

**2002-2003**

**KINGS COUNTY**



**GRAND JURY**

**FINAL REPORT**

# 2002-2003 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreman's letter to Presiding Judge  
Letter from Presiding Superior Court Judge the Honorable Peter M. Schultz  
Members of the 2002-2003 Kings County Grand Jury

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Superintendent Kings County Parks .....	1
Kings Mosquito Abatement District .....	4
Kings County Government Imaging System .....	6
Kings County Shop Equipment/Repair/Maintenance .....	12
Chemical Waste Management Inc .....	13
Kings Area Rural Transit .....	15
Agriculture Commissioner-Sealer of Weights and Measures .....	17
Kings County Government Center/Parks Shop .....	19
Burriss Park and Museum .....	22
Kings Waste and Recycling Authority .....	25
Victim Witness Program .....	28
Kings County Water District .....	30
Kings County Assessor/Clerk/Recorder .....	32
Public Guardian/Veterans Service Officer .....	36
Kings County Human Services .....	38
Summary .....	41

### HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Corcoran Nutrition Center .....	43
Kings County Commission on Aging .....	45
Meals on Wheels .....	47
Lemoore Nutrition Center .....	49
Kings County Health Department Women Infant & Children WIC ...	51
Kings County Public Health .....	55
Kings County Office of Education .....	58
Armona Elementary School .....	61
Parkview Middle School .....	62
Avenal Elementary School .....	63
Tamarack Elementary School .....	64
Avenal High School .....	66
Adelante Continuation High School .....	68

Sunrise Continuation High School.....	70
Corcoran Community Day School.....	73
Mark Twain School .....	75
Kings Lake Education Center .....	76
James Monroe Elementary School.....	77
Jefferson Elementary School .....	79
Lee Richmond School.....	81
John F. Kennedy Jr. High School .....	83
Woodrow Wilson Junior High School.....	84
Joe Simas Elementary School.....	85
Hanford High School .....	86
Hanford West High School .....	87
Earl F. Johnson Continuation High School.....	89
Hanford Adult School .....	91
Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.....	93
Kit Carson Union School .....	95
Lakeside Elementary School.....	96
Cinnamon Elementary School .....	97
P.W. Engvall Elementary School.....	99
Lemoore Elementary School.....	100
Meadow Lane Elementary School .....	101
Liberty Middle School .....	103
Lemoore High School .....	105
Donald C. Jamison High School.....	108
Island Union Elementary School .....	111
Summary .....	112

## **LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Kings County Fire Department.....	113
Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department.....	124
Hanford Fire Department.....	127
Kings County Sheriff's Department and Main Jail .....	130
Kings County Sheriff's Department Communications Division.....	132
Kings County Branch Jail .....	134
Kings County District Attorney .....	136
Corcoran Police Department.....	139
Hanford Police Department .....	141
Lemoore Police Department .....	143
Avenal State Prison .....	145
California State Prison Corcoran .....	147
California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran .....	149

Kings County Probation .....	151
Summary .....	154

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Armona Community Services District.....	155
City of Avenal .....	157
City of Corcoran .....	158
City of Lemoore .....	159
City of Lemoore Public Works Department .....	160
Lemoore Golf Course .....	162
Hanford Parks and Recreation .....	163
Old Courthouse Square .....	166
City of Hanford Building Department .....	168
Hanford Recreation Department .....	169
Hanford Refuse Waste Department .....	170
City of Hanford Fleet/Building Manager.....	172
City of Hanford Field Utilities.....	174
City of Hanford Finance Department .....	176
Hanford Wastewater Treatment Plant.....	178
City of Hanford Street Maintenance .....	180
Hanford City Offices .....	182
Hanford Municipal Airport/Park.....	183
City of Hanford Corporation Yard.....	186
City of Hanford Public Works Engineering Department.....	188
Home Garden Community Services District .....	189
Summary .....	190

**Visitation Log**

County Government .....	191
Health and Education.....	194
Law and Public Safety .....	197
Local Government .....	199

**MEMBERS OF THE**

**2002-2003**

**KINGS COUNTY GRAND JURY**

Carl Zimmerman	Foreman
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Thomas Ross

Ted Schlosser

Dallas Uffman

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Superintendent,  
Kings County Parks**

**Burris Park  
6500 Burris Park Dr  
Kingsburg CA 93631  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2701**

**Hickey Park  
16580 Flint Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2701**

**Kingston Park  
13196 Douglas Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2701**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Interview  
August 26, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Kings County has three county parks that had recommendations from the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Final Report and recommendations from the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

Burris Park, located on Burris land settled in 1857, was donated to the county for a park in 1924. The park is 57 acres and can accommodate large crowds. There are 23 picnic areas, each with its 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.

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

Kingston Park was established August 28, 1972 and consists of seven 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.

## **FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Parks Superintendent at the Grand Jury Room for his response to the recommendations of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report and follow-up information on previous Grand Jury Final Reports.

Proposition 12 was a recreational grant passed in March 2000. These funds helped replace playground equipment at Burriss and Hickey Parks, which are now in place.

Proposition 4 funds are expected next summer amounting to about 1.2 million dollars.

The Parks Superintendent is a California State Certified Playground Equipment Inspector, available to inspect and certify park and school playgrounds when needed.

### **Burriss Park**

1. Twelve tons of material has been applied to repair and resurface roads.
2. The shed behind the office has been removed.
3. The contaminated water well will be sealed and abandoned.
4. Two new wells for irrigation and domestic use are drilled to 300 feet and are producing potable water. They will be finished soon.
5. The well site near the Kings River has a high water table, 30 to 40 feet.
6. Fees are charged for reservations and facility rentals according to a set schedule with proceeds turned over to the General Fund.
7. Gate fees are collected when a booth operator is on duty, weekends and holidays.
8. Cleaning deposits are required for large groups of 200 or more and for kitchen rental clean up.

### **Hickey Park**

1. The handicap area drinking fountain has been repaired.
2. The Superintendent recognizes the need for wheelchair access to picnic tables. The tables will be relocated to provide more spacing.
3. The horseshoe pits have been removed and the area graded smooth.

New pits with proper spacing will be constructed to National Horseshoe Pitching Association Standards in the near future using Proposition 4 funds.

**Kingston Park**

1. Close monitoring, prompt cleaning and painting control graffiti.
2. Exposed tree roots are being covered. More time is needed to complete work.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Grand Jury recommends that gate fees, reservation charges, facility rental income and park related savings be applied to park upkeep and maintenance.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the Parks Superintendent for his interview and progress report.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings Mosquito  
Abatement District  
10871 Bonnieview Lane  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 584-3326**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tours  
August 12, 2002  
August 19, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The California Legislature adopted the Mosquito Abatement Act in 1915, which had been incorporated into the state health and safety code (Chapter 5, Division 3). The Hanford Mosquito Abatement District (13 square miles) was formed in January 1945 through a special election. On July 9, 1947 the Corcoran Mosquito Abatement District was formed and on April 19, 1961 the two districts were consolidated to form the Kings Mosquito Abatement District. This district currently covers 552 square miles, which includes a small area of Tulare County.

The seven member board is responsible for personnel, administration, implementing policies and operations.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Kings Mosquito Abatement District Manager and toured the grounds. Presently the district has eleven permanent and five seasonal employees. The district is currently fully staffed. The Mosquito Abatement Program is a major part of pest control efforts. During the post season, maintenance, repair to vehicles, equipment and district grounds is accomplished.

The Committee found there were no handrails on the steps or on the ramp of the technicians' building. We did not see an exit sign or fire extinguisher in the conference room. The 10,000 gallon tank containing larvicide GB-1111 was not properly marked and the plastic sight gauge was not protected.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Install exit sign over door in conference room.

2. Properly install fire extinguisher in conference room
3. Install handrails for steps and ramp on technicians' room.
4. Protect mosquito larvicide GB-1111 tank sight gauge.
5. Install hazard placards on all sides of larvicide tank.

**COMMENTS:**

At present Kings Mosquito Abatement District is keeping alert to the current Status of the West Nile Virus. The facility was clean and well maintained.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Government  
Imaging System  
1400 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interviews/Tours  
January 27, 2003  
February 10, 2003  
March 3, 2003  
March 17, 2003  
March 24, 2003  
March 31, 2003  
April 7, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

While we are living in the Informational Age, ninety percent of our documentation is still on paper. Document Imaging System is a combination of software and hardware that allows users to capture information from a number of sources: fax, e-mail and hand written information. The captured documents are then stored digitally on a computer system that can be retrieved in seconds on a computer system with a few keystrokes. Users can store, copy and retrieve documents and integrate them into their department applications. Whether for a single desktop or a multi-user environment, document imaging is an invaluable tool for controlling, managing and sharing critical information.

Under the current filing system, to acquire documents, requires workers to search through filing cabinets or central file rooms and storage areas, which may be located in other sites. When you consider the possibility that employees will need to copy and distribute the documents (find an available copier, stand and wait for copies) you begin to see the staggering financial burden paperwork places on a department.

Document imaging employees can retrieve information in seconds on the desktop workstations and they can distribute the documents throughout many departments without leaving their desk. Documents may be retrieved, reviewed or transferred by as many people as necessary. The Imaging System has a security program to insure that no unauthorized activities can occur.

There are several departments in the county that realize the Imaging System is essential to enter all paper documents into the County computer system. The advantages of the system are error corrections, storage costs, ease of retrieval, cross-referencing, random access distribution and cost effectiveness.

**Since 1998, The Imaging System has been available to the Assessor/Clerk/Recorder/Elections Department, Human Services Agency, Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, Informational Technology Services and District Attorneys Department. The Imaging System is not being utilized by all Departments.**

**ASSESSOR/CLERK/RECORDER/ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT:**

**FINDINGS:**

On January 27, 2003, a presentation by the County Assessor/Clerk/Recorder/Elections Department was made to the Committee outlining the many aspects of the Imaging System. The first department to use the system was the Human Services Agency followed by the Assessors/Clerk/Recorder/Elections Department. Since those departments started using the Imaging System several other departments have come on line. Participating departments in the county must pay a license fee to utilize the Imaging System.

**RECOMMENDATIONS: None**

**COMMENTS:**

The Assessors/Clerk/Recorder/Elections Department has utilized the Imaging System and shows that it is fully automated. **(Refer to Assessors/Clerk/Recorder/Elections Department Report)**

**HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY:**

**FINDINGS:**

On February 10, 2003, Human Services Department Representatives presented to the Committee how imaging has reduced the cost of storage and the Microfiche of their records. Since the agency started utilizing the Imaging System, several other departments have come on line. The Imaging System software used for imaging is available to all departments in the County.

In September of 1998, the Human Services Agency began scanning closed cases with the goal of storing documents in a more cost effective manner while increasing the availability of those documents to the people who utilize them. Scanning duties are assigned to the reception unit and are performed primarily by clerks and Welfare to Work Clients. The agency is able to keep up with all of their current scanning demands and when man-power is available, they scan boxes of closed cases, which were previously stored in the warehouse. Each month the department is able to scan 15-20 boxes of documents, which have been purged from ongoing cases. The agency has scanned all closed cases from 1995 to the current year. The agency is charged eighty-five cents per box per month for storage of cases. This agency has learned how to access and search the entire document for accuracy. They keep up with all current scanning demands and when manpower is available, they can scan closed cases, which were previously stored in the warehouse. The agency has developed a "can-do attitude".

**RECOMMENDATIONS: NONE**

**COMMENTS:**

The Human Services Agency is able to accomplish the imaging of open and closed cases because of available manpower.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES:**

**FINDINGS:**

A System Analyst from Informational Technology Services (IT) gave us an overview of the County Imaging System. It provides support to all departments using the Imaging System and insures users are properly licensed. This system backs up electronic data on a scheduled basis to ensure security of data in case of systems failure or catastrophe. The Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) System is used to backup everything in the County.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. IT should convert Central Microfilm and Records Storage to an Imaging System.
2. IT should follow the lead of the Human Services Agency and Assessor/Clerk/Recorder/Elections Department by imaging all documents that they store for other Departments.

**COMMENTS:**

IT should utilize the Imaging System to its fullest potential.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT:**

### **FINDINGS:**

On March 17, 2003 the Committee met with the Supervising Probation Officer. Our main objective was to inquire about whether the Imaging System was being used in the Probation Department, if so how well was it working and if not, why not? Two years ago there was a full time imaging position in the Probation Department. This individual was transferred to the Sheriff's Department. Consequently, the vacant position was not filled because of a lack of funds. However, all equipment was and still is in good working condition and funding is unavailable. At present time enormous backlogs of files have been left unfinished and are imaged when possible. A clerk would be unable to complete the task of imaging even if he/she worked twenty-four hours a day.

If the files were clean before the clerk received the files for imaging they could be imaged in a more timely manner. Taking apart the files for imaging is extremely time consuming. Every paper clip and staple must be removed before this process can transpire.

The Committee suggested the Probation Department use volunteers that have passed a background check to clean the files and have them prepared for the clerk to image.

Some juvenile files are massive. Currently the Probation Department has a caseload of 890 not including 2500 to 3000 walk-ins and check-ins each month.

Depending on the case the file would have to be kept indefinitely. Image scanning files can improve transactions and accessibility to critical information. Imaging would allow multiple departments to share the material from the files. Imaging can improve the availability of the files, reducing the cost of storage and enable the departments to use disks instead of having a paper trail. Integrating the image capture process into existing platforms increases user acceptance while reducing long-term storage costs.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Execute the Imaging System Program.
2. Reevaluate the use of storing case files at Central Microfilm and Records Storage.
3. Secure volunteers that have passed a background check to clean the

files and have them prepared for the clerk to image.

**COMMENTS:**

The Chief Probation Officer has been appointed within the last several months and is still getting acclimated to the position.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:**

**FINDINGS:**

On March 3, 2003 the Records Supervisor met in the Grand Jury room to give an overall view of the Imaging System and how it operates. We learned that the Sheriff's Department is completely up-to-date. The Imaging System has been operating five years. The Imaging System is used to scan documents that are not part of the automated Sheriff's Department Reporting System. These documents are bank records, medical records, or other evidentiary documents. These documents are cross-referenced to the individual investigation reports.

The Sheriff's Department is unable to send investigation reports electronically to the District Attorney's Department.

The Sheriff's Department has eight clerks that are all trained in the Imaging System. Each clerk has time to enter documents into the system. All shifts are eight hours shifts (24-7). All reports are done in English. There is a low turnover of employees. It takes approximately four to six hours per report. The in-custody reports are completed within 48 hours. There are no proposed budget cuts for the staff in the Sheriff's Department Records Division. At present time this department is able to keep up with the workload and no documents are destroyed until they are verified.

**RECOMMENDATIONS: None**

**COMMENTS: None**

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S DEPARTMENT:**

**FINDINGS:**

The District Attorney's Department uses the Imaging System which stores and organizes documents and information, thus enabling immediate and reliable access to critical information right when it's needed. The Imaging System allows easy retrieval, editing, annotating, and distribution of documents. Advantages of the

Imaging System or any other complete document management solution will enable the department to have easy storage and retrieval of vital information, secure and reliable document management and distribution for immediate delivery. The Imaging System has the power to effectively manage and organize all types of documents across the entire County Departments. This system offers a complete imaging solution. This system is not being used because of many roadblocks. The major roadblock is not having enough employees to run the system. This system would require at least two computers, scanners programmed with the programs and four employees.

After two of the Grand Jury members were invited to try this system, we now realize how much work is involved in operating this system. The District Attorney's Department has tried Welfare to Work Clients, however because of the confidentiality these people have to pass a background check. After they pass the background check they are trained on the system and understand how it operates, they usually move on to a paying job, making it necessary to retrain more people. This is an on-going process.

Prior to imaging a case file, each case file must be gone through, all staples removed, papers put in order and sorted. The Department does not have the funds to use the system, which is an expense to the County and is currently idle. This doesn't seem like a well thought out plan. However, because of the expense and benefit to the County, the Department needs to implement the Imaging System.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Upgrade the system to two scanners and computers with the appropriate software and licensing.
2. Begin imaging present case files, not past cases, so that present cases are accessible by computers, which will save staff time and be more efficient.
3. Implement office procedures for better organization of case files to be imaged by better planning by management staff.

#### **COMMENTS:**

It appeared to the Grand Jury that there may have been a lack of understanding and/or planning by the District Attorney's management staff when the Imaging System was proposed. The only reason that Welfare to Work Clients were used is because it was a free work force. That work force proved to be unreliable and has since evaporated, leaving the Imaging System Program virtually a total failure in this District Attorney's Department. This is somewhat concerning since a large

amount of taxpayer monies were used to purchase equipment, software, licenses and implement this system only to see it fail.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Shop  
Equipment/Repair/Maintenance  
11827 11<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-9207**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-Up/Informational Tour  
October 14, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County shop is located on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue north of Houston Avenue. This shop is responsible for repairing and maintaining most of the county equipment, including vehicles for the Sheriff's Department and large equipment for the Kings County Road Department. There are seven employees in this department. The shop consists of a long metal building divided into several work areas. These areas include a warehouse, parts room, two offices, small training room, bays for working on large equipment and a vehicle washing area. There is a natural gas fueling station on the premises.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee interviewed the Fleet Service Manager regarding the shop facilities in reference to the 2001-2002 Grand Jury recommendations. We found the shop heaters had been replaced. The Manager informed the Committee that the rain gutters will be replaced on the south side of the building by maintenance or outside bid. All county vehicles and equipment use recycled oil. The County has 65 vehicles on alternate fuel. The County is purchasing seven small golf cart type vehicles for parks and grounds. These vehicles are street legal and run on alternate fuel.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Replace rain gutters.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Chemical Waste  
Management Inc  
Kettleman Hills Facility  
35251 Old Skyline Rd  
Kettleman City CA 93239  
(559) 386-9711  
[www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour and  
Interview  
March 27, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Kettleman Hills Facility is a division of Chemical Waste Management Inc. It is committed to protect and enhance the environment under strict Federal and State policy and procedure guidelines.

