office | | | | |
| Prosecuting Attorneys | | | | |
| Minor's Advocate | | | 139 | |
| Police Departments | | | | |
| Corcoran Police Department | | * | | |
| Hanford Police Department | * | | | |
| Lemoore Police Department | * | | | |
| Chaplain | * | | | |

2001-2002 Grand Jury

Law and Public Safety Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Probation Department | | | | |
| Administration | * | * | | |
| Boot Camp | * | * | | |
| Female Treatment Center | | * | | |
| Gang Task Force | * | | | |
| Juvenile Center/Inmate Health | * | * | | |
| Sheriff's Department | | | | |
| Administration | * | * | 141 | |
| Animal Control | * | * | | |
| Contract Law Enforcement - Avenal | | | | |
| Coroner | | | 145 | |
| Emergency Dispatch | * | * | | |
| Jails | | | | |
| Main Jail/Inmate Health | * | * | 141 | |
| Branch Jail/Inmate Health | * | * | 141 | |
| Narcotic Task Force | * | | | |
| Satellite Stations/Substations | | | | |
| Armona | | | | |
| Avenal | | | | |
| Hanford | | | | |
| Kettleman City | | | | |
| Stratford | | | | |

2001-2002 Grand Jury

Local Government Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Avenal | | | | |
| City Clerk | | | 149 | |
| City Manager | | | 149 | |
| Finance Director | | | 149 | |
| Mayor & City Council | * | * | 149 | |
| Planning Department | | * | 149 | |
| Public Works | | * | 149 | |
| Building Maintenance | | | 149 | |
| Road Department | | | 149 | |
| Sewage Department | | | 149 | |
| Solid Waste Department | | | 149 | |
| Shop Facilities | | | 149 | |
| Water Department | | | 149 | |
| Recreation & Parks Department | | | 149 | |
| Floyd Rice Park | | | 149 | |
| Cemetery Districts | | | | |
| Corcoran | | | 151 | |
| Hanford | | | | |
| Hanford Cemetery | * | * | | |
| Calvary Cemetery | * | * | | |
| Kingsriver Cemetery | * | * | | |
| Lakeside Cemetery | * | * | | |
| Lemoore | | | | |
| Lemoore Cemetery | | * | | |
| Grangeville Cemetery | | * | | |
| Community Service Districts | | | | |
| Armona | | | | |
| Office | | | 153 | |
| Parks & Recreation | | | | |
| Waste Water Treatment Plant | | | 153 | |
| Home Garden | | | | |
| Office | | | 155 | |
| Parks & Recreation | | | | |
| Kettleman City | | | | |
| Office | | | 157 | |
| Parks & Recreation | | | 157 | |

2001-2002 Grand Jury

Local Government Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Public Works | | | 157 | |
| Stratford | | | | |
| Office | | | 159 | |
| Parks & Recreation | | | | |
| Public Works | | | 159 | |
| Corcoran | | | | |
| Building Department | | | 161 | |
| City Clerk | | | 161 | |
| Mayor & City Council | | | 161 | |
| City Manager | * | | 161 | |
| Finance Manager | | | 161 | |
| Planning Department | | | 161 | |
| Public Works Department | | | 161 | |
| Recreation & Parks | | | 161 | |
| Burnham Smith Park | | * | 161 | |
| Cesar Chavez Park | | * | 161 | |
| Christmas Tree Park | | * | 161 | |
| John Maroot Park | | * | 161 | |
| Father Wyatt Park | | * | 161 | |
| Road Department | | | 161 | |
| Sewage Department | | | 161 | |
| Water Department | | | 161 | |
| Hanford | | | | |
| City Clerk | | | | |
| City Council | | | | |
| City Manager | | | | |
| Finance Manager | * | | | |
| Municipal Airport | * | * | 163 | |
| Parks & Recreation Department | * | | 165 | |
| Centennial Park | * | * | 165 | |
| Civic Center Park | | | 165 | |
| Coe Park | * | * | 165 | |
| Earl F. Johnson Park | * | * | 165 | |
| Hanford Community Garden | | | 165 | |
| Hidden Valley Park | * | * | 165 | |
| Lacey Park | * | * | 165 | |

2001-2002 Grand Jury

Local Government Committee Record of Visits

| Facility | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Longfield Center | * | | 165 | |
| Municipal Swimming Pool | | | 165 | |
| South Harris Softball Park | | | 165 | |
| Skateboard Park | | | 165 | |
| Youth Athletic Complex | | | 165 | |
| Planning Department | * | * | | |
| Public Works Director | * | | | |
| Building Maintenance | | | | |
| Refuse Waste Department | | | | |
| Sewage Department | | | | |
| Road Department | | | | |
| Shop Facilities | | | | |
| Waste Water Treatment Plant | * | | | |
| Water Department | | | | |
| Lemoore | | | | |
| Building Maintenance | | | 169 | |
| City Clerk | | | 169 | |
| City Council | * | | 169 | |
| City Manager | * | | 169 | |
| Finance Director | * | | 169 | |
| Planning Department | | * | 169 | |
| Public Works Department | | * | 169 | |
| Refuse Department | | | 169 | |
| Road Department | | | 169 | |
| Sewage department | | * | 169 | |
| Shop Facilities | | * | 169 | |
| Water Department | | * | 169 | |
| Recreation & Parks Department | | | | |
| 19 th Avenue Park (Vierra Field) | * | * | 169 | |
| Heritage Park (Hanford-Armona Road) | | * | 169 | |
| Lemoore City Park | | * | 169 | |
| Plaza Park | | * | 169 | |
| Skate Board Park | | * | 169 | |
| Westfield Lions Park | | * | 169 | |

COUNTY OF KINGS
GRAND JURY
P.O. BOX 1562
HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93232

April 23, 2002

Honorable Judge John O'Rourke
Superior Court Judge
Assistant Presiding Judge
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

Judge O'Rourke

It is with great pride I present to you the 2001-2002 Kings County Grand Jury Final Report. The Citizens of Kings County can be proud of the effort put forth by the members of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury.

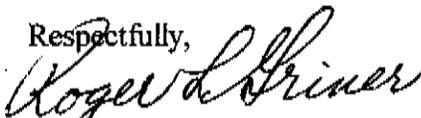
As Foreman of the 2001-2002 Kings County Grand Jury, I am extremely proud to have served with the members of this Grand Jury. My major problem was staying out of the Committee's way and allowing them to do their sworn duty.

Outside of a few members who had served on previous Grand Juries, none of us had any idea of the great amount of time and effort involved in accomplishing our duties. This Grand Jury's motto seemed to be "What We Lack In Talent We Make Up In Exuberance". They certainly lived up to their motto, and I thank them for that.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the following people for their time and assistance: Judge John O'Rourke, the Kings County Board of Supervisors, County Counsel Denis Eymil and his wonderful staff, District Attorney Ronald Calhoun, his right hand man Patrick Hart and their outstanding staff, Purchasing Manager Charles Wilson, Court Executive Officer Todd Barton and Monica Newman our liaison to the courts. We would also thank all of the officials throughout the county for their cooperation and above all for their patience as we interrupted their daily routine to conduct our business.

To the members of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your Foreman. It has been a tremendous learning experience for me as well as a source of great pride. The camaraderie exhibited by this Grand Jury puts me in mind of an old "Marine Corps" expression "You'll do to hit the beach with". Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful experience.

Respectfully,



Roger L. Griner
Foreman

*The Superior Court of California
County of Kings*

JUDGE PETER M. SCHULTZ
JUDGE LOUIS F. BISSIG
JUDGE LYNN C. ATKINSON
JUDGE JOHN O'ROURKE
JUDGE RONALD J. MACIEL

JUDGE GEORGE L. ORNDOFF
JUDGE CHARLES R. JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER JAMES LAPORTE
COMMISSIONER JULIENNE L. RYNDA

June 12, 2002

To: Kings County Grand Jury and Affected Governmental
Agencies and Officers

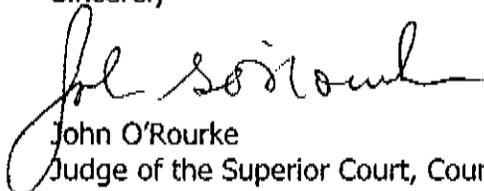
The 2001-2002 Kings County Grand Jury has submitted the enclosed reports to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with Section 933 of the California Penal Code. The enclosed reports were submitted and are hereby accepted as the final reports of the Grand Jury concerning these areas of inquiry.

The agencies and elected officials who are affected by the enclosed reports are hereby notified that they are required to comment to the undersigned concerning these findings and recommendations as they pertain to the subject agency or elected official. Comments are due on behalf of each elected county officer or agency head who has responsibility for the agencies and functions described in these reports within 60 days from this date. The governing bodies of the public agencies affected by the reports have a 90-day time limit within which to submit comments pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c). In addition, a copy of each response shall be placed on file with the clerk of the public agency on whose behalf the response is made.

Those having questions concerning their responsibilities to respond to the Grand Jury's recommendations should contact County Counsel or their agency's general counsel.

The Judges of the Superior Court wish to express our deep appreciation for the dedicated efforts and uncounted hours of service given by members of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury, with special thanks to their Foreman, Roger Griner.

Sincerely



John O'Rourke
Judge of the Superior Court, County of Kings

❖ Hanford Division
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

❖ Avenal Division
501 E. Kings Street
Avenal, CA 93204

❖ Corcoran Division
1000 Chittenden Ave.
Corcoran, CA 93212

❖ Lemoore Division
449 "C" Street
Lemoore, CA 93245

MEMBERS OF THE
2001-2002
KINGS COUNTY GRAND JURY

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Roger L. Griner | Foreman |
| Patricia Crouch | Foreman Pro Tem |
| | Chairperson-Complaint Comm. |
| Jim Rohrkemper | Corresponding Secretary |
| Eldora Trigueiro | Recording Secretary |
| Glen Myers | Treasurer |
| Quinton Ross | Sergeant-at-Arms |
| Leonard Silva | Asst. Sergeant-at Arms |
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| Marvin Costa | |
| Joe Curry | Chairperson-Law and Public Safety Comm. |
| Kathryn Espino | Chairperson- Social Comm. |
| Mitchell Grundbrecher | |
| Fred E. Lawall | Chairperson-Edit/Review Comm. |
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| Shawn M. Poirier | Chairperson-Community Relations |
| Russell J. Nail | |
| Joe D. Radcliff | |
| Jack C. Rea | Chairperson-Local Gov't |
| Dallas E. Schiewe | Chairperson-County Gov't Comm. |

2001 – 2002 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

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AREA OF INQUIRY:

County Administrative Office
County Government Center
1400 West Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211, ext. 2378

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Interview
October 2, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the county. As the agent of the board, this person directs and coordinates the work of the county departments and agencies. The Administrator, with the assistance of staff, puts into action the policies, rules and regulations adopted by the board. He or she makes recommendations on county policies and procedures and prepares the recommended county budget. Various line functions are administered out of the Administrative Office including: Human Resources, Alcohol and Other Drug Programs, The Mental Health Program, Risk Management, Public Defender function and Minor's Advocacy.

The Human Resources Division is managed by a Deputy County Administrative Officer under the direction of the County Administrator. This division handles personnel services for the county including: employer/employee relations, recruitment and examination of job applicants; classification and pay of jobs; employee training, employee benefits administration, employee assistance; and the workplace safety program and worker's compensation program.

FINDINGS:

The Deputy County Administrative Officer met with the Committee in the Grand Jury Chambers on October 2, 2001, to give an overview of the functions of the County Administrative Office and more specifically of the Human Resources Division. We were told that this division handles labor relations and personnel services of approximately 1300 county employees. There are five bargaining units representing many of these employees.

The division has a staff of eight individuals, in addition to the deputy there are two personnel analysts, two personnel technicians, two personnel assistants and a safety officer.

It was suggested that with the increased work load, an additional analyst could be very helpful in making it possible in providing training leadership skills with supervisory of county employees.

The County Administrative Office, headed by the Administrative Officer has a staff consisting of four Deputy Administrative Officers, a Secretary, an Executive Secretary and a Risk Analyst.

The Minors Advocacy Office is staffed by an attorney, a legal clerk and a supervising attorney-child advocacy.

In the area of the substance abuse coordinator, there is a staff of five consisting of the Deputy mental Health Director, two Prevention Coordinators, an office assistant and a Fiscal Analyst.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The hiring of an additional analyst in the Human Resources Division.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
680 N. Campus Dr., Suite 8
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 Ext. 2830

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
February 5, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The primary goal and purpose of all county Agricultural Commissioners statewide is "To Promote and Protect" agriculture. The number one industry in Kings County is agriculture, which provides a significant base to the county's economy. The promotion and protection of Kings County agriculture is accomplished through educational outreach and enforcement by the department. The Kings County Agricultural Department is responsible for the following: Pest Detection, Pest Eradication, Pest Management, Pest Exclusion, Pest Use Enforcement, Seed Certification, Nursery, Fruits, Nuts, Vegetable Standardization, Egg Inspection and Apiary Inspection.