This facility accepts and manages virtually every type of hazardous waste except etiological (disease causing), radioactive or infectious material, live explosives or compressed gases.

Hazardous waste materials are managed at numerous units on this site. They include: landfill disposal, stabilization, solidification, encapsulation, solar evaporation, bulk storage, drum storage, transshipment to off site facilities, poly chlorinated biphenyls (PCB) storage and transformer drain and flush operations.

The capacity of this hazardous waste landfill is 10.7 million cubic yards with an expected remaining life of 20 years. The solid waste landfill has a capacity of 7.7 million cubic yards with an approximate remaining life of 25 years.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Executive Secretary of Kettleman Hills Facility and was given an interview and tour of site operations.

On tour, the Committee observed several units, some of which were: burial units for hazardous and non-hazardous waste materials, the container storage area and the encapsulation unit. All employees, who were involved with any chemical substance, including the truckers bringing waste to the facility wore proper safety gear and equipment.

An Endangered Species Program has been implemented to ensure the protection of all species of animals and plants on the premises, considered endangered or threatened by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. In addition, the program assures compliance with State and Federal endangered animals and plants from accidental harm due to facility operation and construction activities. This is just one of several areas that caught our attention.

Kettleman Hills Facility is a highly respected facility which draws the attention of officials from around the world who come to tour the site looking for better ways to manage waste in their own country.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was quite impressed with the overall layout and operations of the Kettleman Hills Facility.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings Area Rural Transit  
Agency (KART)  
629 W Davis St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 584-0101**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour and  
Interview  
January 14, 2003  
February 3, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Kings Area Rural Transit (KART) is a countywide transit system formed as a Joint Powers Agency, which includes the cities of Hanford, Lemoore, Avenal and the County of Kings. Its primary purpose is providing transportation that is accessible to the general public. KART also provides transportation for seniors and door-to-door service for qualified people with disabilities in Hanford, Lemoore, Armona and Avenal.

**FINDINGS:**

The Kings County Transit Coordinator met with the Committee in the Grand Jury Chambers. We were told that KART has 13 daily route buses: five serve the City of Hanford, three serve Lemoore, West Hills College and Naval Air Station Lemoore, three go to College of Sequoias and the Cypress Medical Center in Visalia, one goes to Avenal and one goes to Laton, Hardwick and Grangeville. Fresno County pays KART \$11,000 yearly for the service to Laton. In addition, there is a route to Valley Children's, Kaiser and Veteran's Hospitals twice weekly. The transit agency has a 2.5 person staff and a \$3.5 million budget. A private contractor provides drivers, mechanics, dispatchers and an operations manager, for a total of 37 employees. Eighty percent of KART's funding comes from federal, state and local taxes. It is mandated that the remaining twenty percent must come from passenger fares. Due to the growth in population, the area that KART serves has been declared an Urban Area and now receives \$800,000 yearly from the federal government.

KART's Dial-a-ride service provides door-to-door service in Hanford, Lemoore and Avenal for those certified by KART and ADA as disabled or who live more than a half mile from a fixed route. The service operates similar to a taxi, though most rides are usually scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.

In addition to his duties with KART, the Kings County Transit Coordinator is working with the state and federal governments on a Van Pool Project and Farm Worker Transportation.

Members of the Committee took two different routes on KART buses, leaving from the staging area by the AMTRAK Station in Hanford. The buses were clean and the drivers helpful and courteous. However, the majority of the buses were not marked as to their route numbers, the loading areas did not specify a route number nor was there a master list of routes and their destinations posted.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Each bus should have its route number posted.
2. Loading areas should have signs indicating route numbers.
3. A master list of routes and their destinations should be posted in the staging area.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Agriculture Commissioner-  
Sealer of Weights and Measures  
680 Campus Drive  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2830**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
January 6, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Board of Supervisors appoints the head of this two division department, the Agriculture Commissioner-Sealer of Weights and Measures. Acting under the direction of the State Director of Food and Agriculture, the department enforces state agriculture laws pertaining to plant quarantine, nursery stock, agriculture and vegetable seeds, pesticides, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables and apiaries. The department also gathers crop statistics, provides information on pest control and performs vertebrate pest control. As the enforcement agent of the State Division of Measurement Standards, the department checks the accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used by merchants to sell their goods, including scales and gasoline pumps. In addition, the department checks packaged and canned goods ranging from grocery items to petroleum products to determine if the goods contain the stated amount.

**FINDINGS:**

The agriculture department reviews and issues restricted pesticide permits annually, most are applied for by fax, some come by computer, others are personally applied for.

Enforcement detection is the largest inspection and eradication activity of the department's 26 member staff.

The agriculture department inspects plants, which enter the county from nurseries within and from other states for insects and diseases. They set and check traps for infestation and eradication throughout the county. They use the Global Information System for location of crops and infestation of insects.

The agriculture department prepares 600,000 pounds of poison bait for squirrels and rodents, which is 60 percent of state use and is packaged and sold to other counties.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures charges fees for scale checks but still requires money from the General Fund.

Various types of weighing and measuring devices are tested and inspected, such as gasoline dispensers, propane and butane meters, electric meters, taxi meters, odometers on ambulances, farm milk tanks, pharmacy scales, deli-counter scales, livestock scales, concrete batch plant scales and truck scales. There are approximately 3,500 such devices inspected in Kings County annually.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Government  
Center/Parks Shop  
1400 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2609**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour and  
Interview  
October 7, 2002  
October 9, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County Government Center moved to the present site in 1977-78. It consists of approximately 77 acres, 43 physical structures with 407,000 square feet of office space. The Kings County Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of the Government Center.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee toured the County Complex/Parks Shop. Parking in the County Complex has continued to be limited. This has been a subject of prior Grand Jury Recommendations and will continue until it is addressed. The following items were found requiring action:

1. A drain grate located on the northeast side of the Administration Building is uneven and could cause someone to trip and fall resulting in possible injury and liability to the County.
2. The stepping stones through the landscaping near the northeast corner of the Finance Building are a hazard due to the stones being staggered and below the grade level of the sidewalks on either side.
3. A hole was observed in the landscape area on the northeast corner of the Finance Building. This hole was covered by a barricade and appeared to have been in this condition for some time.
4. The trees and bushes near the northeast side of the Finance Building are dying from lack of water. Boron damage and other diseases have affected a number of the trees and bushes throughout the Government Center.
5. In front of Superior Court 4 there is a 10 inch deep hole in the

- lawn.
6. A fire hydrant obstructs the crosswalk on southeast corner of the Finance Building on South Drive.
  7. The Parks Department Shop is a safety hazard which could result in injury to employees and cause liability.
    - a. The shop has poor lighting and light switches are poorly placed within the building.
    - b. There is a square hole in the floor at the north end of the building and is a safety hazard.
  8. "High Voltage" signs were missing from the electrical transformers at the Probation Department and Branch Jail.

The Committee met with the Director of Public Works and the Building Maintenance Superintendent to discuss concerns of safety at the County Government Center. The Director of Public Works and the Building Maintenance Superintendent said that these issues will be corrected. They told the Committee that there are pending plans to build a new Parks Shop this year. This new Parks Shop will house the Ag Transportation personnel and part of the construction of the building will be funded by a grant.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The drainage grate on northeast corner of the Administration Building needs to be stabilized.
2. Stepping stones need to be replaced with a concrete walkway on the northeast corner of the Finance Building.
3. Fill hole at the northeast corner of the Finance Building.
4. Maintain the Government Complex sprinkler systems to insure all plants and trees receive adequate water.
5. Repair deep hole in the lawn in front of the Superior Court 4 Building.
6. Realign crosswalk away from fire hydrant.
7.
  - a. Correct the lighting deficiency in the Parks Department Shop and relocate light switches.
  - b. Fill square hole at the north end of building with either safety cover or cement.
8. "High Voltage" signs should be placed on transformers at the Probation Department and other Departments that have electric transformers.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury has found that in the previous years many of the recommendations have been taken lightly or ignored. The Director of Public Works has informed us that a new Parks Shop is going to be constructed this year. We did note that the employees do keep the shop neat and orderly. He has requested the Committee bring any concerns to either the Director of Public Works or the Building Maintenance Superintendent so that they may be able to address or correct them. The Building Maintenance Superintendent viewed the areas of our concerns and he assured us that they would be corrected.

Our County Government Complex should reflect the pride of the community with a continued high standard of maintenance for all of our citizens and visitors. The citizens and visitors to the Kings County Government Complex have a right to expect nothing less.

The removal of the large pine tree from the west side parking lot has been accomplished as recommended by the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

**April 14, 2003**

**ADDENDUM TO: Kings County Government Center/Parks Shop**

An inspection was made on 4-14-2003 by members of the County Government Committee concerning recommendations made in this report.

1. Recommendation numbers 1, 2, 3, and 7 are considered completed and no further action is required.
2. Recommendation numbers 4, 6, and 8 still require action to be taken to insure compliance.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Burriss Park and Museum  
6500 Clinton Ave  
Kingsburg CA 93631  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2701**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government  
Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational and  
Follow-up Tour  
March 6, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Burriss Park is located on Clinton Avenue on land donated to the county for a park by the Burriss family in 1924. The 57 acre park accommodates large crowds, has 23 picnic areas, each with its own barbeque pit, tables and benches. There are two large areas with kitchens equipped with propane, electricity and a deep pit barbeque.

The Kings County Museum was established in 1927 and was housed in the Hanford City Auditorium basement. In 1955 it was moved to a new building, donated by the Swanson family, located in Burriss Park. The museum is currently scheduled to be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and major holidays. It is closed for most of the winter season. The museum has an interesting collection of Kings County Memorabilia dating from the 1800's. Included in the collections of relics is a display of the Tachi Indians captured in a mural as they go about their daily routine with a backdrop of the valley in a most serene, tranquil and dreamlike landscape.

The Committee, in addition to its normally planned tour of Burriss Park, conducted a special tour of the park facilities as a result of recent discussion to close, change the days of operation and/or make modifications to its current maintenance operations.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Parks Superintendent and toured the entire park facilities. The Committee was informed of the recent developments to the park. Two new wells were recently constructed and are operating. They service the needs for Burriss Park, the museum, as well as those of the Burriss Park Fire Station

#1. The wells are designed to deliver the water where it is most needed. There is a program installed that can recognize, prioritize and deliver the water for emergency services. The Committee was informed the funds utilized to construct the wells were a result of a state bond and if the park is closed the county may be responsible for reimbursing the state for the allocated funds.

The Committee toured the area where the firing range is located and was informed it is no longer in service. It was closed due to the proximity of the entrance to the park and the fire station. It is in direct line of fire. We were informed the range was merely closed and never cleaned or decontaminated from the presence of lead in the berme. The Committee noted the removal of the lead to preserve the integrity of the drinking water and the environment is of paramount importance.

In addition to the closed firing range the Committee observed that the Kings County Sportsman Club is located adjacent to the park facilities and next to the fire station. It appeared the presence of the Sportsman Club did not pose a negative factor to the park because of its location, types of weapons used and the member's involvement to maintain the facilities. We were informed the Sportsman Club members and it's visitors must use the parks front and only entrance gate to gain access to their facility and have no other means of entry.

The Committee toured the park grounds and observed new playground equipment that has been installed. A separate gated playground area has been constructed to accommodate younger children. New picnic tables and restrooms have been designed and built to be handicap accessible. We were informed the funds for these improvements were a result of grant money and may be subject to forfeiture if the park is closed.

The Committee was informed the park was preparing to open in April in order to be available for the Easter weekend. We were told this is the busiest and most profitable weekend for the county parks, Burris Park in particular. The current entrance fees and new fees effective April 28, 2003:

<u>Current Fees</u>	<u>New Fees</u>
\$3.00 Cars and Bikes	\$6.00 Cars and Bikes
\$1.00 Senior Driver	\$2.00 Senior Driver
\$25.00 Season pass	\$50.00 Season pass
Non-profit and schools are free	\$10.00 Non-profit and schools

The Committee toured the Museum and enjoyed the display of historic artifacts dating back to the 1800's. The recently constructed wing to the museum includes displays from the native Indian tribes, artifacts such as; arrowheads, spears, tools,

etc. We also observed interesting early century farming equipment, firearms, dairy equipment, furniture and switchboards to name a few.

The Committee reviewed the recommendations noted in the previous Grand Jury's Final Report and after completing this tour of the area, is satisfied the fore noted concerns have been rectified.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Research and determine if the park is closed, the funds received through grant money and used for the development of the well system have to be returned, and if so how much money is actually involved.
2. Develop and initiate a plan to remove the lead from the berme of the old firing range to avoid a potential environmental hazardous situation.
3. Consider establishing a fee for users of the Sportsman Club.
4. Research and determine if the park is closed do the funds received through grant money and used to improve the playground areas, handicap accessible tables and restrooms have to be returned, and if so how much money is actually involved.
5. Consider a reasonable increase of rates for park usage and a separate fee for admission to the museum area.
6. Upon completing the recommendations in items 1, 2, and 4 determine if the closure of the park is financially prudent.

### **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the personnel of the Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts in developing the county's parks into a picturesque, clean, safe and enjoyable retreat for the residents of Kings County. In light of the current budget crisis the Grand Jury encourages the county administrators to research and use their creativity to remedy the county budgetary concerns without disturbing the citizen's ability to enjoy Burris Park. It is a tradition based on our earliest ancestors to enjoy and recreate in the beauty of our county's natural resources.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

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

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
September 23, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings Waste and Recycling Authority (KWRA) was formed in 1989 as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in order to comply with California Assembly Bill 939 (AB-939). AB-939 is a state law, which requires all California cities, counties or regional jurisdictions, such as KWRA, to reduce the amount of garbage (in the form of recyclable material), going to local landfills, by 50 percent by the year 2000.

The members of Kings County's JPA are the cities of Corcoran, Lemoore, Hanford and some of the unincorporated areas of Kings County. KWRA's governing body consists of one representative from the city councils of each city, plus two members of Kings County's Board of Supervisors. Avenal elected not to join when the JPA was formed and reports their recycling data and diversion percentage directly to the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Executive Director for an orientation brief and a tour of the entire facility. A question and answer period was also held.

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) opened on November 21, 1995 and is self-supporting from tipping fees only. KWRA receives no subsidies from JPA cities and receives no tax dollars. KWRA processes all municipal solid waste collected within the JPA and hand-sorts recyclable material from the waste stream. KWRA is a transfer station for residue being transferred to the landfill at Chemical Waste Management. KWRA has a 16-acre composting operation which processes green waste collected in the green waste recycling bins in the three member cities, and

material delivered directly to the KWRA site by individual householders. City garbage is collected Monday through Friday and is delivered to KWRA's 92,000 square foot MRF. Material is deposited on the floor and either pushed to the "main line" for recyclable material collection or delivered to a staging area for transfer to the landfill. Material staged for transfer without sorting is contaminated with everything from water treatment plant sludge, raw food waste, oil from restaurants; dairy waste and other contaminants. Material received in clear plastic bags is recovered because it is easily identified as recyclable. Material delivered in black bags, or other bags, which cannot be seen through, goes directly to the staging area for transfer to landfill.

According to the Executive Director, approximately 80 percent of household "waste" is actually recyclable. KWRA also runs the JPA's School Bin Recycling Program. Recyclable material collected in school bins is very clean and more easily sorted than items received in residential garbage trucks. By participating in the school program, schools collect 20% of the profit made from selling the materials. **Lemoore schools have aggressively taken advantage of the School Bin Recycling Program, reaping the financial rewards reported in the Lemoore Advance editorial, published December 11, 2002. Corcoran schools also do a commendable job of recycling and have had two recycling competition programs in the last year. Besides normal funds collected for their recycling efforts, KWRA has provided over \$1,700 in state grant funds to Corcoran schools for their recycling support.** Hanford schools at one time had eight schools, plus the elementary school districts office in the program, but have dropped to just three schools plus the district office. John F. Kennedy, Jefferson, Lincoln, Martin Luther King and Monroe no longer have school bins, nor does the new school, Joe Simas. All but JFK were removed at the request of the district office, and JFK was removed because of its low volume of material collected, due to its non-accessibility to the public. The Hanford Elementary Schools need to re-evaluate their need to join Kings County's School Bin Recycling Program, since the state recently mandated schools must have a recycling program. **The two Hanford High Schools recently joined the School Bin Recycling Program due to their dedicated and conscientious maintenance supervisor.** County and private schools also play a major role in county recycling with 17 additional schools participating.

KWRA has done a most commendable job working with schools and showing that besides being the right thing to do, recycling can bring monetary rewards to those who are willing to cooperate and keep valuable material from going into our landfills. Since KWRA opened in November of 1995, it has paid out over \$41,000 to schools throughout Kings County's JPA area. **Of this amount, over \$20,806 has gone to just seven schools inside Lemoore City limits.**

Materials brought to the MRF are weighed upon arrival and a tipping fee is charged. The tipping fee charged for green waste is \$35.00 per ton and \$70.00 per ton for garbage. Objects such as tires and refrigerators require an additional fee. Computer monitors, televisions, car and household batteries, paints and solvents are toxic and require special handling. Used motor oil is accepted and five quarts of re-refined oil is offered free on a scheduled basis. Green waste, including leaves, weeds and grass clippings, small tree trimmings and small pieces of wood are shredded by machine. It is aged on the ground for 90 to 100 days until ready to be sold as compost. Shredded waste heats naturally and is kept at a minimum of 130° F for 15 days to kill seeds and undesirable agents.

**The Executive Director stated that the 50 percent landfill goal is at hand, and in anticipation of new requirements, more high-level support is urgently needed. A new goal of 75 percent recycling is attainable with more support of the County Board of Supervisors, the Hanford City Council and other officials in the cities of Kings County.**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The County Board of Supervisors, Hanford City Council and other elected officials of Kings County must increase recycling awareness among their constituents and require positive action in all areas of influence.
2. All eligible schools must expand the School Bin Recycling Program there by earning extra money.
3. The County Board of Supervisors, Hanford City Council and other elected officials of Kings County must encourage merchants, businesspersons, apartment and hotel managers, church officials, educators and contractors to recycle all recyclable material.
4. Strong emphasis should be made on using clear plastic bags for all recyclable materials.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Kings County already has nine closed landfills that must be continuously monitored. Recycling reduces landfill dumping.

**The MRF is capable of recovering more materials with more wide spread use of CLEAR (see-through) plastic bags.**

The Grand Jury recognizes the progress being attained with recycling in Kings County.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Victim Witness Program  
1400 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2640**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
September 9, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Victim Witness Program provides a range of services for individuals, who are a victim or a witness of a crime in California, that suffer either financial loss or emotional problems from the experience.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Supervising Probation Officer who is responsible for operating the Victim Witness Program and informed the Committee on the operations of the Victim Witness Program. Included in the services, which may be available to victims and witnesses, is the following: information services, counseling services, emergency assistance, claims assistance, justice system information assistance, notification of family and employer assistance and eligibility information.

The program is available to all victims who are residents of California at the time of the crime and citizenship is not required. Kings County averages five to ten victim crimes per week. The program benefits are: funeral and burial assistance up to \$7,500, physical trauma up to \$45,000 and relocation for domestic violence and sexual assault up to \$2,000.

The Victim Witness Program is a division of the Kings County Probation Department and was authorized and funded through the passing of California Victims' Bill of Rights in 1982 (Proposition 8) and Crime Victims' Justice Reform Act in 1990 (Proposition 115). The Victim Witness Program has a staff of seven and receives 100 percent of its funding through the penalties assessed by the courts against criminal offenders. State law mandates crisis intervention and emergency assistance for victims and witnesses.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Victim Witness Program is an important community asset.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Water District  
200 N Campus Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 584-6412**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
April 28, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

1. Protecting, conserving and stabilizing 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 approximately 45,000, lies near the center of the district. The total area of the District is 143,000 acres, of which 51,150 acres are within the boundaries of Division 5 of the Kings River Conservation District, 82,610 acres are within the boundaries of Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and 9,240 acres are within the area where the two Districts overlap.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the General Manager of the KCWD. The District has a Board of Directors, General Manager and a Secretary.

The KCWD purchases water and sells to water users within the District to reduce ground water pumping, also water is sent to recharging basins. During dry years there is no recharging of the ground water. Water from the Sierra Mountain Range is very slow to flow horizontally and vertical flow is much faster.

The KCWD recently purchased 400 acres of the old Kings River bed in the northeast corner of Kings County. This area was known to have four times greater than average capacity to percolate water. When free water is available from the Kings River it is used to recharge the basin.

**RECOMMENDATIONS: None**

**COMMENTS: None**

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Assessor/  
Clerk/Recorder/Elections  
Government Center  
1400 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2496  
Fax (559) 582-2794**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tours  
August 19, 2002  
October 7, 2002  
October 14, 2002  
October 28, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**ASSESSOR**

The County Assessor is a constitutionally elected official responsible for the discovery and value enrollment of all locally assessable property within Kings County. The office observes and protects the confidentiality rights of the public. There are 37 employees in the Assessor's Office. This also includes the Assessor/Clerk/Recorder/Elections Divisions.

The duties of the County Clerk/Recorder Department are combined with a staff of seven employees.

The Elections Division conducts all Federal, State, School, County and Special District Elections. There are six employees in the election divisions. All of these divisions are located in the Finance Building at the Kings County Government Center.

**FINDINGS:**

**ASSESSOR**

The Committee visited the Kings County Assessor's Office located in the Government Center. The Committee was introduced to the County Assessor. The Assessor's Office is in charge of assessment terms, which includes the valuation for all property. The assessed value of property as of 12:01 AM. on January 1 governs the fiscal tax year beginning the following July.

Assessment is the value upon which your taxes are calculated. Generally seniors 55 years and older may transfer their factored base year value from the property they have sold to a replacement property under specific circumstances under section 51 of the California Revenue and Taxation code. The Assessor's Office is required to perform mandatory audits for individuals who own property, real or personal, with a value of \$300,000.00 or more. Property owners may request a review of their property value. Property value may be lowered if the current factored base year value is lower than the current market value.

The Williamson Act provides for lowered property taxes for land maintained in agricultural and certain open space uses. The landowner enters into a contract with county or city to restrict land uses to that which is compatible with agriculture, wildlife habitat, scenic corridors, recreational use or open space. In return, the local authorities calculate the property tax assessment based on the actual agricultural use of the land. To be eligible, the land must be designated by a city or county as an agricultural preserve, scenic highway corridor, or wildlife habitat area or it must be actively used for the three years immediately preceding the beginning of the contract as a saltpond, managed wetland, recreational or open space area.

Some properties in the county are void of value, including properties, which have had hazardous spills. The zero value will remain until the property has been cleaned up. The property will then be reevaluated.

Possessory interest taxes are collected from businesses or individuals who use tax exempt government owned property, such as farming interest that are located on state or federal property, such as that located on Lemoore Naval Air Station.

## **COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER**

The Clerk/Recorder Department staff is responsible for all filings of personal and real properties in the county, maintaining accurate vital statistics, fictitious business licenses, acceptance of United States passport applications and recording official documents.

The Clerk/Recorder Department uses a cashing system, which tracks the cash flow of fees paid to the County.

All documents that are received by the Clerk/Recorder Department are scanned into the computer system, which was implemented by the Assessor two years ago. All documents received daily are scanned into the Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) System.

The Clerk/Recorder Department has the authority and responsibility to certify all documents filed at their office.

Title Companies deliver documents to the Clerk/Recorder Department daily. All documents are checked for accuracy and then scanned into the computer system. Immediately after the documents are scanned they are accessible to the public. Anything not computerized is sent to be microfilmed.

The Clerk/Recorder Department is on the County Website, but only has the application form for United States Passport and the fees. Applications for marriage, birth and death records are not on the Clerk/Recorder website.

## **ELECTIONS**

The Committee toured the Kings County Elections Division. An interview, general discussion and orientation took place with the Elections Manager.

The Kings County Elections Division now has a web site where citizens can find elections results or down load an Absentee Voter Application.

The Kings County Elections Division is at present looking into a new voting machine called a Touch-Screen System that operates much like an ATM. A plastic, ATM-like card is coded especially for the voter once they arrive at the polling location.

The card is then inserted into the machine by the voter, enabling the voter's selections to be officially recorded. The new system virtually eliminates the possibility of double voting or other potential errors. Once voting is complete the voter is shown a summary of their votes, even highlighting areas the voter has left blank, and is given one final opportunity to make changes. Kings County presently uses an ES&S Optec Eagle voting system.

We were informed that a precinct consists of approximately 250 to 1,000 registered voters. If there are fewer voters in the area they will vote by mail ballot. When the registered voters exceed 1,000 a new precinct is formed. Currently the voter informational booklets cost \$1.80 to be sent Third Class mail. Every registered household receives a booklet.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**ASSESSOR: None**

## **COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER**

The Clerk/Recorder Department should continue to upgrade the website to enable the public to access application forms for marriage, birth and death records.

## **ELECTIONS**

The Grand Jury recommends that the new voting system be implemented.

## **COMMENTS:**

**ASSESSOR:** None

## **COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER**

The Clerk/Recorder Department shows that it is well automated and is continuing in that direction.

## **ELECTIONS**

The Elections Division should be responsible for the education of the precinct workers in order for the new system to work efficiently. The office should continue to update the computer information to inform the public of the operations of the Elections Division.

**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  
October 28, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Public Guardian, appointed by the Board of Supervisors with Court approval, is given the authority over the person and estates of individuals who are 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, 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 are no others 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 Public Guardian is now charged with handling the financial affairs of those who do not comply with its guidelines. Since the children cannot be left without financial support, the Public Guardian will step in and ensure that public funds are spent responsibly for the benefit of the children.

The Veterans Service Officer (VSO) provides assistance and services to veterans' and their families. To meet this objective, the VSO strives to increase veteran's 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 assists veterans in developing, preparing and submitting claims for benefits to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. This VSO office serves in excess of 3,000 individuals annually. The VSO 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.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None.

**COMMENTS:** None.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Human Services  
1200 South Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3241 ext 2324  
Fax 584-4416**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**County Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interviews  
November 4, 2002  
December 9, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Committee met with one of the Deputy Directors of Human Services on two separate occasions. The first meeting was held in the Deputy Director's Office on November 4, 2002. The second was held in the Grand Jury room on December 9, 2002. The first meeting was unannounced and the Deputy Director was more than willing to speak with us about the Child Protective Services (CPS).

**FINDINGS:**

This Deputy Director of Human Service supervises CPS, Adult Protective Services, School Social Work/Family Preservation, In Home Supportive Services, Independent Living Skills and Foster Care Licensing-Recruitment.

The Human Service provides mandated services to the abused, neglected and/or exploited children and adults. This prevents or reduces inappropriate institutional care and secures institutional care when no other solution is appropriate. This helps individuals and families achieve and maintain the highest level of independence, self-support, and self-sufficiency and keeps families within the range and scope of their capabilities. Mandated services for children and families consist of Information and Referral, Emergency Response, Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, Permanent Placement, Adoption, Foster Home Licensing and Independent Living Skills.

When CPS receives a referral, it is the department's responsibility to obtain the facts and determine if there is abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child or adult. If the case is accepted, one must identify the problem, get the facts, plan and provide the services and set goals within a reasonable time frame. Twelve months of service are provided when the child remains in the home in a safe environment. Other arrangements are made with a foster home located close to the family if the child is not safe in its own home. If a child is removed from the home, services are

provided up to 18 months for the child and the family. Reunification is the goal of the CPS.

When a person of authority, such as a teacher or a school nurse, makes a complaint, it is mandated that they are required to make a formal complaint. This type of complaint must be referred to law enforcement. Complaints made in person must meet the definition of child abuse before being followed up. If it is an immediate response that is required, the time frame is one hour. If the case is not an emergency, CPS has up to ten days to investigate.

These services are available to children and their families when children are victims of, or at risk of, abuse, neglect, exploitation or parental absence. Abuse is defined as physical injury, willful cruelty, and sexual abuse, failing to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision.

There are seven CPS caseworkers that are handling 300 to 360 open cases this year. With money getting tighter, it becomes more difficult each year for the department to cover all of the cases, leaving some children that are in the system vulnerable.

Training for foster parenting requires an initial 16 hours at College of the Sequoias, or an accredited college, plus 12 additional hours each year. There is an extreme shortage of foster parent homes. The service tries to promote parent-child interaction and focus on all family members, not just children or parents individually. Aftercare for the families is also encouraged for the safety of the child. Half of the children return to their homes, 20 percent go to guardianship with a family member or extended family member. Upon reaching the age of 18 some are lucky enough to go to a group home called a transitional home. At present, Lemoore has one for females.

One worker will have a caseload of 15.8 cases to a high of 30 referrals per month. CPS works under State Regulations and the state audits the paper work.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury's idea of how children should be treated was quite different from that of the reality of the CPS Laws. Funding must be set aside for

aftercare of the children and a program needs to encourage more help for the substance abuser involved in the child's life.

More funding is needed to increase their capability to meet with these families. The system needs a better way to track the progress with these families and to track these children.

## SUMMARY

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The County Government Committee dedicates this year's work to Patricia Davis, Chairperson, at the beginning of the year, but was taken from us unexpectedly. She was a dedicated person to the citizens of Kings County. She was very community minded and participated in many community programs and projects.

The County Government Committee of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury consists of 12 diversified members. These members brought to this committee a dedication, personal expertise and interests, worked together and contributed to the formation of the Final Reports contained herein.

The County Government Committee visited and met with the Kings County Assessor/Clerk/Recorder, Public Works Director, Building Maintenance Superintendent, Parks Superintendent, Mosquito Abatement District Manager, Human Services Agency Administration Program Managers, Office Systems Analyst, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Chief Probation Officer, Executive Secretary of Kettleman Hills Facility, Kings County Water District General Manager, Kings County Transit Coordinator, Agriculture Commissioner-Sealer, Kings Waste and Recycling Authority Executive Director, Public Guardian/Veterans Service Officer, Victim Witness Program Supervising Probation Officer, Sheriff's Department Records Supervisor, Fleet Service Manager and their staffs during this year. The cooperation of all County Departments and their willingness to spend time with the Committee and to share their knowledge assisted us in carrying out our duties as Grand Jurors.

The Committee thanks all the County Department Heads and their staffs for their cooperation and willingness to answer all questions on our tours or during our interviews. The Committee witnessed that many of the County employees that we interviewed and observed during working hours are dedicated to their careers and Kings County.

Patricia Davis, Chairperson (Deceased)

Larry Orth, Chairperson

Dallas Uffman, Assistant Chairperson

Ken Beinhorn

Herb Biddle

William D. Bowen

Marvin Costa

Patricia Crouch

Fred Lawall

Russell Nail

Shawn Poirer

Tom Ross



**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Corcoran Nutrition Center  
800 Dairy Ave  
Corcoran CA 93212  
(559) 992-4419**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up  
October 22, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Nutrition Program is available in Kings County through the Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (K/TAAA) for all senior citizens regardless of their income. K/TAAA contracts with both Kings and Tulare Counties 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 and named the Kate Boswell Senior Center. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Donations of \$2.00 are requested of those participating in the meals.

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 has been maintained.

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury toured the facility and found the following discrepancies:

1. The gates from the inner courtyard to outside the facility were locked.
2. There were exposed wires and a broken conduit outside near the front entrance.
3. Shades, drapes or tinting were needed on the large picture windows on the South side.

**FINDINGS:**

1. The gates of the courtyard are now opened after the building is entered.
2. The wires and conduit have been repaired.
3. Shades have been installed on the windows to alleviate the glare from the sun.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury complements the Nutrition Center for correcting the deficiencies noted last year.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County  
Commission on Aging  
Mary Brock Hall  
1197 South Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2924**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up and  
Informational Tour  
January 7, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This tour was in response to the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report. Their Recommendations were:

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.

Their report also mentioned the need for more space to accommodate the guests and a better volunteer network.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Executive Director of the Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) at Mary Brock Hall. When entering the building, we noticed that the back door was in need of repair or replacement. The Executive Director assured us that it was going to be replaced in a couple of days. The interior has been repaired and repainted except for two of the rooms. What really caught our attention was the condition of the carpets. Throughout the building, the carpet is worn through, dirty and stained. We were told they are hopeful of having a fundraiser to replace the carpets as soon as possible.

There were pamphlets on health, taxes and other county services available to senior citizens. There is a need for more room to do interviews with guests and their families. The hallways and offices are overwhelmed with the amount of office furniture and material that is required to assist the seniors of the benefits for which they are entitled. The Committee was informed that the volunteer network was working fine and it is unknown why last year's Grand Jury said it needed improvement.

The Adult Day Support Center had the carpet replaced last year, thanks to the help of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury. KCCOA received an area grant to install a new glass patio next to the center with temperature control. Inside the patio makes it feel like you are outside on a spring day. This helps the staff monitor the guests from wandering off. The patio was installed where the 2001-2002 Grand Jury had observed that the existing patio areas were unsafe when wet.

The Committee was informed that the south half of Mary Brock Hall is not currently being used.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Replace back door.
2. Finish painting the interior.
3. Replace carpet at Mary Brock Hall.
4. KCCOA should utilize all of Mary Brock Hall.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with the Executive Director and the staff for their knowledge, friendliness and care given to the guests and their families.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Meals on Wheels  
1197 South Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211  
(Ext 4848 or 4835)**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
August 20, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Meals on Wheels is a program funded through the Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (K/T AAA). Meals are delivered to eligible seniors (age 60 and over) weekly which provide two-thirds of daily nutrition requirements for a five day period. Frozen meals are provided to homebound convalescing seniors who may be unable to participate at the meal centers funded by K/T AAA and located in various locations around both Kings and Tulare Counties.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee talked with both the Nutrition Coordinator and the Meals on Wheels Coordinator. The Nutrition Coordinator informed the members that the meals are prepared and frozen in Orange County and stored at the Lemoore Senior Center. The program for the K/T AAA is operated from the Mary Brock Hall Office, which is under the management of the parent office in Visalia.

The meals provided include both a breakfast and a lunch/dinner and are delivered to the client's homes once a week. All homes are required to have freezer space and a microwave. If the person does not have the microwave the program will assist in the acquisition of one for the client. There is a donation requested of \$10.50 per week, but like the Senior Center meals the actual amount donated is according to need of the client. Participants are asked to pay what they can afford.

The Committee received a menu of the meals provided and they were described as similar to TV dinners. The servings are approximately 1800 calories per day. The Coordinator informed the Committee that the law provides meals five days a week. At present there is a surplus of meals available, the meals are being provided seven days a week. This is due to the "use by expiration date" on the meals. There aren't any provisions for extra meals.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None.