FINDINGS:

The committee met with the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures. The board of supervisors appoints the department head for a four-year term. The system became an economic engine; the Horticultural Department was put into place in 1881. Every county in California is required to have an Agricultural Commissioner and a Sealer of Weights and Measures. County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer (CAC) departments are regulatory agencies. The CAC performs under the jurisdiction and direction of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and its Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) and the Department of Pesticide Regulation. The Kings County Agricultural Commissioner Department employs a staff of twenty-seven. The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures Department includes an Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, three Deputy Agricultural Commissioners/Sealers, fourteen Agricultural and Standards Coordinators, two Agricultural and Standards Aides and four clerical staff. The state and federal government highly regulate this department, making the staff's job extremely complicated and highly interesting.

The Agricultural department has its own Web page where it publishes important consumer information (www.kingsagcomm.com) the web-site is state-of-the-art, providing important information to the public and including full color photographs.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures Department historically is responsible for the

primary objective of weights and measures. The department is under the jurisdiction and direction of the CDFA and the Kings County Board of Supervisors. At the county level, the weights and measures officials provide education and training to the public as well as the regulated industries. The weights and measures official is a "third party" to virtually any transaction you may make based upon the activities in the following programs: Device Program, persons that sell, rent, install, service, or repair commercial weighing and measuring devices are required to be licensed by DMS. Devices: Kings County Weights and Measures Inspectors inspect and test types of weighing and measuring devices throughout the county. Quality Control: The inspectors conduct inspections on packaged goods using statistical sampling procedures to determine the proper weight, measure or count is being used. Package labeling is examined for compliance with the basic labeling requirements as set by laws and regulation. Test purchases are made to test for accuracy and to see if the consumer is being charged for the advertised price. Any commodity whether bought, sold, traded, bartered, etc. can be checked by weights and measures. Weighmaster: They are persons who are licensed by the DMS to certify the weighed, measured or counted quality of any commodity. Petroleum Products: Locally, weights and measures officials enforce that portion of the California Business and Professions Code relating to petroleum products standards. Undercover purchases are made to investigate consumer complaints and to inspect the accuracy of the transactions. The agency purchases products used for determining compliance with standards. Every aspect is strictly enforced. Gasoline Vapor Recovery: The phase I and phase II gasoline vapor recovery inspection program is under the direction and jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District. Gasoline vapor equipment at gasoline dispensing facilities is inspected for compliance with regulations established by the California Air Resources Board. In Kings County weights and measures officials conduct these inspections. The inspection program has been well received.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury found the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner to be knowledgeable, organized and forthcoming. The atmosphere in the office was one of cooperation and harmony.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings Waste and Recycling Authority
7803 Hanford-Armona Road
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 583-8829

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 8, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings Waste and Recycling Authority (KWRA) was formed in 1989 as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). This JPA was formed to allow a regional approach to comply with California Assembly Bill 939, the California Waste Management Act, which requires that all California counties reduce the amount of raw garbage going into landfills by 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by 2005. The cities of Hanford, Lemoore, Corcoran and portions of Kings County make up the JPA. Some areas of Kings County are not members of this authority as they are Community Service Districts, but do participate in Kings Waste and Recycling Authority's School Bin Recycling Program.

FINDINGS:

The Committee interviewed the Executive Director at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) and then toured the facility. The 94-acre MRF is open seven days a week for garbage delivery. City garbage is collected Monday through Friday and delivered to MRF. Most of the materials to be recycled are delivered to a sorting area, which consists of 90,000 square feet under roof. The public can bring garbage to the facility seven days a week.

However, garbage is processed only five days a week. Garbage trucks enter MRF and deposit garbage on the floor as directed. The trash is moved into pits at the base of conveyer belts, which move it through recovery stations, where all recyclables are removed and sorted by type. There are two conveyer belts, four workers on each side of each belt pick out the recyclable materials and put it into bins. The sorted items are then baled and stacked ready to be sold. Money received from these items is essential to the MRF operating budget. There are 50 employees.

Green waste, including leaves, weeds and grass clippings, small tree limbs and small pieces of wood, without glue, nails or paint, are shredded by machine and then aged on the ground until ready to be used as compost. The compost is inspected regularly to insure that it heats naturally to 130 degrees for 15 days. The high temperature is needed to kill seeds and most disease causing agents. Kings County residents can purchase compost at \$15.00 per cubic yard for screened and \$10.00 per cubic yard for unscreened.

At the time of the tour the inventory was at a very low level due to recent sales to westside farmers and residents of Kings County.

Oil, paint, solvents, car and household batteries and similar toxic materials can be turned in at MRF the first Saturday of each month. There is no charge for this service. Kings County residents can receive up to five quarts of re-refined oil free when they bring in used automotive oil to MRF.

The Executive Director stated that he wishes more people would take their recyclables to the School Bin Recycling Program because the materials are cleaner and require less time to sort than those received from the garbage pickup. Schools benefit from this program by receiving 20 percent of the profit. He also stated that county and local officials must support and enforce this program if it is to be successful.

Although a few businesses recycle, most make no effort to do so. The Committee feels that it is time for some of the promised penalties to be imposed. Also, illegal dumping is a major problem, though it is seldom policed. If the 50 percent landfill goals are not met on or before 2005, the JPA will be faced with a \$10,000 per day fine until the goal is met. That figure will translate to an additional minimum cost of \$20.00 per month on the garbage collection section of each customer's utility statement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Board of Supervisors and officials in the cities of Kings County should support recycling programs before the consequences of failing to do so impact us in the pocketbook.
2. Make recycling for apartment complexes and businesses mandatory.

COMMENTS:

The MRF Executive Director stated that "approximately 80 percent of the garbage flow that enters MRF is recyclable at present".

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kettleman City Branch Library
104 Becky Pease Street
Kettleman City, CA 93239
(559) 386-9804

Stratford Branch Library
20300 Main Street
Stratford, CA 93266
(559) 947-3003

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 23, 2001
November 6, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County libraries are a part of the San Joaquin Valley Library System which enables anyone with a local library card to obtain books or information from any of the county, city and special district libraries of the San Joaquin Valley Library System. By sharing resources they can give more help than they could if each of them were working alone. These two libraries toured are alike in design and arrangement.

The Kettleman City Branch Library was established on December 4, 1930. It was located in the store of Ennis T. Shankland. In January of 1991 the library moved to its present location in the Kings Government Complex.

The Stratford Branch Library was established April 30, 1913. Stratford and Corcoran are the two oldest established branches outside of the county seat of Hanford. The present building was completed December 22, 1990.

These new buildings have 3,500 square feet and were partially financed by the Library Services and Construction Act.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the librarian at the Kettleman City Branch on October 23, 2001 and the Stratford librarian on November 6, 2001, to be briefed on the operation of these two libraries. The Committee noted that the grounds of the Kettleman City Branch were well kept and clean, the Stratford Branch has a ground maintenance and gopher problem. The insides of these libraries were very neat and clean. It was noted that the children's art work was loaned by Kings County Art Center and displayed on the walls. The restrooms were clean and handicap friendly. The libraries are open three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. There are two computers in each library, provided by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which are accessible to

the public. A sign up is required to use the computers. One computer is programmed in Spanish the other in English. The libraries also have one coin operated copy machine for public use at 15 cents per copy. Students from the local high schools and West Hills College often use the libraries as a study hall. There are two study areas with four tables and chairs as well as children's area, with two small sized tables and chairs. There is a cubical set up where an individual can listen to tapes while following along with the book. Turning the page as the signal is heard on the tape.

The libraries are well laid out and organized with clearly marked sections as to: fiction, mystery, western, non-fiction, science fiction and biographies.

The librarians told the Committee of story time classes for three and four year olds at various times each month. Volunteers are used for story time, at times there are as many as 20 to 30 children in attendance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Stratford Branch Library should pursue a gopher eradication program as well as a better grounds maintenance program.

COMMENTS:

These Libraries are a credit to the Kings County Library System.

AREA OF INQUIRY: Kings County Housing Authority
680 N. Douty Street
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-2806

REPORTING COMMITTEE: County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Informational Visit
March 26, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Housing Authority of the County of Kings was established pursuant to the provisions of the Housing Authorities Law as described in California Health and Safety Code. The Housing Authority was established in 1961. Its policy is set by a local board, which is appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

The Housing Authority is a public housing agency, as that term is defined in the Federal Housing Act. A public housing agency is any state, county, municipality, other governmental entity or public body which is authorized to engage in or assist in the development and operation of public housing.

The California Housing Authorities Law indicates that local housing agencies are intended to address the need for safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for persons of low income. Local housing authorities are given a variety of powers, which include the ability to sue and be sued, to acquire, operate and dispose of property, to enter into joint powers agreements and to issue bonds.

Thus, for some purposes the Housing Authority is a state agency. For other purposes the Housing Authority is a local agency. In all circumstances, the Housing Authority is distinct from the city or county in which the Housing Authority may function.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Executive Director in the Grand Jury Chambers. The current director was hired in 1980 to correct the misuse of the Housing Authority in Kings County. The Executive Director hires a management team as well as staff and maintenance personnel to maintain all programs under its jurisdiction. He informed the Committee that there are 700 Housing Authorities set up in the State of California and a total of 3700 in the United States. The Housing Authority is responsible for the following programs: Low Rent Conventional Housing, Section 8, Farm Labor Housing, Administrative Units, Cameron Commons Apartments, Corcoran Station Senior Apartments and Foster Youth Transitional Housing.

The Housing Authority of Kings County is an active agency that has joined the Kings County Sheriff's and Hanford Police Department's Crime Free Multi-Housing Programs.

The program is designed to keep illegal activity out of our property and surrounding community neighborhoods.

Kings County Housing Authority has administrative offices in Hanford and Corcoran. The Hanford office also has a Section 8 Manager and Section 8 Program Specialists. Section 8 provides housing assistance for individuals or families that qualify for rental assistance. The Housing Authority administers these Section 8 programs for leasing of privately owned existing housing.

There are two Foster Youth Transitional Houses, one in Hanford for young men and one in Lemoore for young women. The Transitional House is available to dependent minors who reach maturity and are no longer able to receive foster care services. Housing and services would be available until age 21. Young adult occupants are expected to sign an agreement which would include the rules and expectations of the facility (i.e. alcohol/drug free, tobacco free, being employed or enrolled full time in a local college or vocational program, rent amount, etc...).

The Housing Authority's primary goal is to promote and provide a healthy, drug and crime-free environment where all residents may have peaceful enjoyment and comfortable living arrangements without discrimination. This includes facilitating, planning, developing, building, acquiring, managing, renting, selling, financing, maintaining and improving properties for housing of low to moderate-income families. To achieve these goals, the Housing Authority endeavors to treat and respect all applicants, residents and guests equally and fairly.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Parks

Burriss Park
6500 Burriss Park Drive
Kingsburg, CA 93631
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2701

Kingston Park
13196 Douglas Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2701

Hickey Park
16580 Flint Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2701

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow-up Tour
April 9, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Kings County has three county parks that had recommendations from the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Final Report.

Burriss Park located on the Burriss land, settled in 1857, was donated to the county for a park in 1924. The 57 acre park accommodates large crowds. There are 23 picnic areas, each with its own barbeque pit, tables and benches. The two largest areas have kitchens equipped with propane, electricity and a deep pit barbeque. There are 528 parking spaces and if needed, an adjacent field is used for additional parking.

Kingston Park was established August 28, 1972 and consists of 7 improved acres, located on a strip of land on the south side of the Kings River. It is the site of the first Kings River Ferry Crossing. The shoreline of the river at the edge of the park has a large sandy beach that is used for sunbathing and wading.

Hickey Park was established October 8, 1958 and consists of approximately 40 acres. The parking capacity is 104 including handicapped-accessible spaces. The park has 32 picnic areas that can be reserved for a fee by calling the County Public Works Department.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Parks Superintendent who showed us all three parks. Proposition 12 funds have enabled the Parks Department to replace the playground equipment at Burriss and

Hickey Parks with modern approved equipment. They have installed an area for toddlers, age two to five, and for children, age five to twelve. All the parks have a fee to enter and handicapped-accessible parking and picnic areas.

BURRIS PARK:

The Parks Superintendent stated that two new water wells are to be completed at a cost of \$190,000.00, one with a submersible pump that is state funded.

There has been a new roof installed to replace the old one on the office. The chuckholes have not been repaired or resurfaced.

The Parks Superintendent reported they will add an additional fee deposit for reservations for large groups, work towards being more sports oriented with volleyball and play grounds, replace the Park Manager residence and tear down the shed behind the office.

KINGSTON PARK:

The park has a new fence with a toll booth which helps to maintain the family oriented atmosphere. There is only one way traffic through the parking area with tire shredder at the exit. There are adequate water safety signs posted to warn swimmers/waders of hazards. The old caretakers house has been demolished. There is an on going program to repair barbeque pits that are worn or destroyed, the picnic tables are being upgraded with the steel type with a durable plastic coating to provide safety and to add to the life cycle. The sports areas are developed to accommodate softball, volleyball and soccer. The overall condition of the park is good except some roots of a tree are exposed to create a trip hazard and should be covered with soil.

HICKEY PARK:

Caution signs in English and Spanish have been placed along the entire length of the irrigation ditch and the foot bridge has been constructed.

There was a water fountain at the handicapped accessible picnic area that was clogged. The Park Superintendent told the Committee that the plumber was scheduled to repair it the next day and that they had secured the water already.