**COMMENTS:** None.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lemoore Nutrition Center  
789 S Lemoore Ave  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-7791**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
and Interview  
March 18, 2003  
March 25, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Lemoore Nutrition Center is a service of the Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (K/TAAA). Funding for K/TAAA comes from federal (50 percent), state (35 percent) and county (15 percent). Services provided by K/TAAA are administered to citizens of both counties on an as needed basis rather than by area or population. The agency is governed by a five-member board of directors (three from Tulare County and two from Kings County) who are appointed each year by members of the Boards of Supervisors of the two counties.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee made an unannounced visit to the Lemoore Senior Citizens and Nutrition Center. The center is divided into three sections: a dining area, an exercise (game) area and a kitchen. The kitchen prepares an average of 450 meals daily for delivery throughout Kings and Tulare Counties. Service is provided to 19 cities from Avenal on the west to Springville and Three Rivers on the east. There are five drivers and four vehicles that start delivery at 8:45 A.M. All hot foods leave the center at 165°F to 207°F and are kept hot in insulated containers. Cold foods are placed in insulated and iced containers.

The Nutrition Center is staffed with a supervisor cook and three assistants. Additional workers may come from persons sentenced to community service, usually one or two daily, also senior volunteers. Servers at the center are usually three staff and five to six volunteers.

The menus are changed weekly and not necessarily repeated. The Nutrition Program has approximately 50 home deliveries of both breakfast and lunch with additional meals on Friday for Saturday and Sunday. The Supervisor informed us there is one nutritionist that travels to all the Senior Centers.

She took us on a tour of the kitchen and the food storage areas. The kitchen equipment was all stainless steel and exceptionally clean. There is a walk-in refrigerator/freezer in the kitchen. A commercial size refrigerator for bulk fruit, milk, etc. and a commercial size freezer for frozen meals, meat, etc. is located in an adjacent building.

Any one can purchase a meal at any of the centers at \$3.80 for persons under 60 and \$2.00 for persons 60 and older. The only requirement is to sign up one day prior. The cost of the meal to K/TAAA is approximately \$7.00.

At the present time K/TAAA is negotiating to lease a kitchen facility not presently in use in Tulare County and closing the Lemoore kitchen. The lease for the Lemoore kitchen expires in September 2004 and the refrigeration equipment is currently being leased on a day-by-day basis. Some of the kitchen equipment will be moved to the new facility. Further steps are being proposed to reduce costs by 15 percent and keeping the centers open four days a week and staggering days open.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Kings County Supervisors should oppose the proposed move of this kitchen as the Lemoore kitchen is already in place and established. The new location will require added costs to Kings County and increased distance for meal delivery in Kings County.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with the cleanliness and organization of the Lemoore Nutrition Center.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Health Department  
Women Infant and Children  
(WIC) Program  
595 Clyde Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 4695  
www.countyofkings.com**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Interviews and  
Informational Tours  
August 13, 2002  
August 20, 2002  
August 22, 2002  
September 3, 2002  
September 10, 2002  
September 17, 2002  
September 24, 2002  
October 8, 2002  
January 28, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Health Department-WIC Program

The ensuing information was developed over an approximate six-month period. It consists of several physical tours to the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program Clinics throughout Kings County and face-to-face interviews with the WIC Program Administrators. The WIC Program is for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, post-partum women and children under age five who are at a nutritional risk.

The goal of the WIC Program is to decrease the risk of poor birth outcomes and to improve the health of participants during critical times of growth and development. To meet this goal, WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, medical care referrals and specific supplemental foods, which are high in protein and/or iron. The specific foods provided to participants include peanut butter, beans, milk, cheese, eggs, iron-fortified cereal, infant formula and juices. A major focus of WIC is the promotion of breastfeeding. Pregnant women receive information on the benefits of breastfeeding and once the babies are born, the WIC staff provides encouragement and support to the mothers. This has an additional positive impact on the health of WIC participants since breastfed babies tend to

have fewer medical problems such as colds, ear infections and diarrhea. In Kings County, approximately six percent of the infants enrolled in WIC are exclusively breastfed.

WIC is unique among federally administered programs in that it provides specific supplemental food and nutrition education to a specific targeted population as a short-term intervention and adjunct to ongoing health care. The supplemental foods provided by the WIC Program are designed to meet the participant's dietary needs for specific nutrients during brief but crucial periods of physiological development. It is “short-term” in that on average, WIC participants receive services for approximately two years.

Numerous scientific studies show that pregnant women who participate in the WIC Program seek earlier care and consume a healthier diet. The improved nutrition and education provided to enrolled women results in more full-term pregnancies, less low birth weight babies and fewer fetal and infant deaths.

WIC receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. California contracts with 82 local, county and private non-profit agencies to deliver WIC services at the local level. In the past few years, Congress has “level funded” the program and has provided no funding for program expansion. To maintain the level of services, the WIC program has entered into over \$200 million in innovative rebate contracts with juice, infant formula and infant cereal manufacturers. This allows California WIC to serve about 400,000 additional women and children at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

## **FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Kings County Director of Protocol Services and was informed of the various programs throughout the county to promote better health. We were informed of the health clinics located in Hanford, Kettleman City, Avenal, Corcoran and Lemoore. The Hanford clinic is staffed full time; however, the remaining clinics are open on a rotating basis. The schedule is published monthly in local newspapers and is posted at the various sites. The primary mission of the clinics is to provide services for the WIC Program. The Committee was informed of the need to establish a satellite clinic to serve the population located at the Lemoore Naval Air Station.

We were informed of the Healthy Families Program, a state and federally funded program for children. The Director of Protocol Services also informed the Committee of the concerns regarding the Senior Citizen Programs and the lack of funding for in-home services, for Diabetic Programs and the need for programs addressing Teen Pregnancies in Kings County.

We toured various clinics and observed the process while participants of the WIC program were being served by the Health Department Staff. Initial observations led us to believe the program was under staffed and the facility is inadequately furnished to complete its mission. By questioning staff the Committee was informed the program had several vacancies. These included the Program Coordinator, Program Supervisor and several other positions. The program is lacking training that should be provided to staff and participants. The lack of training is a direct result of the vacant positions. Training is sacrificed in order to provide the more crucial elements of the WIC Program. Later visits to the clinics by the Committee found that most of the vacant positions had been filled, with the exception of the Coordinator position. We were informed that the Coordinator salary was less than the Registered Dietician salary therefore it is difficult to fill. We were informed that funds had been allocated for the purchase of new laptop computers, but they have not been placed into the program. The Committee examined the vehicles used to transport staff and equipment to and from the satellite clinics and found the vehicles to be unsafe and in need of repair.

Subsequent to the above referenced areas of concern the Committee met with the Director for the Department of Public Health and was informed **our concerns were either misrepresentations by staff, who were not completely knowledgeable of the intricacies of the WIC Program or had already been resolved. The Director assured the Committee that all of our findings had been appropriately addressed and corrected if warranted.**

The Director provided the Committee with a two page, (unsigned and undated), document entitled “Questions Regarding Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program”. It itemizes six responses as follows:

1. Strengthening the management and professionalism of WIC
2. Computerization of WIC
3. Site education materials
4. Nutritional education
5. WIC vans
6. WIC re-certifications

Based on our meeting with the Director and the information provided, the Committee sought to confirm the deficiencies that had been brought into compliance with WIC Program standards. The Committee met with staff during a follow-up tour of the Lemoore WIC Clinic and discovered that some of the original areas of concern had been rectified. **However, the Committee noted key positions are still vacant; the computers on site are mended together by untrained staff; donated copy equipment lies inoperable due to apparent insignificance; and nutritional education is lacking for both staff and**

participants. The Director has made improvements to positions by upgrading pay scales and/or deleting/adding positions to the program.

The Committee found the condition of the vans first indicated as needing to be repaired are now in acceptable working order.

Given the ensuing efforts by the Committee to ascertain the problematic areas of the WIC Program we have modified our original recommendations by *italicizing* those, which have been adequately resolved.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Assess the feasibility of establishing a satellite clinic for the Lemoore Naval Air Station.
2. Obtain and maintain full staffing level.
3. Initiate the education/training phase for staff and provide appropriate training for the participants.
4. Conduct staff training in the use of computers, specifically in the areas of registering and monitoring the participants.
5. *Review and adjust the salary of the Program Coordinator position.*
6. Conduct a financial audit to ensure federal funds are received and spent on the WIC Program.
7. *Repair the vehicles used for transportation to and from the satellite clinics as needed.*

#### COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury was impressed with the staff's enthusiasm and interaction with the participants of the WIC Program. Even with the shortage of staff there was a sincere dedication to providing the best possible service. The Grand Jury maintains a reservation regarding the allocation of WIC funds and would like to be reassured that the funds are being channeled directly to the WIC Program and its participants.

The Grand Jury would like to impress upon the administrators of the WIC Program to consider authorizing two staff members to attend a seminar designed for personnel tasked with the responsibility of providing training. Those selected would in turn train the remainder of the staff upon their return.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Public Health  
Hanford Clinic  
330 Campus Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2605**

**Corcoran Clinic  
1002 Dairy Ave  
Corcoran CA 93212  
(559) 992-2601**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
and Interview  
March 4, 2003  
April 8, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County Department of Public Health provides a broad spectrum of preventative health services. The mission of the department is to help the residents of Kings County achieve the highest level of health and wellness by:

1. Emphasizing and promoting positive health behaviors
2. Encouraging individual responsibility in the health process, including modification of life-style factors that cause disease and disability
3. Working with the community to prevent, solve or mitigate environmental health problems
4. Increasing awareness and client utilization of preventative services, community resources and primary health services

Services are available to anyone regardless of color, race, creed or ability to pay. Some services are targeted to specific age groups and to individuals with special medical needs. Fees vary depending on the funding source. There is a small fee for most services; however, no one is refused a needed service because of an inability to pay.

## **FINDINGS:**

### **HANFORD CLINIC**

The Committee met with the Health Office Supervisor at the Hanford Clinic. The Health Clinics are staffed with a total of 95 employees of which 50 percent are bilingual. Some positions are required to be bilingual. These employees provide services for:

1. Children Services-Immunization and lead-poisoning screenings
2. Family Planning Birth Control
3. Diabetes
4. Women, Infant and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC)
5. Preventive Health Care for the Aging
6. Communicable Disease Services-Confidential HIV Testing, HIV Infection/AIDS Case Management Services, Communicable Disease Control Services, Tuberculosis (TB) related work and Immigration Clearances, TB Clearances and TB Control Clinics

The Hanford Clinic is the only County Clinic staffed five days per week. Clinics in Avenal, Corcoran, Kettleman City and Lemoore are operated on a revolving schedule, posted and published each month.

The Hanford Clinic has five examination rooms and two interview rooms. The clinic does primarily disease control, TB control, immunization, WIC and public health nurses. A motor home, medically equipped, travels to all the county clinics primarily for children immunization, outreach program and information for Expanded Clinic Access Program (ECAP).

The Hanford Health Clinic was very clean and well illuminated. The waiting room was very comfortable with ready access to the appointment desk.

### **CORCORAN CLINIC:**

The Committee made an unscheduled visit to the Corcoran Health Clinic on a day scheduled for nursing personnel to be in attendance. The waiting room was nearly full with mothers and children. There were toys for the small children and comfortable chairs for all patients.

We met with the nurse practitioner in charge and were given a tour of the facility. There are two examination rooms, three interview rooms, two small offices and an

all-purpose room. Though all exits are clearly marked, there is no fire evacuation plan posted.

The Corcoran Clinic is staffed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Family Planning and Reproductive Health. These programs include annual exams for women (PAP), Prevention Program (provide some prescriptions, antibiotics, birth control and condoms) and some male patients for sexually transmitted diseases. Treatment is mostly by appointment but the staff will see walk-ins. The ECAP mobile unit visits Corcoran one day per week.

Staff for the clinic consists of two nurse practitioners, one licensed vocational nurse (LVN), one Public Health Nurse (PHN), two medical assistants and one receptionist. All of the staff travel from Hanford in a county vehicle.

The clinic treats or examines an average of twenty patients per day. Fee for service is billed to the state, therefore the county incurs no cost.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Develop a fire evacuation plan for the Corcoran Health Clinic and post as needed.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Office  
of Education  
1144 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-1441**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
April 29, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County Office of Education (KCOE) is the responsible local agency required to perform such functions as the administrative support and coordination of the implementation of a written plan developed locally and approved by the State Department of Education.

The KCOE was founded in 1893 with the election of the first Superintendent being C. A. McCourt. The first meeting of the Kings County Board of Education was held June 10, 1893 on the third floor of the Opera House on 7<sup>th</sup> and Irwin Streets. One of the first actions of the board was to develop a teacher certification test for Kings County teachers.

In 1950 the State Education Code defined the KCOE's primary function as improving education services and ensuring equity of opportunity for all students. Accordingly, the fifties saw expansion of KCOE services for students with disabilities and in alternative school programs.

Today, there are 14 school districts in Kings County, each with an elected local governing board and its own superintendent. These 14 school boards oversee a total of 46 schools, which serve more than 25,500 students. Kings County employs approximately 1,350 teachers.

The KCOE Superintendent is an elected official and is charged with overseeing the budget for each school district as well as promoting the most relevant educational programs for Kings County students.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee interviewed the Superintendent of Schools for Kings County. The Committee asked questions during a slide presentation by the KCOE Superintendent. There are 58 counties in California of which 53 superintendents

are elected and 5 are appointed to serve for four years. The Kings County Superintendent does not have oversight of the separate school districts. In Kings County there are 14 school districts: two Unified School Districts, two High School Districts and ten Elementary School Districts, all with five board members that are elected to serve four-year terms.

The KCOE is an agency providing an array of services to the 14 school districts through seven departments:

1. Curriculum provides curriculum in-services to districts, assists with state and federal projects and compliance issues.
2. Alternative Programs educates students in the Juvenile Hall and Boot Camp as well as Community Schools (a school designed to serve students who have been expelled from school districts in the county).
3. Business Services provides payroll services and technical business services to school districts.
4. Human Services monitors teacher credentials in the county in addition to coordinating fingerprinting clearances for teachers and classified staff. They encourage new and prospective teachers to obtain aid with the Commission on Teacher Credential requirements.
5. Information Systems provides internet and technology services to school districts and the community. The department employs computer technicians to assist school districts with network and computer needs.
6. Regional Occupation Program provides business and teacher classes to high schools and works with school districts on career education.
7. Special Education provides nursing, speech and psychological services to most districts. Shelly Baird School works with students who are handicapped, either physically, mentally or emotionally, to the point that they cannot be educated in a regular school setting.

The KCOE employs more than 300 staff members. The staff continues to grow as more programs and services are added.

KCOE has obtained land near Hanford-Armona Road and 10½ Avenue for a new community school. They hope to break ground by summer 2003. They are in the planning stages for a Charter Trade High School that will create trade opportunities for at-risk youth.

The public has probably noticed the 160-foot tower being built at the Kings County Government Center. This will be the KCOE Hub to the Digital California

Project (DCP). The next step is the construction of self-standing monopoles at each school within Kings County. When completed this wireless network will provide a variety of technology services to the students and staff, which include access to the internet, support of educational resources and business services. The DCP project is funded by the State of California as a step in connecting all K-12 schools to the existing high-speed educational network of the University of California, California State Universities and Community Colleges of California.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Armona Elementary School  
14th Ave and Pimo St  
Armona CA 93202  
(559) 583-3020**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up  
December 3, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The purpose of this visit is a follow-up of the recommendations from the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report. The recommendations were:

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.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Principal in the school office and discussed last year's Grand Jury Recommendations. The classrooms in need of wheelchair ramps were two portable classrooms. The school removed one and the other one is not being used. After discussing the other two recommendations with the Principal, the Committee agreed, that they were not safety hazards.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Parkview Middle School  
11075 C St  
Armona CA 93202  
(559) 583-5020**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
December 3, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Parkview Middle School was built in 1965 and has an enrollment of 480 students from fifth through eighth grades. The purpose of this visit was to follow-up on Recommendations from the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the school's Principal and was given a tour of the campus and discussed the Recommendations noted in the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

The Committee noted the faucets and leaking drinking fountains have been repaired and was assured ongoing maintenance will be provided. The Intervention Room has been rearranged to eliminate the hazard of falling equipment in the event of an earthquake.

The Principal said they are using every available space. However, they are experiencing overcrowding problems due to the student population being 40 percent above capacity.

The Committee discovered a junction box approximately two to three inches below ground level, resulting in a pothole type situation. The Committee was concerned a person could easily twist an ankle or sustain a more serious injury if this matter is left unattended.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The junction box located between the portable classrooms needs to be raised to ground level.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Avenal Elementary School  
500 S First St  
Avenal CA 93204  
(559) 386-5173**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
October 9, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Avenal Elementary School was constructed in 1939-1940 with major renovations completed in 1999. The school has an enrollment of 646 students, kindergarten through fifth grade. The purpose of this visit was to follow-up on Recommendations from the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Principal and the Head Custodian. The Recommendations of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report were discussed.

1. Repair and paint the awnings over the walkways. This recommendation is presently being completed.
2. Replace flags in Room 18. The replacement of flags has been accomplished.
3. Ensure all restrooms have soap in dispensers and sinks are in adequate repair. The Committee found this problem is corrected.
4. Locate and mount fire extinguisher in office. This recommendation has been accomplished.