The horseshoe pits are not up to National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) standards. While this is irrelevant for fun pitching, the NHPA has established rules for both uniformity and safety and should be adhered to.

In the handicapped accessible picnic area the question was brought up about the spacing of the picnic tables and the Superintendent stated that some were going to be moved to make accessibility casier.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

BURRIS PARK:

1. Replace park managers residence
2. Resurface road in front and beside Park Office
3. Tear down shed type building directly behind office.

KINGSTON PARK:

1. Continue installation of picnic tables and repair of barbeque pits.
2. Either cut out exposed root cited or cover with dirt to alleviate the safety hazard.

HICKEY PARK:

1. Bring horseshoe pits up to NHPA standards.
2. Repair the clogged drinking fountain.
3. Have some people in wheelchairs check the spacing on the picnic tables.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was impressed with the overall quality of the parks and their excellent condition. The Parks Superintendent was extremely knowledgeable and aware of the problems that have turned up from day to day and are striving to repair any deficiencies as soon as possible. The parks crew is doing a wonderful job in keeping our parks a showplace for the county and an enjoyable recreation area for its citizens.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Planning Agency
Planning/Building Inspection
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Engineering Building #6
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-8989

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Interview
March 5, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Whenever a new building is constructed, or an existing building is remodeled, expanded or improved, the builder must obtain building permits from local authorities. Inspections are conducted at each phase of the building process to ensure that the building is in compliance with state and local regulations. Building permit fees are calculated from the valuation of the new or improved structure provided by a fee schedule set up for each region of California by state code. This fee schedule is expressed in dollars per square foot. Permit fees are limited by California State law to an amount not to exceed "the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged."

There are four standards of evaluation used by local Building Officials:

1. For Building Valuations, the Valuation Table of the Building Standards
2. For Building Code Fees, the Valuation Building Code Tables
3. For Plumbing Code Fees, the Uniform Building Code
4. For Electrical Fees, the National Electrical Code

These state and national standards are periodically updated. For example, California State Building Code Valuation Tables are issued on a three-year cycle. The 2000 Code was to be released for use in August 2001.

FINDINGS:

The Committee invited the Deputy Building Official to the Grand Jury Chambers for an oral report concerning the Building Department and permit fees. The Department consists of three inspectors, two code enforcement personnel and one clerk.

Building fees are based on values and square footage. Fees for wells are at \$141.00 per well.

The Committee was told that the fees have been based on the same set of tables since 1996 and the revenues from the fees have been close to the expenditures, some years over and others short. The Building Departments records for the current fiscal year show monthly averages as follows: 45 Building Permits issued, 13 Well Permits issued, 291 inspections performed, \$25,832.30 of revenues and \$21,978.94 of expenditures.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Government Center/Parks Shop
1400 West Lacey Blvd
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2690

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
November 6, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Government moved to the present site in 1977. It consists of approximately 77 acres, 25 physical structures and 555,000 square feet of office space. The Kings County Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of this center.

FINDINGS:

The Committee toured the County Complex/ Park Shop on our own with map in hand. Cars were parked in any available spot at the Government Center, double-parked in some places and cars parked in no parking zones. Parking in the county complex is limited, especially when a jury trial is scheduled. Many people drive their cars around the lots several times before finding a parking space, often some distance from their destination. The Committee found the no parking signs were being ignored, approximately ten cars were found parked between the no parking signs.

If the landscaping is removed from the south side of the Grand Jury Chambers about ten parking places could be added. There would be space for 20 cars on Forum Drive, west of Clyde Drive, if the trees were removed. The Committee members expressed concern about the entrances and exits to the parking lots. We feel the entrance/exit to the parking off South Drive is too narrow.

When a car is leaving the parking lot, there is often insufficient room for another car to enter and make a right turn. The entrance to the parking lot at the westside of the complex on Forum Drive creates a traffic hazard when drivers try to make a right turn into the first row of parking. The turn is so sharp that drivers must either pull very wide into the oncoming lane, or back their vehicles up to make the turn (see the attached map of the Government Center). The asphalt needs to be better maintained and presently is in need of repair.

The Committee found numerous areas on the complex that have been either ignored or improperly repaired. There are two protruding drain grilles located between the Engineering Building and the Finance Building that need to be recessed for proper water drainage. All the wood arbors in the Government Center need to be oiled. The ivy in front of the County Administration Building needs to be removed from the posts that are lining the walkways and these posts need to be oiled. Many of the tree roots around the complex are above the ground, due to improper watering. Most trees surrounding the complex are improperly trimmed. Over

half of the landscaping is either dead or dying and needs to be rejuvenated. It is obvious to the Committee that there is no landscaping preventive maintenance program for the County Complex.

The Committee found the Parks Shop still to be a safety and health hazard. The condition of the Parks Maintenance Shop is such that the Board of Supervisors has already allocated funds for replacement of this shop. The Committee feels that the construction of the new maintenance shop should be accelerated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Make parking areas more convenient and safe to enter and exit.
2. Initiate a preventive maintenance program for the entire complex.
3. Implement a ground maintenance program for trees and shrubs.
4. Remove large pine tree from west side parking lot, as it is a topple hazard.
5. Provide additional parking.
6. Check and fix recessions on drains for proper water drainage between Engineering and Finance buildings.
7. Resurface existing parking areas and seal them.

COMMENTS:

The Committee has found that in the previous years these recommendations have been taken lightly and in some cases ignored. Previous Grand Jury Final Reports began in 1990-1991 and included most of the same material. The County Government Complex should reflect the pride of our community by maintaining a high standard of maintenance for all visitors to the complex to see. The citizens of Kings County have a right to expect nothing less of their Government Complex.

AREA OF INQUIRY: Kings County Shop/ Equipment Repair and Maintenance
11827 11th Ave.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-9207

REPORTING COMMITTEE: County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Follow up Visit
February 5, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County shop is located on 11th Avenue north of Houston Avenue. This shop is responsible for repairing and maintaining most of the county equipment, including automobiles for the Sheriff's Department and large equipment for the Road Department. There are ten employees in this department.

The shop consists of a long metal building divided into several work areas. These areas include a warehouse, a parts room, two offices, a small training room with a computer and VCR, bays for working on vehicles, two bays for working on large equipment and a vehicle washing area. There is parking space for equipment to be repaired on the south side of the building and finished equipment on the north side of the building.

FINDINGS:

The Committee interviewed the Master Mechanic regarding the shop facilities with reference to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury recommendations.

1. Place fire extinguishers at the exits of the warehouse and explore the possibility of a fire suppressant system for the warehouse and parts room. The Committee found this recommendation has been satisfied.
2. Install a retaining rail on the top shelves in the parts room. This committee does not believe this recommendation to be valid.
3. Clean the entire building more often. The shop is cleaned nightly and at the time of our visit was relatively clean considering several vehicles were being worked on.
4. The Director of Public Works should encourage the Fire Department to bring their equipment repairs back to the County Shop. The Fire Department is still contracting out all repair work thus no change.

The Committee was pleased to see several safety items throughout the work areas and appropriately placed fire extinguishers. There was no oil on the floor, however, there was a layer of oil absorbent material.

When the Committee asked why the shop no longer repairs the Fire Department's equipment, the fleet service manager stated that they had moved that service before his

employment as manager, and he was told the Fire Department went to an outside contractor for repairs because they were not satisfied with work done by the County.

The Committee observed the exterior rain gutter at the southwest corner of the building to be rusted in several places and needing cleaning of dirt and grass.

The catalytic heaters in the garage area are old and should be replaced. The shop manager informed us these heaters are budgeted for replacement this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Clean and repair rain gutter.
2. Proceed at the earliest possible time to replace the catalytic heaters.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Road Department
1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 Ext.2696

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Interview
December 4, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The County Road Superintendent oversees the Road Department and reports to the Director of Public Works. The Road Superintendent has a staff of 25 members. The county owns and maintains some equipment and rents the rest as needed equipment from private companies.

The 2001-2002 budget is approximately \$6.5 million from state generated taxes. Approximately \$200,000 per year is generated from the Special Hazard Tax and is the only money directly from Kings County. Road work, whether maintenance or repairing, is made by the County Public Works employees or is contracted out as necessary.

FINDINGS:

Kings County maintains 950 miles of county roads (350 miles of major and 600 miles of minor), 110 bridges and approximately 1000 pipe or concrete culverts. There has been a small reduction of county roads over the past 20 years because of city annexation. Road repairs include: road surface, shoulders, road embankments, bridge repair and culvert extensions and/or replacement for road widening.

The Committee found the main source of revenue to be gasoline taxes, and funded by Federal Taxes of 18.4 cents per gallon and State Taxes of 18 cents per gallon (25% of these are returned to the county) There is never enough funds for major county road repairs.

Public works uses computers to schedule repairs on county roads. The Committee was informed this is called a Payment Management System and the computer is usually right on target. Resurfacing usually averages 10 miles per year on major county roads. Reconstruction work is generally done using Public Works Employees for patching, or sealing, stripping and oiling. Approximately 100 miles are repaired annually. Cost to overlay one mile of a major road is approximately \$120,000.

Plans to widen and resurface Jersey Avenue from 19th to 18th Avenue intersections will be financed through a one time grant resulting from the Indian Gaming Center. This grant comes from the State Transportation and Improvement Projects amounting to approximately \$10.1 million.

On the wish list of Public Works is to resurface roads and parking areas around the County Government Center. This is becoming a serious problem, especially, the need for more parking as well as road surfacing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Pursue means to finance and obtain additional parking at the County Government Center.
2. Resurface roads throughout the County Government Center.

COMMENTS:

The County Road Superintendent was very knowledgeable and informed about Kings County Roads and funding available for the road maintenance.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Water District
200 North Campus Drive
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-6412

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Interview
February 22, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Water District was formed in 1954 under the County Water District Act to provide a legal entity for water management in the northeast portion of Kings County. The basic programs of the district are:

1. Protection, conservation and stabilization of ground water.
2. Negotiating and contracting for supplemental water.
3. Maintaining facilities for surface water distribution for irrigation and ground water recharge.
4. Preserving the existing surface water rights held by mutual water companies through a program of water stock acquisition and retention.

The district is located in the east central part of the Kings River service area and is entirely within Kings County. The City of Hanford, with a population of 42,000, lies near the center of the district. The total area of the District is 143,000 acres, of which 51,150 acres are also within the boundaries of Division 5 of the Kings River Conservation District, 82,610 acres are also within the boundaries of Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, and 9,240 acres are within the area where the two districts overlap. The district population excluding the City of Hanford is 35,000.

FINDINGS:

The District includes portions of the service area of Peoples Ditch Company and Last Chance Water Ditch Company both possess water rights on the Kings River and Lakeside Ditch Company, which holds water rights on the Kaweah River. The District encompasses the area of the Lakeside Ditch Irrigation Water District. The District operates and maintains the Riverside Ditch, a conveyance system used to distribute District and Peoples Ditch Company water.

The District's recharge basins are located near the conveyance system of the ditch companies in which they hold stock. These are Peoples, Settlers, Last Chance, Lakeside and Riverside Ditch Companies. The District also uses old slough and river channels and has a continuing program for purchasing and leasing property for ground water exchange. The District has over 1,000 acres of artificial recharge area and uses some 230 miles of unlined canals owned by the ditch companies. The District is in charge of maintenance and weed control in the basins.

Because there isn't enough surface water in the District, ground water is pumped through private wells by landowners to meet individual needs. Approximately 282,500 acre-feet of ground water are pumped annually.

The quality of the water is now being monitored. During critically dry years there is zero recharge, while during wet years the recharge can reach 125,000 acre-feet per year. During dry years water is purchased from as far away as Lake Shasta. Some buyers are unable to purchase water rights. The District is unable to give each property owner his or her own ditch. You have to order a minimum amount of acre-feet of water to receive water.

The District is practicing conjunctive use of both surface water and ground water. As urban population grows the District's water problems will escalate.

At the present time, Friant and Pine Flat Dams can hold the majority of water for the Kings County Water District. Kaweah Dam was built for flood control and is quite small. Maximum capacity is currently 143,000 acre-feet. Construction has begun to raise Kaweah Dam 21 feet and will expand storage capacity by 43,000 acre feet by late 2003.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings County Treasurer/Tax Collector
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2473

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Interview
February 19, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Treasurer/Tax Collector is elected for a four-year term and has two primary functions. As the Treasurer/Tax Collector, he or she is responsible for collecting taxes on all secured and unsecured property, miscellaneous license collections and collection of transient occupancy taxes.

FINDINGS:

The Treasurer/Tax Collector met with the Committee in the Grand Jury Chambers, to outline the activities and functions of this branch of county government.

The Department has five full-time employees and two permanent part-time employees performing treasury, tax collection and debt management. The annual expense budget is \$699,000, which is partially offset by revenues totaling \$409,000. Office automation accounts for about 24 percent of the annual budget, but extensive automation has enabled staffing to remain unchanged in spite of continuing growth of the workload.

The tax collection activity is responsible for sending more than 52,000 tax bills annually and collection of approximately \$53,600,000. The department has been recognized as having the best collection methods and performance in California.

This office also serves as the debt management arm of county government. It consults with various entities on debt issues and serves as a repository for school districts funds.

The Treasurer's role consists of optimizing the county's cash flow and return on investments of excess funds through research, analysis and purchase of securities. This activity is administered in line with the Treasurer's Statement of Investment Policy, which is approved annually by the Board of Supervisors. In 2001, the net yield on invested funds and treasury funds was 4.52 percent and 4.46 percent respectively. The average value of funds invested at any given time is about \$131,000,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Public Guardian/Veterans Service Officer
County Government Center
1400 West Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 Ext. 2669

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
September 4, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Public Guardian, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, is given the authority over the person and estates of individuals who are mentally incompetent to handle their own affairs. The Veterans Service Officer is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to assist veterans and their dependents in obtaining the benefits they are due under the law. This office helps them present claims for compensation and pensions and to apply for hospitalization, Veterans Administration insurance and other benefits.

FINDINGS:

The committee visited the Public Guardian/Veterans Service Officer in the Government Center.

The Public Guardian's office handles court appointments for guardianships for minors and conservatorships for adults. These court appointments are made when the minors or adults cannot care for themselves or handle their financial affairs, and there is no one else to provide for their needs. Powers and duties of the Public Guardian's office include conserving the estate of individuals as well as providing for their basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care and psychiatric treatment. As a result of the Welfare-to-Work Act the Guardian is now charged with handling the financial affairs of those people who do not comply with the guidelines. Since the children cannot be left without financial support, the Guardian will step in and insure that public funds are spent responsibly for the benefit of the children. This includes the purchase of nutritious food. Funds cannot be spent to buy alcohol, cigarettes, candy or prepared fast foods. One should note that known drug abusers are no longer eligible for Social Security benefits. There are currently 132 welfare clients sanctioned. A client will be sanctioned initially for 3 months. If successful after three months, they are returned to welfare. If found to be in violation a second time the client becomes sanctioned for six months. If the client is still unable to handle their affairs they are sanctioned permanently.

The Veterans Service Officer (VSO) aggressively seeks out veterans and their families to provide assistance and services. To meet this objective, the VSO strives to increase awareness of eligibility, entitlement, benefits programs and services provided by federal, state and local government agencies. Information is provided through outreach,

counseling and referral services. The VSO will assist veterans in developing, preparing and submitting claims for benefits to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The VSO employees are responsible for serving in excess of 3,000 individuals annually. The VSO has erected a veteran's memorial on the grounds of the Hanford District Cemetery. For \$20.00 the name of any veteran, living or dead, may be placed on the memorial wall behind the U. S. Army tank at that location.

The office is almost self-supporting as they receive private funds from many different areas when their assistance is needed. The Committee was told that a portion of the fee from the purchase of "Veterans License Plates" goes to the county where they were purchased.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury felt that the director and the employees of these two agencies are well versed in all areas and deserving credit for a job well done.

SUMMARY

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The County Government Committee of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury composed of 12 diversified members melded into a fearless unit determined to dig into the workings of our County Government.

The Committee met weekly investigating, preparing and writing reports of many of the departments and agencies in the County of Kings to form the County Government portion of the Final Report. This consumed many hours and travel miles throughout Kings County. For the most part we found that Kings County is fortunate to have so many well qualified and dedicated personnel.

In addition to the regular tours and visitations the committee was involved with four Citizen Complaints and follow-up of the recommendations of the 2000-2001 Grand Jury final report.

As a result of a concern regarding the handling of trash and recyclables within Kings County it was decided to take a tour through the County Government Complex and discovered that most of the trash including that which would be recyclable was in black bags and thus destined for the land fill. We found that most were unaware that non-clear bags would not be opened to determine if the contents were recyclable or not.

Due to our continued efforts we understand that the Public Works Department scheduled a tour, of all concerned, to the Kings Waste and Recycling Authority. It is reported that this effort has resulted in the savings for Kings County of several thousand dollars per year.

Dallas Schiewe, Chairperson
Joseph Bonner III, Assistant Chairperson
Patricia Crouch
Kathryn Espino
Fred Lawall
Glen Myers
Russell Nail
Shawn Poirier
Joe Radcliff
Jack Rea
Jim Rohrkemper
Quinton Ross
Leonard Silva

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Armona Elementary School
14th Avenue and Pimo Street
Armona, CA 93202
(559) 583-3020

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 10, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The present Armona Elementary School was built in 1953, and remodeled in 1989. There are 534 students from kindergarten through fourth grades, 28 teachers and two full time teachers who work with students having learning disabilities. There are approximately 25 percent Limited English Students. There is one Shelly Baird School classroom on campus. There is one groundskeeper and two full time custodians. There are 16 portable classrooms.

FINDINGS:

The Committee toured the school with the Armona Elementary School Principal. The first place we visited was the cafeteria. The cafeteria serves both Armona Elementary and Parkview Middle School. Food preparation is done at Armona and delivered to Parkview. Eighty-five percent of the students receive free or reduced meals. The price for students is \$1.00 for lunches and \$0.50 for breakfast. Approximately 475 lunches are served each day. Approximately 150 breakfast meals are served beginning at 7:15 AM. The eating area is small so lunch times are staggered.

The computer lab, located in one of the portable classrooms, has 21 computers two printers, one black and white (networked with 20 student computers) and one color printer on the teacher's desk. Students are scheduled to use the computer lab only with their teachers.

The Library is in a portable classroom. It boasts a wide variety of books, both in English and Spanish, totaling between seven and eight thousand books. Reading range is from kindergarten through 8th grades. Some books are Accelerated Reading books where the student, after reading the book, takes a test on the computer to test his comprehension and reading level. Over the last three years the library has received a \$14,000 grant for replacement and purchase of new books. Book check in and check out is computerized. There is no wheelchair ramp for the library.

Playground equipment is presently being replaced, and additions are being made to the area. New volleyball courts and tables and benches have been added, along with replacement of worn out and unsafe equipment. The kindergarten playground had equipment replaced in early 2001, however the large cement pipe used as a tunnel for the

tricycle path is a hazard, with sharp edges and jagged points. There is a rail, similar to a balancing beam, on the ground that is a trip hazard. Also a piece of PVC pipe sticking out of the cement, about two inches high, near the planter is a hazard.

The grounds were neat and clean and the buildings are in good repair.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Install wheelchair ramps to all rooms that require them.
2. Remove balance beam and PVC pipe in kindergarten playground.
3. The large cement pipe should be repaired, replaced or covered with safety cover.

COMMENTS: None.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Parkview Middle School
Hanford-Armona Road and C Street
Armona, CA 93202
(559) 583-5020

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 17, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Parkview Middle School was built in 1965 and has an enrollment of 463 students from fifth through eighth grades. The school employs one principal, twenty-one teachers, twelve classified personnel, one gardener, one full-time and one part-time custodian. There are five portable classrooms.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Principal and was given a tour of the campus.

The large multi-purpose gymnasium has rubber composition flooring. This room is also used as an eating area by utilizing folding tables and by the community for various activities. A connecting room houses the food warming and service area. Prepared meals are delivered to the school from the main kitchen at Armona Elementary School.

The playground area is divided by a large "graffiti rock", one side is for the fifth and sixth grades and the other for the seventh and eighth grades. The graffiti rock is controlled by the Student Body Association and is patrolled by the students. No gang symbols or profanity can be placed on the rock and no permanent markers are used. The playground equipment is outdated and not up to current standards.

The classrooms are of ample size and have at least two to four computers, at least one printer, a television and a VCR in them for student use. All computers are connected to the Internet. Any other audio-visual equipment is requested from the library. All teachers are issued a copy of a first aid and immediate care folder.

The school uses Armona Community Library located on the south side of the campus. Library is also used for study hall. There are 13 computers in the library for student and community use. Library has books in both English and Spanish that range from kindergarten through adult and all check in and out is automated. There is an Intervention Room for students with disciplinary problems, where they do their normal work under supervision. The maximum number of students is kept under seven. This room is also the storage area for extra audio-visual equipment. The overhead projectors are stored on top of wall cabinets over the student desks. They are not prevented from falling off in case of an earthquake.

Grade level tests are given in February, if student passes the test they do not have to retake them in May. If student fails both exams they are assigned summer school.

There are two Special Education classes for students with disabilities. There is one Resource Special Program Teacher who works with the fifth through eighth grades in their regular classrooms. There are special aides for these children.

Several programs to help students are established. Two of the programs are "Here's 2000 Looking at You" and "Character Counts". An officer from the Sheriff's Office is on campus Thursday afternoons to work with the students.

There is an eight-person site council that determines how Title I and Title II funds are to be spent. These are Federal funds for economically and academically challenged students.

The restrooms were well stocked and clean; however one of the women's restrooms had two broken water faucets. One drinking fountain was leaking.

The Music Department is well run, with both band and chorus classes. Approximately 75 students participate, with the school furnishing band instruments if the students can not afford them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair two faucets in women's restroom.
2. Repair leaking drinking fountains.
3. Install seismic stabilization system in Intervention Room to prevent overhead projectors, and other equipment, from falling in the event of an earthquake.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Akers Elementary School
Central Union School District
Coral Sea and Constellation Avenue
NAS Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 998-5707

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 17, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Akers Elementary School was built in 1963 and consists of thirty-nine classrooms and eight portable classrooms. Akers is a K-8 elementary school consisting of 700 students with an approximate ethnic breakdown (African American 13%, Pacific Islander 1%, Hispanic 12%, Asian 2%, Filipino 16%, American Indian 1% and Caucasian 55%). The budget allows for approximately \$7,100 per pupil.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the principal in his office and after a brief question and answer period, the principal took the Committee on a walking tour of the facilities. The school was in excellent condition partially due to a state grant in 1998 with matching funds from the school district and partially due to an outstanding custodial staff (consisting of one daytime custodian, one grounds keeper and two night time custodians).

Despite the fact students must often move as a result of their parents' careers, scholastic and citizenship standards remain high. Akers is a California Distinguished School and in 2000 Akers was awarded National Blue Ribbon School status. This honor is based not only on scholastic achievement, but other criteria such as good citizenship and student self-esteem. Akers has also won the Governor's Reading Award for the last two years. The principal believes much of the school's success is due to: (1) strong educational programs; (2) exceptional personnel; (3) commitment to definite goals; (4) informed, involved and supportive parents; (5) sincere concern for the needs of all students; and (6) abundant opportunities for students to participate, learn, and grow. The principal stated that the only staff turn over was due to retirement or death. The student to teacher ratio is, grades kindergarten through third, 20 to 1, and fourth through eighth approximately 27 to 1.

Akers has a state sponsored pre-school program where 4 year olds can attend school in preparation of beginning kindergarten the following year. The program consists of two classes of twenty-four students per class. Akers has an "Early Bird" intervention program for children who are lagging behind in a given subject, where the student can receive special instruction in that subject. Starting with the sixth grade through the eighth grade,

students will go to different rooms that are dedicated to specific subjects (i.e. English, History, Math and other subjects) preparing them for the high school atmosphere.

Students at Akers are able to enjoy a well-stocked library and two internet-connected computer labs as well as those computers in individual classrooms. Akers has a web site that allows a person serving in the military any place in the world to E-mail the staff at Akers and stay connected with his/her child's education. The music program at Akers has a program that allows the music teacher to record a specific program (i.e. Christmas Program) file it on the web site and a parent serving in the military can E-mail the web-site and listen to his child perform in the program.

Approximately forty-five per cent of the students are on a free/reduced meal program which furnishes meals to students who meet the state mandated criteria. Approximately seventeen per-cent of the students eat breakfast at the school. The school breakfasts and lunches are prepared at the school and served in the cafeteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The enthusiasm shown by the principal and his staff is reflected in the school's outstanding academic awards and the smiling faces of the children.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Central Union Elementary School
Central Union School District
15783 18th Avenue
Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 924-7797

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 31, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Central Union Elementary School was built in 1940. This rural school is located south of Lemoore and is a kindergarten through eight grade school. The school consists of seven permanent classrooms and sixteen portable classrooms.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Principal for a brief question and answer session in her office, after which, accompanied by the principal, the Committee took a brief tour of the school grounds and several classrooms. Central Union Elementary School has a student body of 309 students. The ethnic composition of the student body is 38 percent Native American, 33 percent Caucasian, 20 percent Hispanic and the remaining 9 percent is made up of African American and Asian students. The school is staffed by 19 Certificated Teachers and at least one Instructional Aide per classroom. The school has 32 Classified Employees (7 permanent and 25 part time) and a three man Custodial Staff (one day custodian, one day grounds keeper and one night custodian).

100 percent of the students are bussed to and from school every day. Approximately 40 percent of the students are on the free/reduced lunch program and approximately 75 students eat breakfast daily during the school year. The school prepares all the meals in their own cafeteria which is located in the gymnasium. The cafeteria was very clean and the food looked very appetizing and had a very pleasing aroma.

The school uses the district adopted zero tolerance discipline policy. Students are suspended or expelled if they fail to comply with the strict standards which have been set for them. Suspended students are required to attend Saturday School and expelled students must attend Community School. The school is on a state funded Saturday School Program for children who are absent from school. The state funds four hours of instruction for every day the student is absent from school. The school also has a detention program, whereby students who are unruly can be kept after school for one hour.

The school has a state funded pre-school program, that prepares the children for entry into kindergarten. At present the pre-school program consists of 22 students.