Student absence is being maintained at a low five percent. This is partially due to the students receiving a free bicycle drawing. The drawing is held three times a year for those with perfect attendance.

There is a full time Nurse's Clerk on site and the Registered Nurse is there once a week. Health screening is done for all first graders. Vision and hearing tests are given in kindergarten, second and fifth grades each year. The Committee observed a large ceiling patch due to a roof leak in the hall near the Speech Therapy room.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The leak in the hall roof near the Speech Therapy room needs to be repaired.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Tamarack Elementary School  
1000 Union Ave  
Avenal CA 93204  
559) 386-4051**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
October 8, 2002**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Tamarack Elementary School is a new kindergarten through fifth grade school, which opened at the start of this school year. Last year Tamarack was housed in separate buildings on the Avenal Elementary School Campus. Tamarack was built at its present location so that the students wouldn't have to walk across Skyline Boulevard.

### **FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the School Secretary, who conducted a tour of the Staff Lounge, Library Room/Computer Lab, two Kindergarten classrooms and the play area. The Staff Lounge was equipped with the bare necessities, i.e. microwave, soda machine and refrigerator. Neither the Library nor the Computer Lab is complete. Books and computers are still in storage. The Committee toured two of the three kindergarten classrooms and found them well organized with students in attendance. There were 14 and 18 students in the two classrooms.

The Committee, upon meeting the Principal, toured the rest of the campus and visited a third grade classroom. This classroom was very well kept and the students were observed to be attentive.

The buildings are modular and have been permanently installed. The Committee noticed that during the placement of the buildings, an access gap was left between some of the structures and the ground between the buildings was approximately one foot below the sidewalk. Some had drinking fountains in front of the spaces while others did not. It is important that a safety retaining wall be installed at these gaps to keep students from falling into the space between the buildings.

The restrooms are located at the playground end of the wings and are all in new condition and handicap accessible. There is a room behind the restrooms that has access to all plumbing fixtures normally hidden in the walls. This is an excellent design feature in case of plumbing problems.

There are two playground areas on campus, both have the rubberized playing surface. The kindergarten area has two boat structures for the children to utilize. Also noted in the kindergarten area was a drinking fountain that appeared to be too high for kindergarten children to be able to access easily. There are drinking fountains in the classrooms that are kindergarten accessible. The older student playground also had new equipment, however the slide was taped off because it had to be secured at the base by welding and it had not been done by this date.

The Principal informed the Committee that they had a ceremony on September 11, 2002 where the students helped plant some trees. Parts of the campus have been sodded but there are still large barren areas. The school is slowly buying more sod to lay down. It was noted by the Principal that at least now they will know where to put some of the sidewalks by noting where the paths through the dirt are.

The Committee toured the Cafeteria where meals, both breakfast and lunch, are served free of charge. The food is prepared at Avenal Elementary School. There is room for a stage to be installed at a later date in an alcove of the cafeteria. The room is also used for assemblies, however the present sound system is inadequate because the speaker can not be heard from the stage area. There are presently plans to upgrade the system.

There is an After School Program staffed by Child Development students of West Hills College, who receive credit and pay, for their time and effort.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Complete Library and Computer Lab set up.
2. Install safety walls between the buildings where a gap exists.
3. Secure slide properly.
4. Finish sodding grounds.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury is pleased that the new school is open and suggests that the corrections be completed to make it an impressive campus.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Avenal High School  
601 East Mariposa St  
Avenal CA 93204  
(559) 386-5253**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour and  
Follow Up Investigation  
October 8, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Avenal High School was built in 1937. Twice in the last twenty-five years it has undergone major restoration. This included remodeling and conversion of a bus barn into agriculture classrooms and a laboratory. A new gymnasium was funded last year but construction has not begun.

On October 8, 2002 the enrollment totaled 560 students, an increase of 27 students from the previous year. Presently the school has a full complement of teachers. In addition there is a School Resource Officer (Kings County Deputy Sheriff) and a Kings County Probation Officer on Campus.

The Principal is new, beginning his tenure in July 2002. The Principal accorded the Committee an interview and a tour of the campus.

**FINDINGS:**

The school serves free breakfast and lunch to all students. The free meals are a federally funded program. Approximately eighty percent of the students eat these meals. Last year's Grand Jury Committee found that there was not enough seating for the students during the meal period. Students find a seat wherever they can including outside on the lawn. Last year's Committee recommended that additional seating be provided for the students. Reef - Sunset Unified School District responded to the recommendation by stating that additional seating would be provided for the students by the middle of the 2002 - 2003 school year. This has not been accomplished to date.

The 2001 - 2002 Grand Jury was also informed that the school would be adding a new gymnasium, classrooms and a ball field with a projected completion date in the fall of 2002. These additions have not started.

While touring the campus the Committee noticed that both the School Resource Officer and the Probation Officer were on campus. According to the Principal their presence has greatly reduced crime at the school. Thefts occur occasionally, primarily during the physical education classes because there are not enough lockers for the students and the present lockers do not secure.

During the tour the Committee observed that the campus was littered with soda bottles, candy and chip bags and miscellaneous litter.

The gymnasium sink did not have running hot water. The shower area was dirty and only a few of the soap dispensers contained soap. There were no visible fire sprinklers.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The immediate purchase or construction of additional seating for the students during their breakfast and lunch periods
2. School management should discuss with maintenance personnel better ways of keeping the grounds clear of litter and the School Resource Officer set an example by enforcing littering laws.
3. It may be possible with the help of Avenal State Prison inmates that the school can construct lockers out of wood that secure properly and enhance the appearance of the school. This has been accomplished at Avenal Elementary School.
4. The hot water needs to be restored to the sink in the gymnasium locker room and this area cleaned up.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The Principal intends to focus on the issues of morals and values for the students. This is commendable and the Grand Jury hopes that he is successful.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Adelante Continuation  
High School  
General Petroleum St  
Kettleman City CA 93204  
(559) 386-9081**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
April 1, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Adelante Continuation High School is part of the Reef-Sunset School District and is located on the Kettleman City Elementary School campus. There are currently eight students, sixteen years and older, with one teacher. The school was started in 1992 and is affiliated with the Sunrise Continuation High School in Avenal and prepares students for graduation from either Continuation High School or Adult School.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Teacher and the Principal who showed us the one classroom with the attached computer lab. The classroom is large and will accommodate up to 15 students. There are six computers in the classroom. The students prefer to use the computer lab, which has 25 up-to-date computers that are also used by the Kettleman City Elementary and Adult Schools. The Adult School students utilize the Continuation School classroom and computer lab and are graduated along with the Continuation School students.

The computer lab was once a storeroom for gardening equipment and other materials. In May 2002 the storeroom was cleaned and renovated to become the computer lab. The computers and printer were provided by grants from the Governors Performance, Title I and Limited English Proficiency Programs. The Continuation School students volunteered and repainted their classroom to blend with the renovated computer lab. The students have access to the Kettleman City Elementary School's library, cafeteria and physical education facilities. All students receive free breakfasts and lunches. Beginning in February 2003, the students can receive extra credit for helping the custodian and provide after school library assistance. All students must be in class a minimum of three hours daily by law and are self-paced for instruction, as all students do not learn at the same rate.

Both the Teacher and the Principal agreed the classroom book allowance needs to be increased. There is a possibility, due to the decreased budget, that the Teacher will be shared with the Sunrise Continuation High School in Avenal, or possibly, the Adelante students will be bussed to Avenal. Previously, bussing Continuation School students to Avenal proved to be problematic.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The book allowance should be increased for the Continuation School to be more in line with the other schools.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with the school facilities and the respect shown to the Teacher.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Sunrise Continuation  
High School  
205 N Park Ave  
Avenal CA 93204  
(559) 386-9083**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
April 1, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Sunrise Continuation High School is located in Avenal and the campus consists of two separate buildings adjacent to the Reef-Sunset School District Office. The objective of the Continuation School is alternative education. The learning environment is designed to meet the educational needs of students with a wide range of academic and social skills, learning styles, career interests and aptitudes.

The curriculum is applied in two distinct areas:

1. General Education: which consists of emphasizing the development of basic academic and social skills. Instructional strategies include the use of interactive computers and other multi-media technology. The curriculum and daily schedules are designed to be flexible.
2. Work Experience: students may participate in the District's Work Experience Program. The program is designed to develop students' employability by combining their on-the-job experience with classroom instruction. Students learn how to get a job, keep a job, and leave a job. Also, they learn how to manage money and how to make decisions about their future career plans.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the school's Principal/Teacher and was given a tour of the campus. We were informed 36 students are currently enrolled in grades 9-12 and the minimum age requirement is 16. The school consists of a portable room and a main building with two classrooms, restrooms, storage room and an office. The Committee toured a portable room, which, serves as the Library, Science Laboratory, Computer Laboratory and is used for indoor Physical Education. We noted the condition of the room to be cluttered, however given the multiple uses for the room it is understandable. The Committee also noted the portable room is missing a fire evacuation plan, which should be posted on all exits.

The Committee was informed Sunrise Continuation School students attend here by choice and not necessarily as a result of disciplinary action. The students have a variety of special needs that cannot be met by traditional high school standards. We were informed some students have children and the school assists in providing care for the children with the assistance of childcare programs through West Hills Community College.

The school provides students with the opportunity to receive a High School Diploma by accruing 205 units. The amount of units required is substantially less due to the elimination of elective classes. The Principal assured us the courses instructed and required are equal to those of a traditional high school.

The Committee was informed Sunrise Continuation High School continues to benefit from a very good relationship with the local state prisons. The Principal said the school receives bikes, re-furbished furniture and community crews' assistance with clean-up details and in essence, "Anything we ask for they've made an attempt to help". It is apparent the state prisons have become a benefactor and good neighbor for Sunrise Continuation High School.

The Principal informed us there are no serious disciplinary problems amongst the student body and they do not have a serious gang issue. He attributed their success in avoiding these problematic issues with the school's policy to be pro-active. He informed us Sheriff's personnel conduct routine tours of the school grounds and is available if needed. Although there are no serious problems, the Principal informed us there are cultural differences between the students from Mexico and the students born in the United States. He said occasionally there may be some tension between these students but not a significant concern.

The Committee noted in previous tours by the Grand Jury there existed some concerns regarding storage issues. We were informed storage continues to be a growing problem due to the existing building having been found to contain mold. We were told the school is in the process of obtaining a container to satisfy their storage needs and once in place the storage situation should no longer be a concern.

The Committee was informed two state grants have been received by the school to purchase books for the library. The students were escorted to Barnes & Noble where they were allowed to select their own books. In lieu of the recent grants, we were informed the school would like to pursue additional funding in order to expand the library facilities.

The Committee met with the students in one of the classrooms and held an impromptu question and answer session. We found the students to be truly interested in the functions of the Grand Jury and noted their desire to have more

variety with their lunch options. Currently Sunrise Continuation High School is a closed campus and meals are provided by the Avenal High School. Students are afforded an opportunity to have their lunch in the neighboring park but other than that, their choices are very restricted. We were informed the closing of the campus was a result of previous problems with local vendors.

While touring the main building the Committee noted the water fountain to be out of service. We were informed this was a temporary situation and the water fountain will be repaired.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Re-arrange the furnishings, equipment and enhance the overall appearance of the portable room
2. Develop and post fire evacuation plans at all exits
3. Continue to explore methods to satisfy the storage needs of the school
4. Actively pursue funding to expand the current library
5. Ensure the repair to the water fountain is completed in a timely fashion

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the students and staff of Sunrise Continuation High School for their candidness, kindness and sincerity during our visit. It was a pleasure.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Corcoran Community  
Day School  
1128 Dairy Ave  
Corcoran CA 93212  
(559) 992-3951**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up and  
Informational Tour  
October 22, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Corcoran Community Day School is administered by the Corcoran Unified School District. The 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report stated that there is a Principal/Teacher and one Aide in one classroom. The classroom is for high school students and elementary students. All of the students have been expelled from regular schools.

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury toured the school in August 2001 at its previous location on Ottawa Avenue. There were five recommendations:

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

**FINDINGS:**

All of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Recommendations have been rendered moot due to the school being moved to its new location on Dairy Avenue. The new location is the old Kings Lake Education Center which has been moved onto a section of the Corcoran High School grounds.

The present school has separate classrooms for high school students and elementary students. The overcrowding conditions have been eliminated, the textbooks are current and the curriculum is up to date. All classrooms have handicap access, including the restrooms and library. The students now have

access to both a paved basketball area and the athletic fields of Corcoran High School for physical education classes.

The library serves as the computer lab and the cafeteria. Food is delivered from John Muir Middle School and served in two shifts. The elementary students are served approximately 15 minutes after the food arrives and the high school students receive their food approximately 20 minutes later. There are no facilities for keeping the food hot or cold other than ice chests.

During the tour, both faculty and students expressed a need for a counselor to be assigned to the school to help students attain their educational goals.

The Corcoran School District provided Corcoran Community Day School and Kings Lake High School \$10,000 for field trips and other educational activities. The board was persuaded to provide all schools of the district with equal benefits. A committee consisting of the principal, teachers, parents and representatives from the student body meet and decide how the money is to be spent. The committee also finds ways to raise more funds for extracurricular activities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The students should have a separate cafeteria, as suggested by the Principal.
2. School facilities should be established to keep food hot or cold.
3. A part-time counselor should be assigned to the school.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury agrees that the progress made at the school is tremendous and encourages continued improvement.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Mark Twain School  
1500 Oregon Ave  
Corcoran CA 93212  
(559) 992-4178**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up  
October 22, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Mark Twain School is one of seven schools in the Corcoran Unified School District and is usually used for fourth and fifth grade classes. This year there are also three third grade classes to alleviate the overflow from John C. Fremont School.

**FINDINGS:**

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury toured the campus and found the paint was peeling, especially the trim. The summer preceding the 2002-2003 school year the school was repainted.

During a walk through of the campus the boy's restroom in the H Wing, only one of three sinks had workable faucets. Other restrooms had empty paper towel dispensers.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Repair sinks in restroom
2. Keep paper towel supply sufficient for use

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

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

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
October 22, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Kings Lake Education Center is one of seven schools in the Corcoran Unified School District. It houses the Corcoran Community Day School, the Adult School and its responsibilities extend to high school students now located on the Corcoran High School Campus. This visitation was a follow-up to the Recommendation in the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report to install window in classroom #4.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee toured the modified campus and found that classroom #4 is now used as a storage area. Since the Corcoran Community Day School has moved to the Kings Lake Campus, the high school students are now on the Corcoran High School Campus.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The moving of Corcoran Community Day School to Kings Lake Education Center is an improvement for sixth through eighth grade students.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**James Monroe  
Elementary School  
300 Monroe Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2286**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
January 14, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

James Monroe Elementary School has an enrollment of 467 students. There is a staff of 23 teachers, a School Site Manager/Operations Officer, a Coach, a Resource Specialist and a Registered Health Assistant. The school has kindergarten through sixth grades. The school has two Special Day Classes, one Shelly Baird Class and a Buddy Club. Fifty-two percent of the student body receives free or reduced meals.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee made an unannounced visit to the school to see if the recommendations of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report had been rectified. We met with the Site Manager/School Operation Officer in the school office. She directed us to where the drains are located. After inspecting the drains the Committee was satisfied that the problem has been corrected.

While at the school we were told about the Monroe Attendance Incentive Plan. This is a program for each classroom to obtain rewards for perfect attendance. Rewards to each student in classrooms with perfect attendance are:

5 days = Monroe Mustang pencil

10 days = Lollipop

15 days = Gel pen

30 days = Popcorn

45 days = Monroe Mustang Folder

60 days = Ice Cream

75 days = Monroe Mustang Notebook

100 days = Monroe Mustang Movie Theater, popcorn & a movie.

The Committee was told this program has brought the attendance up, which in turn may improve the students' grades. The Site Manager/Operations Officer informed us the program has had positive results in the short time since it was started.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Jefferson Elementary School  
522 W Malone St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2266**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
December 17, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Jefferson Elementary School was built in 1953; the school serves kindergarten through sixth grades. This school has 18 permanent classrooms and five portables, a library, which includes a Reading Specialist Program, one storage room, three restrooms, a cafeteria, an office, two sand play areas, basketball courts, track and field, bus area and staff parking. Approximately 490 kindergarten through sixth grade students attend school. The student count has gone down due to the activation of Joe Simas Elementary School. The reason for the follow-up is the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report Recommendations.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Office Manager and was given a tour of the four areas of concern noted in the Grand Jury's 2001-2002 Final Report. The Committee found the playground areas had been corrected. The soap dispensers located in the restrooms were found to have adequate amounts of soap and maintained.

The drinking fountain for the kindergarten students has not been relocated. The school officials have made arrangements for the students to access another drinking fountain. School staff monitors the kindergarten students while they go to and from the drinking fountain area. The Committee was informed the kindergarten classroom is changed from one location to another, depending on the needs of the school and relocating a semi-permanent structure can be very costly. Therefore, they opt to accommodate the students by allowing them, under close supervision, to drink from a designated fountain. The Committee agrees the school has effectively resolved this issue and has no further concerns in this area.