Central Union Elementary School has a well stocked library, which is on the Accelerated Reading Program. The computer lab has a total of 30 Macintosh computers with supervised access to the internet. Each classroom has a minimum of five computers as well as a 27" television with a VCR.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

Through the hard work of the principal and staff, Central Union Elementary School won a California Distinguished School Award in 1998. The interaction between the students and the faculty generated an atmosphere of respect and trust is very conducive to learning, that was very apparent on the day the Committee visited the school.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

R. J. Neutra School
Central Union School District
Hawkeye and Oriskany Avenues
NAS Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 998-6823

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 17, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Neutra Elementary School was built in 1962 from a plan designed by famed architect R. J. Neutra, who also designed the family housing surrounding the school. Neutra is located within the Lemoore Naval Air Station and was originally built to service the children of military families, but now Neutra is subject to the inter-district transfer process. Neutra is a kindergarten through sixth grade school consisting of 580 students and receives approximately \$7,100 per student per year. The school consists of thirty-three classrooms and twelve portable classrooms.

FINDINGS:

Neutra Elementary School is known for its distinction in being recognized as outstanding by both state and national standards. A California Distinguished School in 1987 and 1997, and out of 84,000 Elementary schools in the nation is one of only 29 in the nation to have received National Blue Ribbon status three times, 1988, 1992 and 1999.

The classrooms are arranged in a circle that has classroom doors open onto a central grassy courtyard, enclosing the students in a contained, nurturing environment. An outdoor stage in the inner courtyard was constructed by the Sea Bees. The naval base is active in school affairs with some squadrons becoming involved with the monthly spirit assemblies and recognition ceremonies. Five playgrounds surround the school, the whole perimeter enclosed by chain-link fence. Neutra just recently received approximately three acres from the Naval Air Station to incorporate into the school site and was in the process of adding additional playgrounds.

The school has two computer labs (approximately thirty computers per lab) where students can E-mail parents on tour in the military. This capability also allows the parent to remain connected with his/her child's education, no matter where that parent is serving, by E-mailing the child's teacher through the school's web site. The school's administration and faculty's concept is that the computer must support the school's basic aims, not be an end in itself.

Students in the fourth and fifth grades do multi-media presentations (instead of the term-papers familiar to older generations). They learn to bring together materials, written,

aural, pictorial from a variety of sources including CD-ROM and the Internet. The computer is thus perceived by students as a tool.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

Like Akers Elementary School the enthusiasm shown by the principal and his staff is reflected in the school's outstanding academic awards and the emotional bond between the children and the school staff.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Stratford Elementary School
Central Union School District
19348 Empire Street
Stratford, CA. 93266
(559) 947-3391

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
January 31, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Stratford Elementary School was built over a period of four years, 1918-1922. The school is located in the rural community of Stratford, California. The school is a kindergarten through eighth school and has a student body of 314. The ethnic composition of the student body is 86 percent Hispanic, 10 percent Caucasian and the remaining 4 percent is made up of African American, Asian and Native American.

FINDINGS:

Stratford Elementary School consists of 12 permanent classrooms, 7 portable classrooms and a gymnasium. The grounds and buildings are well maintained and handicapped accessible. All rooms are air conditioned, bright and cheerful with the children's work on display.

The staff consists of 19 teachers, 24 classified employees (classroom aides work only 3.75 hours per day) and a custodial staff of three (one daytime head custodian, one daytime groundskeeper and one evening custodian). All teachers are fully certificated, with several having their masters degree in education and a few having a masters degree in administration. When the principal is absent or called away a teacher, being qualified, can fill in since there is no vice-principal to fulfill these duties. All teachers are evaluated every one to two years.

The library has a media center with one full-time library clerk/technology resource person and a district technology clerk who is on site one-half day every day. There are approximately 9,000 books and videos logged into the computer system in the library.

Each classroom has from five to eight computers, one printer, one television and one VCR. The school has a computer lab which is equipped with 30 Macintosh computers and a lab instructor who supervises access to the internet. The school has an Afternoon Computer Program that is supervised which allows parents as well as students to have access to the computers.

Stratford Elementary School has an excellent Head Start Program which has been in place for the last eight years. The school is also involved with the DARE program and

the principal informed the Committee that the DARE Officer was a very dedicated officer who was deeply involved with the community. The school has a Respect Program in place which utilizes a registered nurse. Part of the program is targeted at teenage pregnancies, which is called PSI (Postpone Sexual Involvement) and the Principal informed the Committee that the Program had been well received by the community. The school also has a Pre-school Program which is partially funded by the state which prepares the children for kindergarten.

The school has a beautiful gymnasium which is not only used for school activities but is open to the community for various activities. The school had just refinished the gymnasium hardwood floor this past summer. The cafeteria is located in the gymnasium. The food is prepared on site and on the day the Committee visited the cafeteria it was spotless and the food looked very appetizing and had a very pleasing aroma. The cafeteria had previously won the 100 percent All Star Food Safety Award presented by the Kings County Health Department. Approximately 80 percent of the students are on the Free/Reduced Lunch Program and on the morning the Committee visited, the school had served 120 breakfasts.

Approximately 20 percent of the students are bussed to and from school daily. The buses are shared with the Island, Central Union and Lemoore Elementary Schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

Stratford Elementary School won a California Distinguished School Award in 1986 and again in 1998. The current staff and student body are on course to repeat that award. The Committee was impressed with the condition of the buildings and grounds in light of the age of the school.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Corcoran Unified School District
Administration
1520 Patterson Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-3104

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
August 30, 2001
Follow-up Visit
September 10, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Corcoran Unified School District consists of seven schools: Bret Harte, John C. Fremont, Mark Twain, John Muir, Kings Lake Education Center, Corcoran Community Day School and Corcoran High School.

FINDINGS:

The Committee made an unannounced visit to the Corcoran Unified School District Administrative Office. The Chief Business Officer took us on a tour of the building and grounds. We toured the new board room, and the additions to the original building utilizing Prison Mitigation Funds that was completed four years ago. The maintenance and warehouse building along with the bus yard is located on the property. This building is well maintained. The annex building contains the Office of Special Projects.

There is one maintenance person, with a part time helper, in charge of the district vehicles. There is a head groundskeeper for the district that also works at maintenance. Each school has a day and evening custodian. Five of the schools have a head groundskeeper on site. Kings Lake and Corcoran Community Day School do not have one person permanently assigned.

The district had a Books on Wheels program which has been discontinued due to illness of the driver. This is a paid position which is vacant at this time. The district presently has a Literacy in the Park program that is held annually, *scheduled for September 30, 2001*, which is a carnival-type operation with booths, rides and prizes being given. Prizes consist of back packs, pencils and books to help the student during the school year. The program is run by the Office of Special Projects.

The District Superintendent arrived during our tour. She has just recently assumed the position of Superintendent. We were told there had been a leaking gas valve outside the building which had just been repaired. That accounted for the piles of dirt at the rear of the building.

Two members of the Grand Jury made a follow-up visit on September 10, 2001, to clarify information received on our first visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was impressed with the new board room and improvements to the existing facilities.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Corcoran Joint Unified School District

Mark Twain Elementary
1500 Oregon
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-4178

John Muir Middle School
707 Letts Ave
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-4167

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
August 30, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Mark Twain Elementary and John Muir Middle School are two of seven schools in the Corcoran Unified School District. Corcoran's demographics are similar to many rural farming communities. Nearly 50 percent of its students do not speak English as their native language. The Federal Migrant Education Program serves 31 percent of the school population. Students are drawn from the school age population of Corcoran and its surrounding area. Because of the large number of children enrolling in the lower grades the school district uses its' facilities in a unique way. Schools in the lower grades are assigned to one facility that serves only two grade levels.

Mark Twain Elementary, opened in 1953, has 515 students enrolled in the fourth and fifth grades. The school has 19 teachers and 19 classrooms.

School ethnic background is:

1. 80% Hispanic
2. 7% African American
3. 13% Non-Hispanic Caucasians.

The Health Coordinator/School Nurse serves all the schools of the district and has her office at Mark Twain. There are two preschool classrooms on campus that are contracted out.

John Muir Middle School was built in 1953 and has 705 students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. There are 36 teachers, 12 aides and a Resource Specialist on campus. At the time of our visitation, the school was without a principal; however, the vice-principal was very knowledgeable and well informed.

The school ethnic background reflects a similar distribution as Mark Twain Elementary:

1. 80% Hispanic
2. 14% Non-Hispanic Caucasian
3. 5% African American
4. 1% Other.

FINDINGS:

The Mark Twain Principal conducted a tour of the facilities and stated, "With the Government Performance Award, we were able to purchase 29 new computers for the Computer Laboratory," they are still in the process of being hooked up to the internet. They also have five Waterford Stations (English Language Program) installed for a reading program in the Computer Laboratory. Their Library, adjacent to the Computer Laboratory, is very organized and well-stocked with books color-coded to different reading levels.

The Grand Jury visited two classrooms, a fourth grade where students were at Physical Education, and a fifth grade class. Both were in very satisfactory condition; however appeared slightly cramped with boxes of school material around two of the outside walls. We observed with satisfaction, how attentive the fifth grade students were.

The school district has one Physical Education Teacher who travels to the three elementary schools. Each class has one period each week with the Physical Education Teacher. The individual classroom teachers also organize additional physical education periods at other times of the week.

We observed most of the buildings need new paint, especially the trim areas. The principal stated "that in past years they have used older students to paint during the summer but this year funds were not available". At times they have a problem with graffiti which the janitors are able to remove.

The Vice-Principal at John Muir Middle School conducted the Grand Jury on a tour of the campus. In 1998, the school was renovated, air conditioning added to all classrooms and a new gymnasium built, all financed by State Prison Impact funds.

Our tour included the Library, Computer Laboratory, Computer Classroom (all sixth graders take an introductory computer class), one ESL (English as a Second Language) class with 16 students each, the new Gymnasium, and the Cafeteria. The Cafeteria regularly serves hot lunches per weekly menu and also has a snack bar. All school rooms have television for Channel One and VCR's (Video Cassette Recorder/Player).

John Muir is a closed campus unless the student lives within one or two blocks and obtains permission to go home for lunch. The Vice-Principal stated they do not have a drug problem at John Muir. There are two district run Reading Specialist Program (RSP) classrooms on campus.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mark Twain Elementary:

Paint exterior, especially trim.

John Muir Middle School:

None.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury was impressed with the naming of the walks at Mark Twain Elementary. This is used in the mailing system on the campus and the students learn how to both write and address letters.

The SAT-9 scores at John Muir Middle School have risen to the 50th percentile. Students and teachers are to be congratulated. The Grand Jury found the campus both neat and clean.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Corcoran High School
1100 Letts Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-5061

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow-up Report
December 20, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Corcoran High School (CHS), erected in 1939, is one of the oldest existing high schools in the San Joaquin Valley and is part of the Corcoran Unified School District. There are approximately 800 students attending the school.

As required by law, the Corcoran Unified School District issued responses to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report recommendations.

FINDINGS:

The Kings County Grand Jury received a copy of the response letter from Corcoran Unified School District concerning the 2000-2001 Grand Jury recommendations for Corcoran High School. The Committee visited the CHS campus as a follow up on the recommendations. The Committee met with the Principal who discussed the recommendations with us. He also showed us the blacktop in question in recommendation number four.

The Principal informed us recommendation number one, seek funding to the students on college visitations, has been met. The school received a two-year grant from the State that is being used for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program. This program targets middle-of-the-road students and helps prepare them for college level work. They are given college orientation and help with applying for funds to attend college. They are also taken on tours of California State University, University of California, and California Community College campuses. After the two-year program has expired the school district will have to determine whether it will assume the expense of the AVID Program.

Recommendation number two, work with the Corcoran Police Department to apply for a grant to have a police officer on campus, has been met. As of August 20, 2001, a School Resource Officer from Corcoran Police Department has been assigned full time to CHS campus.

Recommendation number three, pursue funding for a cafeteria/multi-purpose room, is under exploration. The new Superintendent and the Chief Business Officer are currently

exploring options for additional sources of facilities funding. The Principal informed us, funds have been frozen at this point.

Recommendation number four, repair or replace the blacktop surrounding the old gym, is on the California State Five-Year Deferred Maintenance List. It will be replaced as funds from the State become available to the District. In the meantime, school district staff will continue to monitor the condition of the blacktop. There is a new Shelly Baird classroom being built close to the area in question. When the construction is completed the District will reevaluate the plan and possibly resurface. Meanwhile, it will remain on the Five-Year Deferred Maintenance List.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Corcoran Community Day School
1305 Ottawa Ave.
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-3951

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
August 30, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Corcoran Community Day School is administered by the Corcoran Unified School District. It is located on the south side of Corcoran on property owned by the Agriculture Department of Corcoran High School. The school site is currently zoned for agricultural use only. A temporary variance allows the site to be used for a classroom.

The campus consists of approximately half an acre surrounded by a chain link fence over six feet tall topped with outriggers facing inward with barbed wire. The grounds in front of the classroom are surfaced with medium-sized rocks. There are no trees on campus. There is one picnic table on the north side of the building near a small well-kept grassy area. Volleyball net standards are located in the rocky area in front of the classroom.

A portable (double-wide) classroom houses students grades seven through twelve accessed by a portable metal stairway. Administrator/Principal/Teacher defined the school's purpose and the students, all of which have experienced considerable difficulties in their educational careers and or are for the most part working below grade level. Presently there are twenty-four enrolled (16 active) in the class. All of these students have been expelled from regular school or are under the authority of a probation officer.

There is one Administrator/Principal/Teacher, one full-time teacher's aide, and one Probation Officer assigned to the classroom. The Probation Officer assists in maintaining order in the classroom unless his duties call him away sometimes to court with a student. During those times a resource officer is available by phone from John Muir School, approximately 1.5 miles away.

FINDINGS:

The committee held an in house interview with the Administrator/Principal/Teacher with follow-up questions on prior Grand Jury recommendations. Most of the changes have been made relative to those recommendations. One primary recommendation: a cement surfaced basketball court is still planned, to provide an exercise area to the students for PE classes as are required by State Law. The classroom is divided into two areas, one for students in seventh and eighth grades, the other for high school students. This seems to be a good idea, since there is a considerable difference in maturity between these groups. It would be more advantageous to separate the two groups into separate classrooms,

Separate classrooms are needed to alleviate crowding and congestion created by combining the seventh through twelfth grades students and materials.

The Administrator/Principal/Teacher is gone approximately one day a week for administration training. When a substitute teacher is in the classroom the Probation Officer or Resource Officer is present along with the aide. This is a closed campus, all the students walk or parents transport to school. Hot meals are provided by the cafeteria at Mark Twain School. There are twelve computers in the classroom with three printers. Only eight computers were operational at the time of our visitation.

The interview with the principal stated that most of the textbooks are discards from other schools and not up to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Play area for basketball court should be cemented per prior Grand Jury report of 2000-2001.
2. More space is needed in the classroom to ease crowding.
3. Needs one more teacher in order to divide the class in upper and lower levels.
4. Textbooks that are up-to-date and in line with state standards are needed.
5. Front door needs handicapped access.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury was impressed by how well behaved the students acted. This school is a tremendous improvement over the former location.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings Lake Education Center
1128 Dairy Avenue
Corcoran CA 93212
(559) 992-3951

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
August 30, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Kings Lake is an unconventional type school. It encompasses actually three different schools: An Opportunity School, Continuation School and Adult School. The Committee met with the Principal.

The Opportunity School morning class is for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. It is conducted from 8 to 11 AM. The afternoon class is for 9th and 10th grades and is from 12 noon to 3:15 PM. The opportunity classes are for students with unsatisfactory attendance or conduct records. There is one teacher and one aide per class. There are no more than fifteen (15) students in either the AM or PM classes. It is the administration's goal for the student to stay no longer than one semester in opportunity classes before returning to the regular classroom.

Continuation School is an all day school. There are three teachers that conduct multiple classes. A student must be 16 to attend. Students who do well could possibly reenter Corcoran High School to complete their high school education. They have one Bilingual Community contact person.

The Adult School has morning and afternoon classes, with one teacher for each. There are three Adult Independent Studies Classes, one on Wednesday from 4 to 6 PM, Thursday from 5 to 7 PM and one on Tuesday, following regular classes at John Muir School. A John Muir teacher teaches this class.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the principal. The Committee did not observe any students as they were all in class. Administration is encouraging Corcoran High School to take care of their truancy problems in house, rather than sending them to Kings Lake. Classroom #4 does not have a window, which could become dangerous in the event of power failure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Install window in classroom #4.

COMMENTS:

One Committee member, having substituted as a substitute at this location, remarked that there has been an improvement on the operation of the school.

AREA OF INQUIRY: Delta View Unified School District
1201 Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3122

REPORTING COMMITTEE: Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Informational Tour
February 28, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Delta View Unified School District was established in 1916. The district has only one school (Delta View Elementary). Construction of the buildings at the current site was begun in 1950. Delta View Elementary consists of five permanent classrooms and one portable classroom which serves as the library. The school is a kindergarten through eighth grade school and has a student body of 92 with an ethnic composition of 60 percent Hispanic and 40 percent Caucasian.

The school staff includes, the Superintendent/Principal, five teachers, four instructional aides, a volunteer librarian, an afternoon/evening custodian who cleans the school, a bus driver who also works as a maintenance man and grounds keeper, an office staff of one full time administrative assistant/secretary and one part time business assistant. Each teacher is required to teach a consecutive grade combination class (i.e. first & second - third & fourth etc.). The school also has the support services of a speech therapist, a resource teacher, a school nurse and a school psychologist furnished by the Kings County Office of Education. Three of the teachers have state teaching credentials and two have emergency teaching credentials. The school has been a Charter School for approximately three years.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Superintendent/Principal in his office for a brief question and answer period. The Committee learned that each classroom has a minimum of five computers and all are connected to the internet. Each classroom also has a television and a VCR. The library has approximately 5000 books available and a computer lab, which has six on-line computers. The library is on the Accelerated Reading Program, whereby the books are color coded as to reading difficulty so the children can check out books written for their current reading ability. The library is on a computer check out procedure. Each child has a number assigned to him, the librarian brings up the student's number on the computer and scans the bar code in the book when a student checks out a book. The student's number and the bar code in the book are scanned again when the book is returned. Not only is this a great way to keep track of the books, it is also a great reference to determine the difficulty level at which a child is reading. The past two years the school has won a \$5,000 Governor's Reading Award.

In the computer lab each child is issued a password they must enter whenever they log on to a computer as well as when they log off. The Superintendent/Principal informed the Committee that it was a great way to keep track of who was doing what on the computers.

The Committee was informed that the Delta View Unified School District extends into Tulare County and approximately one third of the student body comes from Tulare County.

The Committee learned that 75 percent of the children are bussed to school each day and that approximately 75 percent of the children are on the free/reduced lunch program. The meals are transported in from the Kit Carson School Cafeteria. The cafeteria also furnishes a worker to oversee the serving of the food, Delta View furnishes three or four upper grade children to assist the worker. The school does not have a Breakfast Program.

The districts' budget is approximately \$682,000. The average expenditure for each student is approximately \$8,400 per year. This year through state grants, the school is building a transportation building to house their one bus and through a program called "Critical Hardship", a preventive maintenance program, is putting a new roof on their school. They have also received a \$225,000 grant to drill a new water well.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Committee was very impressed with the overall operation of the district and how welcome the staff and children made the Committee feel.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Jefferson Elementary School
522 West Malone Street
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2266

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 25, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Jefferson Elementary School was built in 1953, the school serves kindergarten through sixth grades. Jefferson Elementary School has eighteen permanent classrooms and five portables, a library which includes a Reading Specialist Program (RSP), one storage room, three restrooms, a cafeteria, an office, two sand play areas, basketball courts, track and field, softball field, bus area and staff parking. Approximately 514 kindergarten through sixth grade students attend the school. The ethnic makeup of the student body is 63 percent Hispanic, 24 percent Caucasian, 10 percent African-American, 2 percent Asian and 1 percent American Indian. There is a 97 percent average daily attendance. There are a total of 24 credentialed teachers on the staff, one Resource Specialist Program teacher with an aide, a part time music teacher, three aides and two administrators. Two custodians maintain the buildings and two groundskeepers maintain the grounds.

FINDINGS:

The Committee interviewed the principal in the library and later toured the campus. The school is once again returning to the concept of neighborhood schools. The principal indicated there has been a very significant improvement in referrals and discipline problems this year. Aggressive behavior is addressed immediately. Each student and parent is asked to sign a behavioral contract at the beginning of the year. All students are made aware of the rules.

The school is trying to remove barriers that interfere with learning utilizing, Recreation, Enrichment, Academic Devoted to Youth (READY) Program. The READY Program is an after school program that lasts until 6:00 P.M., including academic support, which includes drama, art and music. There is a waiting list for the READY Program, which is limited to one hundred and twenty volunteers. The Hanford Recreation Department sponsors the recreation program, in conjunction with the READY Program.

Free and reduced meals are served starting with breakfast at 7:15 AM. All students eat lunch in the cafeteria unless they are given permission to leave the campus.

A Student Study Team has been formed and schedules regular meetings to determine the psychological and mental health needs of the students. Early in the year the school has a safety day which includes hearing, vision and dental screening. Those students with health needs are given special attention.

The school utilizes the grouping model, this is in compliance with the Hanford Elementary Curriculum Enrichment Program. Included in this year's program is the Immediate Intervention for Underperforming Schools Program. A grant will be offered to those schools that qualify.

A speech therapist is available three times a week. Physical Education is taught to the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The principal stated that there was one computer in each classroom and two computers in the library. The library is equipped with 7,388 books, and there is a monthly average of 2000 books checked out for kindergarten through sixth grades. If students are reading above the sixth grade level it was suggested that the students request a book from the junior high school or from the local public library.

In each classroom we found an Emergency Procedure Booklet that was located near the door. The drinking fountains in the kindergarten area are too high for short students, the Committee mentioned to the principal that one drinking fountain near room eleven was inoperative. Some of the restrooms were void of soap in the dispensers.

The Committee observed several mud puddles in the play area. We were informed this problem is scheduled to be rectified by concreting the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Concrete muddy playground area.
2. Relocate drinking fountain to accommodate kindergarten students.
3. Assure soap dispensers are filled.
4. A full list of all student names in the classroom should be included in the Emergency Procedure Booklet.

COMMENTS:

The Committee felt that the concept of returning to neighborhood schools was better for all concerned. Students can walk to schools, and not be required to ride buses.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

James Monroe
Elementary School
300 Monroe Drive
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2286

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow Up
Informational Tour
February 14, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

James Monroe School was established in 1952. It is located in northwest Hanford and is a part of the Hanford Elementary School District. School buildings include seven classroom wings, an office area, a cafeteria and a library serving grades kindergarten through sixth. Approximately 500 students are enrolled.

Staff includes 25 teachers, a School Operations Officer, a Literary Coach, a Resource Specialist and a Registered Health Assistant. The Registered Nurse visits the school three times a week and is always available by cell phone during school hours. Five teachers are trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. There are two Special Day Classes, one Shelly Baird class and a Buddy Club. The cafeteria provides breakfast and lunch. Fifty percent of the student body receives free/reduced meals. The library is open during all recesses for student use. Each grade level has library access with reading programs and reading incentives. Every classroom has computers, including one for the teacher's use, funded through a grant program.

FINDINGS:

James Monroe School has a new parking lot that has been completed on the West Side of the school, eliminating the need for bus loading and unloading on the public street. Now parents and guests have a safer and better parking program, children aren't as apt to dart between cars and cross Cortner Street in the middle of the block. A new playground for the kindergartners was completed. The kindergartners now attend school all day.

The school cafeteria meets many needs, besides being the school-dining hall; it also serves as an emergency clothier. A rack of children's clothing in all sizes (even shoes), donated by the parents, stands in the corner of the room for emergency needs. If a child comes to school without a jacket or needs an emergency change of clothes, he or she can find something to wear here. The cafeteria also serves as a theater for school assemblies, complete with a stage. On rainy days it's a game room with game boards painted on the floor. The YMCA uses the cafeteria daily for after school programs.

The Monroe School has a Post Office Program that teaches the students how to write and send letters. Each classroom has its own school address just as we do for a home or business. The students use the Mustang Express Postage, which is a stamp just like real stamps. Every letter is inspected for the correct address, postage and return address. If the letter is incorrectly done it is returned to the sender. The local postal service has provided the school with an authentic blue mailbox. The students are not only taught how to address the letter correctly but also how to write a letter.

The kindergarten class has two yard supervisors to watch the students while the teachers perform other responsibilities. There are two bilingual aides for the all day kindergarten students. The school has an after-school tutorial program to help the students with classes.

The Committee found the recommendations of the 2000-2001 Grand Jury have been resolved. A few feet from the office are located two drains that need to be filled in around the edges there are some sharp pieces of cements showing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fill in the edges around the drains making it safer for everyone.

COMMENTS:

The student overflow has been sent to Joe Simas School and has eased the crowding that James Monroe was experiencing.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Joe Simas Elementary School
1875 Fitzgerald Lane
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2387

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow-up and Informational
Tour
February 14, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Joe Simas Elementary School is a new facility in its second year of use. The school is the newest in the Hanford Elementary School District serving kindergarten through sixth grades. The school has 485 students, 23 teachers, a literacy coach, a learning director and a student director. A registered nurse and health assistant are on campus two times per week. Ethnic make-up is 43 percent Caucasian, 47 percent Hispanic and 10 percent African-American and Asian.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Vice-Principal and toured the campus. The cafeteria was spotless and well decorated. Meals are brought in from the central kitchen, which serves the entire Hanford Elementary School District. The cafeteria serves breakfast and lunch to approximately 360 students, of which 64 percent are free/reduced, meals. Breakfast is served daily between 7:15 AM and 8:00 AM. The building also serves as an assembly room for various school programs.

The library has over 5000 books, kindergarten to eighth grade level. The librarian is very helpful to the students and assists them in their choice of books. Check-in and check-out is all computer programmed.

Adjacent to the library is a Professional Development Center for the use of all district staff. It is state of the art accessible with computer link-ups for up to ten portable classrooms.

We were shown several classrooms where we observed the interface of the various ethnic students.