The school maintains an Emergency Procedure Booklet in each classroom and the teachers are instructed, in case of an emergency, to take the most recent attendance records with them and report to the designated area for accountability. The previous Grand Jury requested the attendance information be placed into the

Emergency Procedure Booklet in the form of a student list. This Committee does not agree with the recommendation and concurs with the school's current policy; therefore, no change is needed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury found the school personnel to be knowledgeable and considerate of the previous Grand Jury's concerns. It was evident corrective action was taken in the interest of the students and overall safety.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lee Richmond School  
939 Katie Hammond Ln  
Hanford CA 93230  
559) 585-2298**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up and  
Informational Tour  
January 14, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Lee Richmond School has kindergarten through sixth grade classes. Construction of the school began in 1953 with additions made in 1957 and 1963. All classrooms, except the ones built in 1963, were remodeled in 1988. Student enrollment is essentially unchanged from last year. This follow-up tour was a result of recommendations made in the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

**FINDINGS:**

On arriving at the school, the Committee found the entrance to the school to be fenced off for active construction. The water meter box at the curb for entry was broken and the ground next to it was recessed creating a hazard for entrants.

The Committee met with the Operations Officer and later the Principal. The new construction is to be a new office and library. The existing office building will be a staff lounge and counseling office. The present library and staff lounge are located in temporary classrooms, which will revert to sixth grade classrooms currently located at J. F. Kennedy Junior High School.

The Committee noted the non-skid material under the drinking fountains still presented a hazard. The Principal told the Head Custodian to prepare work orders to repair both the water meter box and remove the non-skid material under the drinking fountains.

The new construction has necessitated the relocation of the bus boarding area from the front of the school on Katie Hammond Lane to Whitney Drive. The new location is temporary and requires two faculty members to be present for all loading and unloading of students.

The kindergarten playground is currently being refurbished with new safety grade playground equipment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Repair water meter box and surrounding area.
2. Remove all non-skid material under drinking fountains to bare concrete.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**John F Kennedy  
Jr High School  
1000 E Florinda St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2367**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up and  
Informational Tour  
February 18, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This follow-up visit was in response to the recommendations of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report. Those recommendations were:

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 respiratory health problems.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Principal and discussed last year's Grand Jury Final Report. She informed us the City of Hanford Basketball League also uses the gymnasium and they repaired the drinking fountain.

The carpet in room 507 was cleaned and all other rooms were checked and cleared of any odors.

There are several other updates to last year's report. The school has 570 students (approximately 70 percent are eligible for free or reduced meals), 28 teachers, five aides, one math coach, one full time resource officer, 28 classrooms with one not in use, two special day classes and two Shelly Baird satellite classes. The computer lab has added one printer, one scanner and one server.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Woodrow Wilson Junior  
High School  
601 Florinda St  
Hanford CA 93230**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
December 17, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Woodrow Wilson Junior High School is for seventh and eight grades. Its enrollment and ethnic composition is approximately the same as reported in the 2001-2002 Grand Jury's Final Report. This visitation was a result of recommendations by the 2001-2002 Grand Jury's Final Report.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the school's Operations Officer and Head Janitorial Supervisor and was given a tour of the area of concern as noted in the Grand Jury's 2001-2002 Final Report. The Committee found the necessary repairs to the gymnasium flooring had been completed and the overall condition of the gymnasium appeared to be well maintained.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury found the school personnel to be knowledgeable and considerate of the previous Grand Jury's concerns. It was evident corrective action was immediately initiated and completed in a timely manner.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Joe Simas Elementary  
School  
1875 Fitzgerald Ln  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2387**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up and  
Informational Tour  
January 14, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Joe Simas Elementary School is the newest school in the Hanford Elementary School District serving kindergarten through sixth grades. There are 562 students and a full staff.

The purpose of this visit was to do a follow-up of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report Recommendation to install a sign indicating the location of the office.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee made an unannounced visit and observed a sign in front of the school by the office, as recommended by the 2001-2002 Grand Jury. We met with the Operations Officer and she explained to us that her duties are to take care of all the administration and logistics so the Principal and Vice Principal can spend more time in the classrooms.

The Principal took us on a tour of the grounds which are well kept. One bathroom was checked and it was clean and stocked with supplies. We visited two classrooms that teach the Foreign Language Institute (F.L.I.) program. There is one F.L.I. classroom per grade up to fourth grade. The goal is for each student to be fluent in reading, writing and speaking Spanish and English.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with the F.L.I. program that the school has implemented. Students will have a better start learning two languages at a younger age.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford High School  
120 E Grangeville Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-4407**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
February 4, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The purpose of this visit was to follow-up on recommendations of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury's Final Report.

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

**FINDINGS:**

Upon arriving at the school, the Committee observed the parking area has been designated Visitor. The school has been completely repainted therefore covering the recommendation to repair and paint the entrance framework.

The Committee met with the Assistant Principal for clarification of last year's Grand Jury Final Report. He assured us that all the fountains have been repaired as part of the repair and repainting of the campus buildings. The Committee was informed of the school plan to provide more visitor parking.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford West High School  
1150 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 583-0157**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up  
February 4, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This follow-up was in response to the recommendations of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

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

The Committee checked and found that the 1999-2000 and the 2000-2001 Grand Juries had also made the same recommendations.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee made an unannounced visit and met with the Principal. We discussed the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report and the problem with the lack of crosswalks on Campus Drive and the heavy traffic. He informed us that the crosswalks are the responsibility of the City of Hanford and Kings County (the dividing line is the center of Campus Drive) and not the high school. He stated that this has been an ongoing problem since the high school was built. The Kings County Government Center, Agricultural Building, Rotary Ball Fields and the increase of business west of the high school warrants the installation of crosswalks on Campus Drive.

The traffic problem is at its peak in the morning when people are commuting to work, parents dropping students off both sides of Campus Drive, students walking to school and the school buses letting the students off on the school grounds. The Principal believes that when Greenfield Avenue is completed to 12<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, it will relieve some of the traffic on Campus Drive.

A bond has been approved for construction of a school bus loading and unloading zone in front of the school along Campus Drive. The Principal is hopeful of the project starting after the current school year. Once this is done, the parents will be

required to drop students off at the old school bus loading and unloading zone in the school parking lot.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The Hanford City Council and the Kings County Board of Supervisors must resolve the crosswalk issue between each agency.
2. Install crosswalks and signs on Campus Drive at the following locations: North Drive, Forum Drive and South Drive.
3. Hanford Union High School Board of Trustees make the school bus loading and unloading zone a top priority and have it completed by the 2003-2004 school year.
4. Hanford West High School send out flyers to parents and inform students of the procedures for the loading and unloading of the students.

**COMMENTS:**

The City of Hanford and Kings County has ignored these recommendations for crosswalks and signs on this overlooked project. This needs to be done before someone is injured.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Earl F. Johnson  
Continuation  
High School  
1855 N Douty St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-4409**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
February 25, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Earl F. Johnson Continuation High School is a separate high school within the Hanford Joint Union High School District with its own administration. The purpose of this school is to provide an alternative education opportunity for students 15-18 years old, who are unable to function within the regular comprehensive high school or who cannot attend those schools because of extenuating circumstances. There are currently 158 students attending this school.

There is a Drop-Out Prevention Program and an Independent Study Program, with 47 students enrolled. This program is for students who cannot attend the classroom but have a desire to graduate from high school. Teachers are available for these students once a week to give curriculum instruction and testing of study materials. This program is for Hanford High students to allow them to make up credits in areas they may be lacking, to graduate.

The school curriculum is the same as provided at the two high school campuses. Students receive personalized attention from all staff members. Formal counseling is provided to each student. Students are brought up to date on their progress and strategies are developed to assist them in being successful in meeting their graduating goal, career choices, selection of colleges or trade schools and to help identify scholarship opportunities.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee made an unannounced visit to the Earl F. Johnson Continuation High School and met with the Principal's Secretary. We were taken on a tour at the newly remodeled school. The school was extensively remodeled in the summer of 2002. Four new classrooms were built adjacent to the main building and four classrooms in the main building were enlarged to twice the original size. A new

basketball court, volleyball court and new parking lot were added. The school has a full cafeteria where they serve 68 students free or reduced meals, other students either pay for regular meals or purchase food from the snack bar.

The main building houses the offices for the Principal, Secretaries and Operations Officer. There is a computer lab with 21 computers as well as a portable Computer Lab with 24 laptop computers. A multipurpose room serves as the cafeteria eating area and includes a small area with weight lifting equipment.

The school participates with other continuation high schools in competitive sports i.e., basketball, volleyball and baseball. The basketball team placed third and the volleyball team placed first in the High School Continuation League this year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The students gave the impression of being quite proud of their school, which was very neat and clean.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Adult School  
905 N Campus Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 583-6056**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
February 25, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Hanford Adult School classes are open to adults, 18 years and older, who are residents of Hanford and surrounding areas. High school seniors concurrently enrolled who have a school counselor's approval to take classes for credit or enrichment are also allowed to attend.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee toured some of the classrooms of the school and met with the Principal.

We were told that the school serves 3500 students per year with both day and night classes. There is a 1.5 to 2 million dollar budget of which .8 to 1 million dollars is received in grants and the rest from Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funds.

There is a Regional Occupation Program (ROP) which incorporates classes in word processing, general office skills, business english, mathematics, communication and career preparation. ROP is a one-year, self paced program. In the last two years, an average of 84 percent of all ROP students had jobs upon graduation.

There are four classes for the Vocational Nursing Program that can accommodate a total of 45 students. There is usually a waiting list for these classes. Completion leads to eligibility for the National Council of Licensure for Practical Nursing Examination for Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) and certification by the State of California for Certified Nurses Assistants (CNA). The student is charged \$1500 annually for these programs.

The Welding Program is in its second year. Thus far, 20 of the welding students have earned certification.

There are two computer labs, which include four classes directly aimed at older adults.

Other classes include English as a Second Language (ESL), Citizenship and preparation for General Education Development (GED) and testing for GED.

Kings County Community Action Organization has joined with the school to provide a full-service, on-site child care facility for those students needing such a service for their children. There is room for 28 children per session 2½ to 6 years of age during daytime classes. A new program has recently started for children 6 to 12 years of age during nighttime classes.

During the tour the Committee noticed that there were no fire evacuation plans or exit signs posted in the classrooms or administration offices. It was also noted that there are no crosswalks for pedestrians attempting to cross Campus Drive in front of the school. It was noted, School Zone signs were absent.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Fire evacuation plans should be posted in each room.
2. Exit signs should be posted in each room.
3. A crosswalk should be available for those wishing to cross Campus Drive in the vicinity of Hanford Adult School.
4. School Zone signs need to be posted and enforced.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

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

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
January 28, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The purpose of the follow-up tour was in response to the recommendations of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report. The recommendations were:

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

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee made an unannounced visit and met with the Principal. She informed us there are 570 students, 1 non-certified teacher and 26 certificated teachers. The Principal and the Vice-Principal interact with all of the classrooms and will substitute in classrooms when substitute teachers are unavailable from the county pool. Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. none of the classrooms will be disturbed with phone calls or bells to distract the teachers from their lesson plans.

The Committee was introduced to the custodian and he took us to the drinking fountains that had been repaired.

A call was made to the Grounds Supervisor regarding the watering problem with the playgrounds. The Committee was informed that the playgrounds were constructed so the water will drain from the hard surfaces. The City of Hanford enforces a time of day (7:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.) and an even/odd watering day schedule. Watering is not done during school hours. Soccer matches and vandalism with the sprinkler system prevent watering on the weekends. This limits the school watering times to Tuesday through Thursday. The sprinklers are adjusted for the weather conditions and are monitored daily by the grounds personnel. The Committee is satisfied with the explanation from the Grounds

Supervisor and he assured us that last year's watering problem was an isolated incident.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

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

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up and  
Informational Tour  
January 14, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Kit Carson School was built in 1952 for kindergarten through eighth grades. Kit Carson Elementary and Mid Valley Alternative Charter Schools are included in the Kit Carson School District. This visitation was the result of recommendations made by the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the School Superintendent/Principal and made a tour of the campus. The school installed a new server for their website, which is now available in both Spanish and English. The school was repainted last summer in the school colors of red, white and blue. This has made a marked improvement to the school appearance.

The school hired a music teacher in December 2002 and now offers music classes for all students. They have two bands; one is made up of fifth and sixth graders and the other is seventh and eighth graders.

The school has prepared a portable classroom for pre-school children. Their plans are to open the pre-school on January 27, 2003 for up to 24 children. They have a separate fenced-in play area with all new equipment.

The school has applied for a state grant for reconstruction purposes. These funds will be used to reconstruct the ceiling of the cafeteria and to remodel the north wall of classrooms 8,9,10 and 11, primarily for better insulation. It is apparent the school is making every effort to be energy efficient.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lakeside Elementary School  
9100 Jersey Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-2868**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up  
December 17, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The current Lakeside Elementary School was built in 1953 and reconstructed during the period of 1989-1991. Lakeside Elementary School accommodates fourth through eighth grades. The school consists of 13 classrooms and 3 portable classrooms. The portable rooms are used as follows: Band Room, English as a Second Language and Staff Lounge. The school has an auditorium that doubles as a cafeteria.

Currently there are 238 students with an ethnic diversity as follows: Hispanic, Caucasian, African-American, Asian and Native American.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Head Custodian. The recommendations noted in the Grand Jury's 2001-2002 Final Report regarding the removal of the old drinking fountain(s) and cap(s) was discussed. The Head Custodian stated that new replacement fountains cost between \$600 and \$700 each, therefore they have opted to repair and maintain the existing fountains, as parts are available. Currently one fountain has been repaired and they are waiting for parts to refurbish the remaining two fountains.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Continue refurbishing and ultimately maintain drinking fountains in good working order.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Cinnamon Elementary School  
500 East Cinnamon Dr  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6870**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
October 22, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Cinnamon Elementary School is a new school opening for the 2001-2002 academic year. The school was not visited by the Grand Jury during the first year of operation. Cinnamon Elementary School is located in the eastern area of the City of Lemoore. It is part of the Lemoore Union Elementary School District.

Cinnamon Elementary School student body attends grades Kindergarten through Six. The student body is ethnically diverse. Many of the students come to school from a variety of cultures and speak languages other than English.

The Mission of Cinnamon Elementary School is to achieve a goal of 90 percent of all students performing on or above grade level as measured by district multiple assessment measures by 2007. The school will continue to provide staff with the necessary support to enable students to meet district level standards. There will be an enhancement of opportunities for student participation in extracurricular activities. Application of technology in the district-wide curricula will continue. Cinnamon Elementary School supports the development of positive community and parent relations.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Principal and then toured the campus facilities.

The construction design of Cinnamon Elementary School is designed to be enclosed, with the buildings facing inward towards a main courtyard. The school is situated on ten acres. Upon entering the school from Cinnamon Drive the administration building is immediately encountered on the east. There are 31 classrooms starting on the West side of the entrance and continuing to the Northeast area of the complex. Completing the enclosure on the east is the hard court area (Sports, volleyball, basketball, etc.), Library, Nurses Station, Kitchen and the Multi-Purpose Room.

The Multi-Purpose Room serves as a cafeteria, presentation center and a meeting room that has a capacity of 520 people.

Cinnamon Elementary School offers opportunities for parental involvement. Numerous parents volunteer on a daily basis and the school has developed an active Parent Teacher Association. The Lemoore High School Partnership Program provides opportunities for high school students to tutor elementary students. Cinnamon Elementary School is establishing a partnership with the Lemoore Naval Air Station that offers volunteer opportunities for Naval Personnel.

The students attending Cinnamon Elementary School are comprised of seven different ethnic categories. This includes African-American, American Indian, Asian, Filipino, Hispanic, Pacific Islander and Caucasian.

There are a total of 63 persons on staff at the school. A Principal and Assistant Principal, Secretary, Office Clerk, School Counselor, School Psychologist, Office Aides (2), Custodians (2), Liaison Person, School Nurse, School Clerk, Teachers (32), Cafeteria Employees (3), Tutors (10) and Noon Aides (4).

Cinnamon Elementary School prides itself on providing a safe, clean and pleasant environment for learning. The school was awarded a \$54,000 grant to enhance school safety. The school safety plan includes information ranging from school behavioral expectations to emergency evacuation procedures. The safety plan is reviewed annually and the program is approved annually by the School Site Council in a public meeting. The Lemoore Police Department maintains a copy of the school safety plan. A copy of the plan is kept in the school office and available for inspection.

Cinnamon Elementary School provides a safe and drug free school. The school participates in the D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) Program. The school also provides a Special Education Program, Limited English Proficient Program, Migrant Program and Gifted and Talented Education Program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury found Cinnamon Elementary School a well designed constructed state of the art school. The atmosphere is conducive to learning and the students well behaved.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**P.W. Engvall  
Elementary School  
1055 Cedar Ln**

**Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6850**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
March 20, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

P.W. Engvall Elementary School was built in 1969. There are approximately 650 students, 30 certified teachers and 9 aides. This is a kindergarten through sixth grade school with a staff room, cafeteria, library/computer lab, 32 classrooms and a music room for fourth through sixth grades.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Assistant Principal in the conference room. He informed us that three of the classrooms are used for storage. They have not been needed due to the opening of Cinnamon Elementary School. There are four to five computers in each classroom plus 18 computers in the computer lab.

Students must live a minimum of one mile from school to ride the school bus. All others must walk or provide their own transportation. There are four buses that are not used to their full capacity. Crossing guards are used at various intersections to ensure the safety of the students. As we left the office to tour the grounds, we noticed that there are no exit signs above the doors.