The Joe Simas School has implemented a unique Dual Language Immersion Program, starting with one kindergarten class. This is a voluntary program approved by the student's parents. There are two first grade classes and two and one half (each) second grade classes and third grades classes in this program referred to as Foreign Language Institute (FLI). There are 160 of a total of 500 students in this program where the major goals are: develop fluency in communication and literacy in two languages, acquire

knowledge in all academic subjects and reach the academic standards of the district, cultivate an understanding of other cultures and lastly strengthen positive attitudes among other students. Kindergarten is primarily Spanish with ten minutes of English, first grade primarily Spanish with 20 minutes of English and so on till fourth grade is being taught 60 percent Spanish and 40 percent English. Results of this program found testing is better for FLI students in reading.

Since this tour was to observe the recommendations regarding fire extinguishers from the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report, special attention was focused on location and identifying.

Apparently when Lincoln Elementary was utilizing the Joe Simas school, temporary shelves were placed in front of the fire extinguishers which are now properly marked and cleared for uses.

The school has a portable computer lab of thirty laptop computers. This lab is moved between classrooms and utilized by all students at various class schedules.

The school has an after school tutorial one hour workshop three times per week. This assists those students with learning problems to prepare their class assignments.

The only difficulty the Committee had was determining the front of the school. Having never been to the school we stumbled into the Professional Development room and the library looking for the office.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A sign-indicating front of school or office location would be helpful to new students/parents or Grand Jury members.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Lee Richmond School
939 Katie Hammond Lane
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2298

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 11, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Lee Richmond School has kindergarten through the sixth grade classes. Construction of this school began in 1953, one classroom added in 1957 and another in 1963. All classrooms, except the one built in 1963, were remodeled in 1988. Presently, the school has sixteen regular classrooms, eight portable classrooms which includes the library, a staff office building and a cafeteria building. One, sixth grade class is being held at John F. Kennedy Jr. High. There are 560 students enrolled with 67 percent qualifying for the Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Program. The school has 24 teachers, a Resource Specialist Teacher, an operations officer and a principal. The Committee met with the operations officer and the principal. The principal conducted the tour of the campus.

FINDINGS:

There is a Home and School Connection Program in operation on the Lee Richmond Campus. In this program the parents can check out books their child reads and can read along with them at home. Books cover grade levels from kindergarten through high school. The program specialist's desk is located in the cafeteria. The Recreation Enrichment Academics Devoted to Youth (READY) program was funded by a special grant. The program promotes literacy in the home.

Two-thirds to three-fourths of the student body is served a hot lunch in the cafeteria. This is a closed campus and few students are allowed to leave at lunch time, however parents may check students out. All students must eat in the cafeteria even if they bring their lunch. Approximately one-third of the students eat breakfast daily in the cafeteria.

Custodians are on site daily, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Gardeners tend to the grounds once a week, and are sent from the facilities department. Repairs are made to the school as requested by school management.

There are three kindergarten classes, which have their own playground. The equipment is due to be replaced during the 2002-2003 school year. Also, to be replaced is the equipment in the upper grade playground. This will be done after the renovation is completed on the administration offices.

The library has approximately 8,400 books, with a reading level from kindergarten to sixth grade. There are two computer stations. Each classroom is allowed thirty minutes a

week to visit the library. Students may also visit the library daily to do research for class reports.

The bathrooms were clean and in good-working condition, and all are handicapped accessible. Some of the drinking fountains did not work and the non-skid coating under the fountains was worn or missing. It could create a safety or hazardous condition for the students. One of the storage buildings had a large piece of siding material missing, and the crawl space cover was missing, also creating a safety or hazardous condition. However, the grounds and buildings were otherwise in good condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Replace with new non-skid coating under drinking fountains.
2. Replace crawl space cover and repair pieces of siding material on storage building.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Lincoln Elementary School
807 S. Irwin Street
P.O. Box 1067
Hanford CA 93232
(559) 585-2276

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour/
Follow-up Report
February 21, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Lincoln Elementary Schools renovation has been mainly completed. Lincoln educates student's kindergarten through sixth grade. The school has approximately 518 students, a Principal, a Learning Director, 26 Certificated Staff, 25 Classified Staff, which includes a Healthy Start Program Specialist, a Bilingual Clerk/Typist II, two Bilingual Aides, a Media Service Aide, two Special Education Aides, three Yard Supervisors, A School Operations Officer, Custodian II, Bilingual Student Specialist, Lead READY Program Specialist and a READY Program Tutor. Ethnic background of students is 78% Hispanic, 11% African American, 8% Caucasian, and 3% other.

FINDINGS:

The Learning Director showed us a well-planned efficient campus layout. We were educated about the R.E.A.D.Y Program (Recreation Enrichment Activities Devoted to Youth). The program has an enrollment of approximately two hundred students. This is a 21st Century, Community Learning Center grant, enrichment program, and is offered free of charge to all students. This program will enable students to have extended learning opportunities and enriching experiences in art, music, hobby, and dance. The R.E.A.D.Y program also keeps the students off the streets; the students that are involved in the program are expected to attend after regular classes until six p.m.

The new library stores 7000 books, it is fully automated. We saw a state of the art computer Lab of thirty lap top computers on wheels that can be moved from classroom to classroom.

We watched a small group of fourth and fifth graders practicing their musical instruments in the cafeteria. The fourth graders were learning how to play their recorders. The school has a volunteer program, where businesses from the community send people to helps the students with their work usually during the lunch hour. The school has an Astronomy Club, Friendship Club, and Sunshine Club.

The problems that were mentioned in the Grand Jury Report 2000-2001 were dealt with at the new Joe Simas school. (Refer: Report of Joe Simas School 2000-2001 Grand Jury)

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School
820 Hume Avenue
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-2358

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
September 27, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School was opened in September 1996 and presently has an enrollment of 554 students, of which 30 percent walk to school, and 70 percent are bussed. Staff consists of twenty-four certified teachers, one resource specialist aide, three bilingual aides, and a part time band teacher. Student to teacher ratio is 20 to 1 in kindergarten through second grade and 30 to 1 in third grade through sixth grade.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Learning Director/Vice-Principal who took us on a tour of the school. The school has an extensive bilingual education program. Students receive instruction in their primary language in kindergarten and receive primary language support in first through sixth grades. Approximately 65 percent of the Student Body is Hispanic.

The school has a uniform dress code which they believe to be partly responsible for the overall good behavior of the students. Parental involvement is encouraged. Parent volunteers are trained by the staff to work with students and to use various office and classroom equipment. The school library has a card catalogue system for books from the first to eighth grade level. A small computer laboratory is located off the library with five computer stations made available through a \$12,000 grant.

The buildings were clean and well maintained. The school has two custodians, one for daytime and one for afternoon and evening. The Committee observed one area of the playground where water had accumulated from the previous nights watering. There were two inoperative drinking fountains. Classrooms were neat and tidy with one computer station for students and one computer for the teacher. There is one television for each wing of classrooms.

The cafeteria food is prepared at the Central Kitchen and students pay for meals with tickets, which are either free, reduced or regular price. Breakfasts are served to approximately 100 students daily and 450 lunches of which 75 percent are free or reduced price.

Special arrangements are made for hearing impaired students. A Kings County Aide is assigned for each student. The aide will remain with that student through each grade kindergarten through grade twelve.

The school has six portable classrooms (one currently vacant for repairs). One classroom has nine Special Education students with room for fifteen. These students are currently performing below grade level.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair drinking fountains.
2. The groundskeeper should water the playground on Friday night instead of current Wednesday schedule.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Martin Luther King Jr. staff for their cooperation with this unannounced visitation.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Roosevelt Elementary School
870 W. Davis, P.O. Box 1067
Hanford, CA 93232-1067
(559) 585-2312

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow-Up
March 7, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Roosevelt Elementary School is a part of the Hanford Elementary School District. It is located in southwest Hanford. Construction of Roosevelt School began in 1951, with the final buildings completed in 1962, serving pre-school through sixth grades. Six classrooms were remodeled in 1987. Modernization of the campus is ongoing, with plans for building a new office and library ready for use by the 2001-2002 school year. There are eighteen regular and eight portable classrooms. To insure that the school meets district standards of safety and appearance it is monitored regularly by a district inspection team. The campus is fully handicapped accessible.

The educational staff consists of 25 Certificated Staff, 32 Classified Staff, this includes the R.E.A.D.Y. (Recreation Enrichment Activities Devoted to Youth). Program Specialist, Two R.E.A.D.Y Program Tutors.

FINDINGS:

The Committee made an unannounced visit to the school. We proceeded on our own to the cafeteria after going to the office. The Learning Director met us in the cafeteria where we introduced ourselves and explained what our visit was concerning. We explained it was a follow up on the 2000-2001 Grand Jury's recommendations. We checked on all complaints and found the following to have been rectified.

1. Institute a better maintenance and cleaning schedule for the school.
2. Repair the flooring in the cafeteria.
3. Repair or replace the fixtures in the cafeteria restrooms.
4. Repaint the restroom walls.
5. Clean the wall-mounted fan in the kitchen.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

George Washington Elementary School
2245 N. Fairmont Street
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2322

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 25, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

George Washington Elementary School, kindergarten through sixth grades, was built in 1990 on ten acres. There are 533 students enrolled. Grades kindergarten through third have implemented the 20 to 1 student to teacher ratio mandated by law. Grades four through six average 31 pupils per classroom. There are 24 teachers on staff, all fully credentialed, with three bilingual aides, one specialty aide and one Resource Specialty Teacher. Other staff consists of two administrators, an operations officer, a student specialist, two office personnel, two custodians and a Library Media Aide.

FINDINGS:

The Learning Director met with the Committee and conducted the tour of the campus. There are ten portable classrooms one of which is not in use at this time. Three classrooms, one in each wing, are also not in use. All classrooms are equipped with overhead projectors and screens, with other media equipment furnished on request. Most classrooms have one computer station for students and one computer for the teacher. The computer in the classrooms can also be used to search for books in the library. There is no computer laboratory at this time.

The library contains 7,431 books with reading levels kindergarten through sixth grade. There is no card catalog, all the books being accessed through two computers. The Library Media Aide demonstrated the electronic check in and check out system. Posters on the wall direct students on how to find library books. Library books are culled annually. An average of 37,000 books are checked out during the school year.

All students eat lunch in the cafeteria. Of the 533 students approximately 160 receive free or reduced lunch, 250 purchase lunch and the remaining bring lunch from home. A small percentage of the students eat breakfast in the cafeteria. The cafeteria is also used for meetings, movies and school activities. It was very clean and orderly.

Classroom teachers teach physical education every day for 20 minutes. In addition the students do stretch and flex exercises in the classroom.

An after school program will be instituted by the YMCA during this year. Tentative date is November 2001. The program will be for students of working parents, with parents paying for the services.

Most students live within walking distance of the school. However, students living on the east side of 10th Avenue are encouraged to ride the bus.

Grades second through sixth can be placed in the Be Cool Program. This program is for students with relationship problems. They are taught about conflict resolutions and coping with anger.

The Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) Program is still in effect through the Hanford City Police Department. The DARE officer we spoke with on the Washington campus instructs classes on 14 campuses. He indicated students are still very excited about the program.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

John F. Kennedy Jr. High School
1000 East Florinda Street
Hanford, California 93230
(559)-585-2367

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 11, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

John F. Kennedy Jr. High School is part of the Hanford Elementary School District. John F. Kennedy School was constructed in 1994. There are 18 regular and 10 portable classrooms. Three of the portable classrooms are not in use at this time. There are one opportunity class and one special education class. Staff consists of 23 teachers and four aides, two administrators, an operations officer, two full time and one part office staff, a literacy coach, a librarian and on-call School Resource Officer.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the school resource officer, who took us on a tour of the classrooms and grounds. The Resource Officer acting as the truant officer, has parents call him if the student doesn't want to come to school. The officer will escort the child to school. The cafeteria is also a multipurpose room, each day they serve 90 to 100 students for breakfast and approximately 500 students at lunch. About 60 percent are free or reduced meals. One room serves as the school store which is ran by the students after school, under the supervision of an advisor

The gym also serves as the auditorium. All inside sports are played in the gymnasium. The stage area is a reverse stage, opening to the outside of the building and forming an amphitheater.

The Committee noticed that one of the drinking fountains did not work.

Each classroom has at least one computer and printer for student's use and one computer and printer for the teachers to use. Some classrooms have more than one computer. There are 28 computers, seven printers, three scanners and one poster size printer in the computer lab.

Approximately 8,000 books are in the library, of these 25 percent are Spanish. Reading levels are from kindergarten to high school. There is no card catalog, all books are on software and located by using the five computers and three printers.

The classrooms we visited were clean and roomy. However, one classroom had an odor that seemed to emanate from the carpet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair water fountain in gymnasium.
2. Clean or replace carpet and pad in room 507, and inspect other classroom carpets for like odors, that may cause health respiratory problems.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Woodrow Wilson Junior High School
601 Florinda
Hanford, California 93230
(559)-585-2334

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
September 27,2001

INTRODUCTION:

Woodrow Wilson Junior High School for seventh and eight grades was built in 1962 and renovated in 1995 and 1996. Enrollment averages from 550 students to the current 556. The ethnic composition is approximately 48 percent Hispanic, 43 percent Caucasian, 5 percent African American, 4 percent make up the other ethnic student body. Class size averages 32 students per teacher. It was estimated 385 students receive free or reduced cost lunches. A school breakfast program serves 74 children. The buildings and facilities appear to be clean and well maintained.

FINDINGS:

The principal and Operations officer met with the Committee and conducted a tour of the school. Classrooms contained two to five computers for students and one for the teacher. A mobile computer laboratory has 30 lap top computers all students have their own login and passwords.

The mobile lab is equipped with a College Preparatory Mathematics Program (CPM) based on the University of California at Davis standards.

Woodrow Wilson's Prop 98 School Accountability Report Card states their instructional program focuses on skill development through integration of reading, writing and math skills into all areas of the curriculum. During the 2000-2001 school year, students scored at the following percentile on the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS): 38 percent in reading, 43 percent in language and 38 percent in math.

Twenty-one classroom teachers, support teachers and classified personnel provide services and experiences that make school an inviting place to be. Some of the academic and social challenges available in this 2001 California Distinguished School (CDS) include honor classes, Outreach Program, math-a-thon. Academic Pentathlon, Odyssey of the Mind, and the Presidential Academic Fitness Awards. Approximately 25 percent of the students participate in the band program which has gained recognition at various competitions. Physical Education classes are taught five times every two weeks.

The school library has eight computers with one printer and on-line access. The library uses computerized check-in and check-out of books from the first grade level to the

eleventh grade. An Accelerated Reading Program will utilize between 4,000 to 5,000 books per month. A Literacy Program is in the progress in a separate book room for English Language Arts (ELA). The school also has a Community Day School of two classrooms. There are currently 19 students all from the grades two through six. These students have all been expelled from Hanford Elementary Schools and must provide their own transportation. These students arrive fifteen minutes earlier and leave fifteen minutes earlier and also eat lunch thirty minutes earlier than the Junior High students.

In a tour of the gymnasium it was noted light switches are not conveniently located, also a section of the padded floor covering was not adequately adhered to the sub flooring; this could become a safety hazard if slit or torn.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair Gym flooring.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Hanford Elementary School
District Central Kitchen
924 Katie Hammond Lane
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 585-2232

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
October 11, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

The Hanford Elementary School District Central Kitchen prepares and delivers breakfast and lunch to the nine elementary schools and two junior high schools in the district, also Shelley Baird School, Western Christian School, Kings County Cysis Program and the Kings County Community Day school. The kitchen staff consists of the program manager, one supervisor, two full time cooks, one-half time cook, three part time utility workers, two bookkeepers and two custodians.

FINDINGS:

The Program Manager met with the Committee. He informed the Committee that the two trucks and one van, which delivers the food to the sites, maintains the food at 140 degrees to insure freshness and comply with federal health standards. Some foods are delivered frozen to the two junior high schools. Foods are delivered in a freezer or warming ovens to maintain the proper temperature. There are approximately 3,000 lunches prepared daily. Breakfast is prepared for a thousand to twelve hundred daily. Reimbursement, by the state and federal funds, is received for the free or reduced meals. Most vegetables and fruit are purchased locally. State and federal food is brought in at various times, with the warehouse trying to maintain a two-week supply of food.

The warehouse was neat and all foods were stored off the floor. Even though construction is going on immediately to the south, all floors, tables, kitchen equipment and entry ways were clean. There are two freezers and one large and one small walk-in refrigerator for storage.

The Kings County Health Department does a yearly inspection of the facility. A state auditor checks yearly all the applications for free or reduced meals. The auditor also checks the applications of those who have been denied free or reduced meals, also checked yearly by the state auditor are the books and inventory of the kitchen.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The interior and exterior of the facility appeared to be well managed and were clean. The Committee had lunch in the staff lounge, which was comfortable and pleasingly decorated.

AREA OF INQUIRY: Hanford High School
120 East Grangeville Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-4407

REPORTING COMMITTEE: Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY: Follow-up Report
February 28, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

As required by law, the Hanford Joint Union High School District issued a response to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report. The Superintendent of the school district responded that the district maintains an aggressive building maintenance program and improved landscaping is part of our ongoing construction program. The litter cited is a natural occurrence and is being taken care of daily.

FINDINGS:

The Committee toured the campus as a follow-up to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report. The Committee noted the following:

1. The landscaping has been, and is in the process of being, upgraded.
2. Asphalt surfaces have been resurfaced or repaired.
3. Litter is a problem that occurs all the time. The Committee noted that litter was a rarity and the campus was neat and tidy.
4. The building maintenance program is currently planning the second phase of modernization. Included in the modernization plan are gymnasium, lockers, shops, cafeteria and the old gymnasium. This modernization depends on the status of the next State School Bond Election.

There were several water fountains that were inoperative, one near the cafeteria and one near Rooms 22, 23 and 50. Visitor's parking spaces with easy access to offices is minimal. Framework for entrance cover needs to be restored and painted.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair water fountains.
2. Make Visitor Parking Lot along East Grangeville Boulevard Visitor instead of Reserved.
3. Restore and paint entrance framework.

COMMENTS: None.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Hanford West High School
1150 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 583-0157

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow-up Report
February 28, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

As required by law, the Hanford Joint Union High School District issued a response to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report. The Superintendent of the school district responded that the district maintains an aggressive building maintenance program and improved landscaping is part of our ongoing construction program. The litter cited is a natural occurrence and is being taken care of daily.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Principal as a follow-up to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report. The Committee noted the following:

1. The traffic flow problem is being rectified during the remodeling of some of the classrooms, where a new bus stop is being constructed along Campus Drive. One school crossing has been installed on Campus Drive and both School Crossing and Slow School signs have been installed.
2. The school has requested that a crosswalk be installed on Campus Drive at Forum Drive, this is still on the wish list.

The school is working with a Campus Beautification and Landscaping Project to put trees, bushes and grass into areas that are presently undeveloped. The Kiwanis Key Club, Police Explorers Troop and Associated Student Body students are working with the school to install, 5 MPH, Student Crossing and No Parking signs and paint speed bumps.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

4. Work with the city and county to install crosswalk at Forum Drive.
5. The traffic problem must be solved.

COMMENTS: None.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Corcoran District Hospital
1310 Hanna Avenue
PO Box 758
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-3972

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health & Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Follow-up
September 18, 2001

INTRODUCTION:

Corcoran District Hospital (CDH) is the only remaining publicly funded hospital in Kings County. This is a thirty-two-bed facility containing two private rooms and four semi-private rooms. Eight beds can be used as swing beds and three for prisoners or isolation. An oxygen system has recently been installed in all rooms. The emergency room has two small examination rooms, one of these is reserved for labor or rape cases. The hospital has a Laboratory, Respiratory Therapy Unit, a Full Diagnostic Radiology Unit and Work Care/Rural Health Clinic. Seven doctors are on active staff with a compliment of skilled nurses.

FINDINGS:

The Committee conducted a follow-up visit to the hospital after receipt of a letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the hospital. In his letter the Chief Executive Officer stated that all the recommendations addressed by the 2000-2001 Grand Jury had been completed. The recommendations were:

1. Apply for grants to compensate for MediCal/Medicare underpayments for indigent care.
2. Install automatic glass sliding door.
3. Purchase an intercom and upgrade the computer system.
4. Obtain a new icemaker.

The Human Resource Director for the hospital spoke with the Committee. The Director explained that there are no grants or funds available specifically for MediCal/Medicare or indigent care. However in 2000 CDH applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from the Rural Health Policy Council to compensate for underpayments to the Emergency Room for indigent care. The CDH has applied for these funds for 2001.

The Committee could see that a sliding glass door was in operation at the front door of the hospital. A nursing staff member showed the Committee the back door of the Emergency Room that also has a sliding glass door. These doors were purchased through the generosity of two local Corcoran families.

The receptionist at the front desk showed the Committee the new intercom system. They have new telephones and a call transfer system. The computer system is also new. The system and monitor are in the area near the front of the CDH entrance.

A nursing staff member took the Committee to the nursing station where the new icemaker is located. The Corcoran 50/50 Club raised funds for the purchase of the new ice machine that was installed in July 2001.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

COMMENTS:

Recently a patient at CDH donated a new refrigerator for the nurse's station. The patient was so impressed with the hospital that a donation of \$500.00 followed receipt of the new refrigerator.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Island Union Elementary School
7799 21st Avenue
Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 924-6424

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Tour
February 14, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Island Union Elementary School District is one of four chartered school districts in Kings County. There are presently 261 students from kindergarten through eighth grade. The present school was opened in 1958 and the classrooms were remodeled in 1994. There are twelve fully certificated teachers and sixteen classified employees including eleven teacher's aides and two maintenance operations personnel. There are nine permanent and four portable classrooms. The cafeteria/multi-purpose room is where breakfast and lunch are served as well as assemblies and student events.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Superintendent/Principal and the secretary. The secretary took the Committee on a tour of the school. The first place we visited was the cafeteria where less than fifty percent of the student body are eligible for free and reduced meals. All meals are prepared in the kitchen, which also displayed the Kings County Food Safety All Star Awards for the years 2000 and 2001.

The computer lab has twenty five computers for students and two for the teacher, one of which is capable of displaying lessons on the classroom televisions, five scanners, one printer, one digital camera and one monitor for a visually impaired student. The lab is available after school when the students are working on large projects. Students are scheduled by class to use the lab. The upper grades have Alpha Pro and Alpha Smart units on which students type their projects then upload to the computers in the lab. All computers in the lab and in the classrooms have internet access.

The Committee visited the library, which has 6000 books available for student check out. Reading levels range from kindergarten through high school. The card catalog is still in use by students. The students participate in the Accelerated Reader Program and students have checked out 5000 books already this school year. The library has many new reading books that have just arrived and were waiting to be added to circulation, and magazines are current.

The kindergarten classroom visited by the Committee was not crowded, the sinks worked, restrooms neat and clean, drinking fountains operated properly and the students

were well behaved. All classrooms have television, VCRs, overhead projectors and screens and at least one computer.

The ethnic breakdown of the school is seventy percent Caucasian, twenty-six percent Hispanic, three percent African American and one percent other. There is no bilingual class, however there are bilingual aides. All SAT-9 scores were above county and state levels.

One faucet in the girl's restroom near the cafeteria does not operate, but the rest of the restroom was in very good condition. The boy's restroom was in excellent shape. The buildings and the grounds were in very good repair.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Repair faucet in girl's restroom.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

Kings Community Action Organization
1222 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-4386

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Interview/Informational Tour
March 28, 2002
April 11, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Kings Community Action Organization (KCAO) is a community based organization established in 1965 by federal legislation with the title "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964". It is a locally controlled private non-profit corporation whose mission has been to identify the causes of poverty in Kings County and develop strategies to alleviate them.

KCAO operates on a budget of approximately \$15 million a year. Most of this money is from State and Federal Grants with a small percentage from Kings County. At the present time there are 264 employees working in the major programs of Administration, Head Start, Child's Care, Energy Assistance, Emergency Services, Domestic Violence and Adolescent Services. Within these programs there are approximately 30 sub-programs. The primary goal of KCAO is to help those in need and help them to become financially self-sufficient.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Acting Director of KCAO and the Director of the Head Start Program in the Grand Jury chambers. With 22 years and 29 years respectively in this organization these directors are still excited about the Program.

The Committee learned that KCAO has a fifteen-member tri-partite board of directors. The board consists of one-third of its members representing low-income target areas, one-third public officials and one-third representing the private sector.

Of the many services provided for Kings County by KCAO some of the better known programs are: Head Start, of which Early Head Start is a part; Adolescent Services, providing case management for pregnant and parenting teens, mentoring and resources and referrals; Emergency Services, offering assistance to low income residents of Kings County who find themselves in a crisis situation; Domestic Violence Program, support services to all of those who are the victims of domestic violence; and child development, which provides a variety of child development programs through out Kings County. With the exception of the Domestic Violence Program, and the lesser-known Sexual Assault Services, most programs have a income requirement in order to participate.

The Committee visited the Early Head Start Children's Center where we interviewed the teacher/director and toured the facility. This is the only Early Head Start facility in Kings County and serves the Hanford and Corcoran areas exclusively. The enrollment has a capacity of 50 and has a waiting list. The program is for parenting and pregnant teens and their children up to three years of age. Parents must be present at all times the child is at the facility. Early Head Start is licensed by the State of California and is inspected annually. The facility has two teachers and four home educators on staff. Teachers must have a Associate of Arts Degree and home educators must have a high school diploma and be enrolled in Early Childhood Development classes.

The Committee also toured the Preston J. Green Head Start facility. We met with the Director who conducted a tour of the classrooms and grounds. The teacher-student ratio is one to twelve with a minimum of two teachers per classroom. Present enrollment is 150 students.

Preston J. Green has a class for all day childcare for the working parents. It is for low income, working child providers, and has an income requirement to enter the program. It is available from 6 AM to 6:30 PM. A Latchkey Program is available for children five to twelve years old. They are picked up at their schools, after classes are completed, and then taken to Preston J. Green where they participate in programs until their parents pick them up.

The one need expressed was for more staff. In the plans for the coming year is a new building on the grounds. This may necessitate more staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

COMMENTS:

Of interest to the Committee was motion sensors on all the doors so the staff is made aware of anyone entering or exiting the rooms.