The cafeteria was very clean and we observed personnel preparing lunch for the student body. We also visited a kindergarten room (there was no exit sign above the door) a second grade class and the library/computer lab. There is a fenced-in playground for kindergarten and first grade students.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. To save money, reevaluate bus routes/schedules for more efficient usage.
2. Install exit signs in the school office and all other rooms as needed.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lemoore Elementary School  
573 Bush St  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6820**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up and Tour  
November 19, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Lemoore Elementary School is located in central Lemoore and its campus is approximately 17 acres. The student population has been slightly reduced as a result of the activation of Cinnamon Elementary School. The school's ethnicity balance remains comparatively the same as last year's report as does the teacher to student ratio. There is one County Special Education Building on campus that serves the severely handicapped. This tour was a result of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report to repair a drinking fountain.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee found the drinking fountain had been repaired and all the drinking fountains appeared to be well maintained.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury found the school personnel to be knowledgeable and considerate of the previous Grand Jury's concerns. It was evident corrective action was taken immediately.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Meadow Lane  
Elementary School  
325 Meadow Ln  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6840**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
November 19, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Meadow Lane Elementary School is approximately 36 years old and was renovated in 1998. There are a total of 32 classrooms, a library, computer lab, office, staff room, cafeteria, resource specialist lab and a speech lab. The teacher to student ratio has been slightly improved as a result of a lower overall student count of 620, which is attributed to the activation of Cinnamon Elementary School. This is a temporary situation and the student count is expected to increase with the growth of the community.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the school's Principal and was given a tour of the four areas of concern noted in the Grand Jury 2001-2002 Final Report. The Committee found the restroom faucets and fixtures had been repaired; also the soap dispensers located in the restrooms were found to have adequate amounts of soap and appeared to be well maintained.

The downspouts, which were missing according to last year's report, have been put into place and the Committee noted there is no further concern in this area.

The Committee discussed last year's Grand Jury's concern regarding the school's library size and the size of the computer lab. It was noted that both areas were small and appeared overcrowded. The Principal said they could not enlarge either room due to the lack of funding. However, the Principal said they agree with the concern and would like to enlarge these areas once appropriate funding is received; this will be a priority item.

The school maintains an Emergency Procedure Booklet in each classroom and the Committee noted they have been updated and posted in the classrooms.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Expand the size of both the school library and computer lab as soon as practical.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury found the school personnel to be knowledgeable and considerate of the previous Grand Jury's concerns. It was evident corrective action was taken in the interest of the students and overall safety.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Liberty Middle School  
1000 Liberty Dr  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6869**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health & Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
November 19, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Liberty Middle School opened in 1994. The school consists of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This school is located in West Lemoore in a residential neighborhood. A total of 729 students attend Liberty Middle School, an increase of 88 students from the previous year. Liberty Middle School employs a staff of 73 of which 35 are teachers. The school has 33 classrooms, gymnasium, library, multi-purpose room and the office area. Each classroom is made up of approximately 30 students. The school is constructed to allow all buildings to face a central courtyard area.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Principal and then toured the campus facilities.

The staff at Liberty Middle School makes a sincere effort to provide student safety. The school safety plan includes information ranging from school behavioral expectations to emergency evacuation procedures.

The Committee met with the School Resource Officer who was very informative. The school uses the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program to maintain a minimum level of gang involvement. There are two known gang affiliations presently on campus. The known members are highly monitored.

The students attending Liberty Middle School are comprised of seven different ethnic categories. The ethnic categories are: American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, Hispanic, African American, and White.

During the tour of the grounds the Committee found:

1. The multi-purpose building did not have a capacity limit for persons posted.

2. The boys' restroom in building "D" had the soap dispensers torn from the wall. The girls' restroom in building "A" did not have soap in the soap dispenser and the floor of the restroom was littered.
3. The fire extinguisher in the cafeteria area was not easily accessible. A large metal food cart blocked the access to the extinguisher.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Inspect all rooms and buildings and ensure that the maximum capacity limit for persons is properly posted, where required.
2. Inspect all restrooms and ensure soap dispensers are in place and usable.
3. Fire extinguishers are to be easily accessible and not obstructed.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lemoore High School  
101 E Bush St  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6600**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tours  
March 25, 2003  
April 10, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Lemoore High School exemplifies a rural community rich in tradition, committed to innovation and driven to excellence. The educational program emphasizes high standards and promotes multiple opportunities for success. Lemoore High School has a reputation for excellence as demonstrated by the personal and professional success of its graduates.

The campus is the pride of the community, with a mix of original buildings constructed in the 1920's, and some new construction, maintaining the traditional Spanish style architecture. The District serves over 2,000 students from a wide geographic area incorporating the communities of Lemoore, Stratford, Santa Rosa Rancheria Indian Reservation, the Island District and the Lemoore Naval Air Station. Lemoore High School is the only comprehensive high school operated by the Lemoore Union High School District. The District also operates a continuation high school and an extensive alternative education program.

For the past four years the District has been hard at work renovating and building new educational facilities designed to meet the needs of students and the community as it prepares to dive head first into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The school's latest addition is a new \$5.6 million Events Center which was completed in August of 2001. It is the home to indoor athletic events as well as cultural and school activities.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the school's Vice-Principal and was given a tour of the campus including the Agriculture Center, Video Broadcast Network, Audio Broadcast Journalism Class and the new Event Center.

The Committee discussed the previous Grand Jury's visit and the school's progress in regards to the action plan disclosed at that time. We were told the plan

has had a positive effect and test scores were raised initially but now they are stabilized. The Vice-Principal informed us the school's test scores, as a whole, are consistent with other schools of similar size and demographics.

The Committee was informed that gang activity is present but represents only a minimal amount of the student body, approximately one percent. Also, there is some minor racial tension but nothing serious or out of the normal. The Vice-Principal attributes the school's success at keeping a handle on problematic situations by having proactive staff and the presence of a Lemoore Police Officer on campus. He assured us although the school has had some recent problems the campus environment is safe and well patrolled.

The Committee discussed the school's dress code policy and was informed that the new principal, working in cooperation with TAPIT (Teachers, Administrators and Parents in Touch) the local parent association, had developed a T-shirt program. The T-shirt program is targeted at youths who wear inappropriate garments, which disclose the mid-riff area of their bodies. If it is concluded that the student is wearing apparel, which is too revealing, they are required to cover themselves with a T-shirt provided by the school. The first T-shirt is free but thereafter a cost of \$5.00 is imposed.

The Vice-Principal gave us a tour of the area where a Memorial Walk is to be dedicated on April 9, 2003, honoring students who passed away while attending Lemoore High School. A brick with the student's name will be laid along the walkway to memorialize them and honor their memory. The Committee found the idea of this tribute to be a fitting and riveting way to forever remember those who died at such a young age and to remind our youth of our mortality. In addition to the development of the aforementioned memorial, Lemoore High School is also in the process of constructing a memorial, possibly a garden, to honor the servicemen who graduated from Lemoore High School and who have sacrificed their lives in the service of their country.

The Committee toured the Event Center and was amazed at the size and beauty of the construction. Although this building was recently completed, it was designed to coalesce with the motif of the established Spanish Style structures of earlier construction.

The Committee was afforded the opportunity to watch the Video Broadcast School Network in operation. It consists of a classroom of students who are participating in the Kings Regional Occupation Program (ROP). The program is a two-year commitment and the students are instructed in all phases of developing, producing and broadcasting. The students videotape local school events, weather, athletic events, news and televise them at a later time. In addition to the video production

class the school also has an Audio Broadcast Journalism course. Lemoore High School is one of two high schools in the State of California to operate their own local radio station. It broadcasts on the FM frequency, KGAR 93.3 (lower power frequency) with a 10-15 mile radius. It is on the air from 3:00-10:00 P.M. and hosts a radio talk show, plays country and rock music, and broadcasts the Lemoore Tiger football games.

The Vice-Principal advised the Committee that the Lemoore High School will be hosting, in cooperation with the Kings County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol, a program entitled "Every 15 Minutes". He invited the Committee to attend the presentation on April 10, 2003.

The Committee attended the presentation and was impressed with the realism of the scenario. The program depicts youths involved in an auto related accident resulting from a teen that is driving under the influence of alcohol. The scene is staged at the Lemoore High football stadium with two vehicles which are positioned as if they have been in a head on collision. A transmission for emergency response is communicated over the public address system. Fire Engines, Ambulances, Lemoore Police, Kings County Sheriff and Highway Patrol vehicles respond with their respective sirens and emergency lights activated. A rescue is initiated by the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department using the "Jaws of Life" and the medical personnel are administering triage and first aid in preparation for emergency transport. A helicopter used for medical evacuations flies over the stadium and lands on the playing field. While all of this is evolving there are two persons dressed as grim reapers interacting with the screaming victims of the incident. They represent death and with a touch of their sickle claim lives at will. The students observing the presentation are in total awe of the reality of what they are witnessing. They have been transformed from the lightheartedness when they first arrived and engulfed with the solemnness of this all too real and much to frequent situation. The Committee was impressed with the overall presentation and the students' reaction to the devastating impact of drunk driving.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the Lemoore High School staff for taking the time to show off their campus and for the opportunity to witness the "Every 15 Minute" presentation.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Donald C. Jamison  
High School  
351 E Bush St  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6620**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
March 25, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Donald C. Jamison High School, is a continuation high school located on the Lemoore High School campus. Donald C. Jamison High School is dedicated to providing a quality education to all students. The school's goal is to develop competent and responsible students. Donald C. Jamison High School challenges students to solve complex problems, communicate ideas and work together in preparation for careers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Guidance services are provided, which include orientation, assessment, placement, vocational/career guidance, individual/group counseling, career center and work permits. The curriculum and instructional process, including community involvement and use of technology, has been designed to accomplish specific objectives. Donald C. Jamison High School provides a flexible school day that is based upon student needs. Also students with special needs as diagnosed by formal assessment, may retain services provided by Lemoore High School as specified by an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Parent and community involvement is encouraged in order to include the creative talent and varied resources of local citizenry in the design and delivery of the curriculum.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the school's Principal and was given a tour of the campus. The campus consists of an administration office, two adult classrooms, one English as a Second Language (ESL) classroom, one room utilized for childcare services operated by Kings County and subsidized by the California Department of Education, male and female restrooms and one Cysis classroom. All of the classrooms consist of portable type construction.

In addition to the classrooms on the Donald C. Jamison High School campus, there is a satellite classroom located at the Santa Rosa Rancheria with 17 students enrolled. Students at either of the campuses can earn a high school diploma at

three different stages depending on the amount of credits accumulated. To obtain a regular High School Diploma, 260 credits are required, a Continuation High School Diploma requires 220 credits and an Adult High School Diploma requires 180 credits. In addition to the above noted, students must meet the following graduation requirements:

1. Pass the District competency tests in language arts, reading, math and writing
2. Be of worthy character and demonstrate good citizenship
3. Pass the Senior Exit Interview
4. Complete a Community Service Requirement
5. Achieve a passing score on the California High School Exit Exam (Effective Class of 2004)
6. Satisfy District residency requirement of 20 credits

Students can also participate in Kings Regional Occupational Program (ROP). The ROP is a countywide educational service, which provides vocational training for high school age students and adults. Students may participate in a variety of vocational training classes conducted in the Lemoore and Hanford areas. Students attending continuation school may participate in special learning activities and select from a wide variety of course offerings in order to satisfy their individual educational needs and objectives. In addition, students may participate in the school district's Work Experience Program, Community Service Program and may enroll concurrently in adult education upon approval by the Principal.

Independent study is designed for students who cannot function in a regular campus setting. Donald C. Jamison High School students attend primarily on a voluntary basis rather than as a result of disciplinary action. The mindset is one of Alternative Education where the curriculum can be manipulated to accommodate various types of individual needs.

Cyesis is a public school for pregnant, school-age girls from the Hanford, Lemoore and Corcoran areas of Kings County. This school is operated by the Kings County Office of Education rather than by a specific school district. One semester here is equivalent to and accepted as one semester in any other school in Kings County. The Cyesis class has been operated continuously by the Kings County Office of Education since 1968. New students are enrolled through an extensive admission process. Classes are offered in the following areas:

1. Parenting
2. English and Reading
3. Government/Civics
4. Business Skills

5. Crafts
6. Infant Care
7. U. S. History
8. Home Economics
9. Basic Math
10. Social Studies
11. Health Science (including pre and post-natal care)

Cyesis operates a nursery for the children of the students. This eliminates the need for a baby-sitter while the parents are enrolled in Cyesis as well as giving other students experience in taking care of and observing many different babies. The students help take care of the babies under the supervision of a teacher. This gives the mother a chance to go to other Cyesis classrooms but she is still near enough to see her baby often and watch his/her development. The child care in Lemoore is provided by the Kings Community Action Child Care Program. The child care program is licensed to accommodate 21 children but there is a self-imposed maximum capacity of 15 children. Fees for the program are on a case-by-case basis and are contingent on the individual's income.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury noted the campus of the Donald C. Jamison High School to be well maintained and clean. It is apparent the staff takes pride in their campus.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Island Union Elementary  
School  
7799 21<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Lemoore CA 93230  
(559) 924-6424**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Health and Education**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
February 6, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Island Union Elementary School District is one of four chartered school districts in Kings County. There are 245 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.

This tour was a follow-up to a recommendation of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report to repair a faucet in the girl's restroom.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Principal to review the information in the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report. We were guided to the girl's restroom and found both faucets in good working order.

School enrollment has decreased from last year and has resulted in a drop of over five percent in the number of students eligible for free and reduced meals. The school has a Resource Officer, furnished by the Kings County Sheriff's Department, who was present the day the Committee visited. This Sheriff's Officer is at the school one day per week.

The school was neat and well maintained and the Principal exhibited pride in his school.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

## **SUMMARY**

### **HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Health and Education Committee began the 2002-2003 year with seven members and by attrition lost three of these members, one of which was the Committee Chairman. By reorganization and member replacement the Committee was returned to its full strength of nine members. The Committee made 44 visitations and in-house interviews during the year, which developed 38 reports. Some visits were announced and others were unannounced. All members of the Health and Education Committee brought with them their own areas of expertise and each benefited substantially in learning about the health and education areas of Kings County.

One of our most extensive studies was regarding the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) of the Health Department. This was a very enlightening experience and we feel this program provides a valuable service to the county mothers and infants.

Most of our visits to the schools involved follow-ups to recommendations by the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report. Also, we visited several schools that had not been visited for three or more years.

We are proud of our time and efforts spent in investigating the Health and Education facilities of Kings County. We appreciate both the help and warm reception we received from the various agencies and schools we visited.

Glenver Myers, Chairperson  
Nancy Cartwright, Assistant Chairperson  
Marvin Costa  
Fred Lawall  
Richard Martinez  
Russell Nail  
Jack Rea  
Ted Schlosser  
Elizabeth Anne Sutton

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Fire Department  
280 N Campus Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-2882**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interviews  
and Tours  
January 15, 2003  
April 3, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County Fire Department's (KCFD) purpose is to promote and sustain a superior quality of life in Kings County through the provision of emergency related services. Administration is responsible for general administration, reporting and records maintenance, Office of Emergency Services (OES), training, fire prevention and arson investigation through the Fire Marshall and support for all functions of the Operations Division.

OES is a part of the fire fund and administered by the Fire Chief. The Administrative Assistant/OES Coordinator's responsibilities include serving as the leading agency for the Kings County Operational Area, developing emergency plans and resources, conducting training sessions and providing the coordinator of emergency disaster operations and activities for the county, cities and special districts.

The KCFD has continually expanded the Fire and Life Safety Programs over the past few years, with emphasis on K through 4<sup>th</sup> grades and senior citizens. Public education is one of the most cost effective tools in reducing the number of calls for service. Funding is of a paramount concern for public education to be able to reduce losses and future costs for fire services.

The Operations Division is composed of 11 fire stations staffed by a combination of 46 paid firefighters and 77 active volunteers. The functions performed by this division are fire suppression, rescue operations, fire prevention/public education activities, fire inspections, emergency medical response at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level with all career personnel certified at the Emergency Medical Technician-1 Defibrillator (EMT 1D) level, public education, Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) emergency response with all career personnel and volunteers trained to the First Responder Operational level, fire origin and cause and in-service training for all volunteers.

## **FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Fire Chief in the Grand Jury Chambers. Last year the fire department restructured the Operations Division. The stations are divided into two battalions/geographical areas (16<sup>th</sup> Avenue is the dividing line between East and West) each managed by a Battalion Chief.

### Battalion #2 (East)

Burris Park #1  
Hardwick #2  
Kit Carson #3  
Armona #5  
Guernsey #8  
Corcoran #11

### Battalion #3 (West)

Island #6  
South Lemoore #7  
Kettleman City #9  
Stratford #10  
Avenal #12

Battalion #4 is the Operations Division Officer, Battalion #5 is the Training Officer and Prevention One is the Fire Prevention Officer, Fire Marshal and Arson Investigator.

KCFD has mutual aid agreements with Lemoore Naval Air Station, Lemoore and Hanford Cities along with Fresno, Tulare, Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties. With the diversity of covering cities and counties the Insurance Services Office (ISO) has given the county two ISO ratings. Incorporated areas with hydrants have a rating of four, while the outlying areas have a rating of seven to eight. The higher the ISO rating, the higher the price for fire insurance.

One of the many tools used in the fire service is the Large Diameter Hose (LDH). This is a five-inch diameter hose that comes in lengths of 25, 50 and 100 feet. The stations that have the LDH are the ones that respond to areas where hydrants are accessible. The advantages of this hose are:

1. Most fires don't occur by a hydrant, but with the LDH, it is an extension of the hydrant to the fire.
2. The truck will be able to pump water to its full capacity.
3. Personnel will have the pumper close to the fire to utilize all the equipment.
4. The fire scene will be much safer for personnel and property damage will be reduced.

All firefighters have a work schedule of 48 hours on/48 hours off, which equates to a 72-hour workweek. Seven of the stations are one-man stations. Each station relies on their volunteers to assist them on all calls and other stations to assist each other, depending on the severity of the call. Career firefighters are required to

respond within one minute of receiving a call, but because of the ruralness, the average response time is eight to eight and one half minutes. Last year there were almost 4000 calls, 70 percent of those were for medical aid.

The 2002-2003 budget is 4.3 million dollars. The cities of Corcoran and Avenal use a portion of property taxes to help pay for county fire services. KCFD has four vacant positions due to a hiring freeze. Career firefighters salaries are 25 percent less than surrounding counties. If the state eliminates the Williamson Act, the fire department could lose thousands of dollars. To counter the uncertainty of the state's budget, the fire department has actively pursued other avenues of acquiring equipment and training through federal grants, state propositions and the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP).

Free items are acquired through the FEPP such as filing cabinets, office chairs, microwave ovens, bookcases, ice machines, beds, linens, T.V. stands, night stands, stacking chairs and equipment for the 11 stations and county offices.

The Committee met with the Training Officer at the training grounds on Houston Avenue east of Highway 43 for a tour. The grounds are fenced in on approximately one acre. Training props include a school bus, a Flammable Liquids and Gas (FLAG) trailer, a cotton bale and one and two story containers for fire simulators. KCFD received a grant through the College of Sequoias Fire Academy to construct the training grounds and install the containers.

Training is an important aspect for emergency response personnel, but expensive. To share the cost, Kings and Tulare Counties along with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) Visalia, have joined forces to provide facilities and training in HAZMAT, fire behavior, structural fires, confined space rescue and medical emergencies.

The school bus was donated by the Corcoran School District. The bus will be turned over on its side and the roof will be cut open to simulate a rescue of trapped victims.

With cotton being one of the top crops in the county, a cotton bale is used to show the proper procedure for extinguishment. This procedure would be the same for cotton module fires.

For the past two fiscal years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has offered grants to fire agencies throughout the nation to assist in Fire Operations, Firefighter Safety Programs, Fire Prevention Programs, Emergency Medical Services Programs and Firefighting Vehicle Acquisition Programs. Each fire department must furnish a 30 percent monetary amount plus shipping and

sales tax and can only participate in one area. Last year, KCFD obtained a grant to purchase a FLAG trailer and Mobile Vehicle Fire training props. These props will add to the capabilities of the Fire Training Facility plus be portable enough to be transported anywhere in the county as needed.

The FLAG trailer training unit consists of four props, the pan, valve cart, backstop and tank props and includes two 124-gallon DOT propane tanks. All necessary control systems to simulate flammable liquid and gas fires are contained in this unit.

The FLAG trailer meets all criteria for fire control 4A&B Certification as set by the California State Fire Marshal's Office. Hands-on training with this unit will aid firefighters in learning nozzle techniques as well as the requirements of teamwork.

The single and two story containers are used to simulate structure fires using propane. There are advantages of the containers over using old condemned houses. It is a safer, controlled environment where the instructors have control over the fire and the propane burns cleaner than a house. Once the propane is shut off, the fire is out and embers are not burning hours later. A sensor is mounted in each container and if it detects an excess amount of propane, it will not ignite. There are separate modules in each container for the instructor to control the fire. Fans are powered by a generator to evacuate the heat and smoke. Emergency shut-offs inside and outside the modules allow instructors to shut down the propane immediately if necessary. All water is brought in by fire trucks because water service is non-existent.

The single container is used to instruct students on the conditions that lead up to and create a "backdraft". Another condition that the instructors create is a "flashover". This is a fire that has climbed a wall and now is over your head on the ceiling. With proper water management using a 1½-inch nozzle, you can control the flashover without dropping the thermal layer on top of the firefighter. Both of these conditions can and have been fatal to firefighters.

The stacked containers simulate a single-family dwelling. One end of the bottom container simulates a stove/kitchen fire. At the other end is a flight of stairs up to the top container. There is a bedroom with a walk-in closet where students must put out the fire, search the closet for a victim (a 170 pound dummy) and carry it downstairs to safety.

Roof ventilation is one way of removing hot and unburned gases in a building. Students set up an extension ladder, climb to the top of the container with a forcible entry saw, pike pole, ax and a safety water line. A section is slanted to

represent a roof pitch. They cut a square hole in the roof and using a pike pole, punch out a two foot section of sheetrock. The roof ventilation instruction can be done over and over again with a minimum amount of material used each time.

West of the training grounds, a new fire station will soon be under construction. The Committee was told that it will be completed by the end of this year. Kit Carson #3 and Guernsey #8 will close and move to the new Station #4 (the old Station #4 has been closed for several years which was located on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the fairgrounds). This will be a two-man station with one squad and two pumper engines.

(Note: The Committee did not tour Stations #3 and #8 due to their pending closure by the end of the year.)

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Lift hiring freeze and fill the four vacant positions.
2. Review and increase pay schedules for firefighters to be comparable/equitable with neighboring counties.
3. Install electrical power and water service at the training grounds.

**FINDINGS:** Burris Park Fire Station #1, toured on April 24, 2003  
6575 Clinton Ave, Kingsburg CA 93631, (559) 897-2408

The Committee made an announced visit and met with the engineer on duty. This is a one-man station with six active volunteers. There were 230 calls last year with 65 percent of those being medical calls. Station #1 responds to Fresno and Tulare Counties upon request with most of the mutual aid calls to Tulare County. The volunteers have one training and one business meeting per month. The two career firefighters at this station are certified HAZMAT Instructors. They instruct Kings County firefighters at the Armona Station #5, which leaves this station uncovered during these times (usually three to four hours). The Committee toured the grounds and station and found them very neat and clean. The station was built mostly by Station #1 volunteers and was dedicated on February 1, 1987. There is a large kitchen, a community meeting room that is used for a polling place, 4-H club meetings, etc., a day room/bedroom and a shower area. Two bays house one 1999, 4-wheel drive squad and one 1998, 2000 gallon pumper. All vehicle extrication is performed with hand tools because there are no Jaws of Life at this station. When Station #3 moves to Houston Avenue, the response time to Station #1's area will be longer. Traffic is heavy on Sixth Avenue and a set of the Jaws of Life could be a life-saving addition to the station.

Fire hose repair is performed at this station for all fire agencies in Kings County.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Purchase a set of Jaws of Life for Station #1.

**FINDINGS:** Hardwick Fire Station #2, toured on March 21, 2003  
14680 Excelsior Ave, Hanford CA 93230, (559) 582-4698

The Committee met with the relief engineer on duty. He informed us that this is a one-man station with seven volunteers. There were 131 initial calls within the station's primary area of responsibility, 217 back-up calls (assist other county fire stations) for a total of 348 calls last year.

Station #2 has the largest squad to fight vegetation fires. It has a 500 gallon water tank and a water float suction pump to fight riverbank fires. They also have a refurbished 2000 gallon, 1250-gallon per minute pumper. It is equipped with a Santa Rosa bumper nozzle that is operated from inside the cab of the truck. This nozzle will put out 250-gallons per minute for a quick and safe knock down of most fires. The Jaws of Life and other rescue equipment are a part of the inventory.

With the closing of the Riverdale Fire Station in Fresno County, Hardwick is now responsible for answering calls in Laton and surrounding areas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**FINDINGS:** Armona Fire Station #5, toured on March 13, 2003  
11235 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, Armona CA 93202, (559) 584-5206

The Committee met with the engineer on duty and he informed us the station opened in 1971. A few years ago a third bay was added on by the volunteers through the sale of Christmas trees. The volunteers sell Christmas trees every year and donate the proceeds back to the community. Last year the volunteers helped pay for lighting at the Little League Park. We toured inside the station, which has a spacious kitchen and meeting room. The meeting room also serves as a polling place and community service groups meeting hall. The bathroom has two showers, but the front one has been leaking and has been out-of-service for some time.

This is a two-man station staffed with a captain and engineer with 15 to 20 volunteers. The volunteers have one business meeting and two training meetings a month. Last year Station #5 responded to 459 initial calls, 310 back-up calls for a total of 769 calls. Sixty percent of the calls were requests for medical aid.

Station #5 does not have a squad, but has three fire pumpers on hand. Their number one pumper, Engine #5, is a 2000 gallon, 1250-gallon per minute pumper. It carries 600 feet of LDH, (hydrants are 400 feet apart in Armona), Jaws of Life and a full compliment of rescue and fire fighting equipment. The number two engine is a smaller pumper and is used as a backup for Station #5 and any station that may need it. The third engine is an OES engine that is provided by the state. This engine and crew may be called up by the state for any state emergency. Besides Armona and the surrounding area, Station #5 responds to county islands that are within the City of Hanford. To respond to these islands, they have to travel through Hanford's main streets. If the number one engine could be fitted with an Opticom unit (See Hanford Fire Department report), the response time, property loss and lives in danger could be greatly reduced.

This is the only station that has a breathing air compressor to refill all Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) bottles. They also do all minor repairs on various types of equipment, from lawn mowers to brackets for fire trucks.

Upon completion of the tour the Committee noticed that the sign identifying the fire station was missing. The sign location is on Hood Avenue east of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Committee checked the front of the station, which is on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and noted the absence of a sign and address identifying the Armona Fire Station.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Repair the water leak in the front shower.
2. Work with the Hanford Fire Department to install an Opticom unit on Engine #5.
3. Repair or replace the sign on Hood Avenue east of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
4. Install a sign with address identifying the fire station on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**FINDINGS:** Island Fire Station #6, toured on February 6, 2003  
7735 21<sup>st</sup> Ave, Lemoore CA 93245, (559) 924-2150

The Committee met with the engineer on duty. Last year this station responded to 202 initial calls, 62 back-up calls for a total of 264 calls. Of those 62 back-up calls, 20 were mutual aid calls to Fresno County.

This is a one-man station rotating between a captain and engineer and 6 volunteers. The captain and engineer on duty maintain the fire station, engines and grounds. They are trained and certified to repair and overhaul firefighting nozzles for the county. Volunteers train twice a month (two hours each meeting) and have one business meeting each month. The meeting room is also used for community

meetings. There is one squad and one pumper engine. The squad is used for emergency medical calls, traffic accidents and fires that do not endanger structures or a large amount of property. It carries 300 gallons of water and basic fire and medical equipment. Station #6 is not equipped with the Jaws of Life or any advanced extrication equipment. Station #2 (Hardwick) and Station #7 (Lemoore) respond with the Jaws of Life automatically on all traffic accidents. The pumper engine is a 1250-gallon per minute pumper with 2200 gallons of water. All of the necessary fire fighting equipment is carried on the pumper, i.e., air packs and spare bottles, hoses, nozzles and hand tools.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**FINDINGS:** Lemoore South Fire Station #7, toured on January 23, 2003  
1259 S Lemoore Ave, Lemoore CA 93245, (559) 924-2626

The Committee made an unannounced visit to the Lemoore South Station #7. We met with the engineer on duty and he informed us that Station #7 was built in 1977. It is a one-man station with 13 volunteers. The Indian Gaming Palace donated a mini pumper/squad and fire pumper engine. The squad is used primarily for vegetation fires while the pumper responds to structure fires, car fires, medical aid and traffic accidents.

The pumper carries 1000 gallons of water, 50 gallons of foam, Jaws of Life, air lifting bags, 800 feet of LDH, plus all the required equipment for fire and rescue operations.

Station #7 responded to almost 1000 calls last year, which made this station the busiest in the county. There is an automatic mutual aid with the City of Lemoore for all structure fires within the city limits and traffic accidents on Highway 198 and Highway 41. They also assist other county stations and Lemoore Naval Air Station, as requested.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**FINDINGS:** Kettleman City Fire Station #9, toured on February 13, 2003  
109 Brown St, Kettleman City CA 93239, (559) 386-5338

The Committee met with the captain and engineer on duty and was given a complete tour of the facilities. We were informed there are four permanent staff and three volunteers assigned to this station. There were 442 total calls for service last year of which 40 percent were for medical aid only. Eighty percent of the all calls received were a result of traffic accidents or traffic-related incidents.

The Committee was informed the average response time in a worse case scenario is approximately 20 minutes. This appeared to be rather lengthy but once we were informed of the large area of responsibility, coupled with the logistics of a response to the remotest areas of the county, 20 minutes is reasonable. Station #9 has a mutual aid agreement with Avenal State Prison, located in Avenal.

Station #9 is comprised of a relatively new structure with six bays. It has two wild land units/squads, S-9 and S-209. Each carries 300-gallons of water and are rescue squad vehicles. There are two type 1 engines. Engine #9 carries 1000 gallons of water and can pump 1250-gallons per minute. Engine #209 carries 750 gallons of water and can pump 1000-gallons per minute. Also assigned to this station is a water tender truck that carries 3000 gallons of water.

The Committee was informed Station #9 assists the Chem Waste Management Company with its training mission. They enjoy a good relationship with them and have received donations to help improve their facility.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**FINDINGS:** Stratford Fire Station #10, toured on February 13, 2003  
20300 Main St, Stratford CA 93266, (559) 947-3012

The Stratford Fire Station is a one-man station rotating between a captain and an engineer. There are ten active volunteers (three are available during the daytime) with two training meetings a month.

The personnel on duty maintain the station, trucks and grounds. Occasionally, community service workers will work at the station on weekends. The community uses the station for meetings, such as 4-H Club, water district, etc.

Last year they responded to 121 initial calls and 169 back-up calls for a total of 290 calls. Seventy to eighty percent of the calls were medical aid calls.

Stratford recently received a new squad with a 325 gallon water tank. The pumper engine is a 1978, 1250-gallon per minute pumper with 2500 gallons of water. It is not known when this pumper will be evaluated and sent in for refurbishing.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Evaluate and refurbish the 1978 pumper when funds become available.

**FINDINGS:** Corcoran Fire Station #11, toured on April 8, 2003  
1033 Chriddenden Ave, Corcoran CA 93212, (559) 992-2156

The Committee made an unannounced visit and met with the captain and two engineers on duty. This is a four-man station, one captain and three engineers with thirteen volunteers. The volunteers have one business meeting and two training meetings a month. Staffing for the Battalion #2 area is maintained through this station. Tarps and canvas bags are repaired and all sewing services are done for the county at Station #11.

Station #11 responded to 860 calls last year, approximately 65 percent of those were medical aid calls. They have a mutual aid agreement with Corcoran State Prison to respond to structure fires within the city limits and surrounding areas. The response time ranges from three to seven minutes, depending on the distance from the fire station.

The Corcoran fire station was built in the early 1900's and a three-bay addition was built in 1976. Volunteers staffed the station until the City of Corcoran transitioned to a paid fire department. In 1978 the city contracted out their fire services to KCFD. The original engine bay has been remodeled to accommodate the paid staff. The front entrance is decorated with pictures and artifacts of the Corcoran Fire Department's history. There is a battalion chief's office, a captain's office, a kitchen area, a community meeting/dining area and a 12-bed open dormitory style bedroom. Upstairs is the weight room and living quarters for the two-man private ambulance crew.

The three long engine bays can house up to eight vehicles. It is one of the few stations that has an overhead vehicle exhaust suction system to vent the exhaust gases outside. Station #11 has two squads (S-11 and a reserve squad for Station #8), a 1996 pumper (E11) that carries a full compliment of fire and rescue equipment, i.e. the Jaws of Life, high angle rescue repelling gear and 800 feet of LDH. Engine #211(E211) is a 1987 pumper that is the second truck out on structure fires. Engine #111 (E111) is a 1978 reserve pumper which carries 2000 gallons of water, a 1925 American La France pumper and a private ambulance. The American La France, Corcoran's first fire truck, is owned by the City of Corcoran and was completely refurbished by the volunteers. It is fully operational and is used at fire musters and parades.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**FINDINGS:** Avenal Fire Station #12, toured on April 1, 2003  
516 Fresno St, Avenal CA 93204, (559) 386-5555

The Committee met with the engineer on duty. He informed us that this is a two-man station consisting of a captain and engineer. The station also has nine volunteers, but only three of them are active. One of the three volunteers is

available sometimes during the day while the other two are not available until after 5:00 P. M. It is difficult to maintain a volunteer force since most of the residents are migrant farm workers.

Station #12 has their living quarters in a separate building from the three-bay and can house six trucks. There are two squads (one is a new 4-wheel drive, 2002 model) and two pumper engines. Engine #12 (E-12) carries the Jaws of Life and LDH. A full compliment of emergency equipment is carried on the four vehicles. The personnel are all qualified to repair the county and state prison's SCBA's. Last year they responded to 575 initial calls, 92 back-up calls for a total of 667 calls (600 were medical aid calls). The average response time is four to five minutes in town, but could be up to 20 minutes to assist other agencies outside their area.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**OVERALL COMMENTS:**

1. The Grand Jury commends the Fire Chief and staff for the continued pursuit of federal grants for training and equipment and the FEPP for station office furniture.
2. Every fire station the Grand Jury visited was neat and clean, the outside areas were manicured and every firefighter interviewed had a positive attitude towards his job.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lemoore Volunteer  
Fire Department  
210 Fox St  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6797**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
January 23, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) was formed in 1921 with 15 volunteer firemen. It has been run totally by volunteer firemen throughout its existence. Today there are 35 volunteer firemen; of these, nine are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). A small staff consisting of a part-time mechanic/maintenance man and a part-time secretary supports LVFD.

From 1987 to 2000 this fire station was occupied by both the Lemoore Police Department and the LVFD. The City obtained funding from new housing and re-development agency fees, as well as county taxes, to renovate and expand the fire station and build a new police station. The LVFD shares space with the Lemoore Planning Department in the renovated fire station. The fire station has eight bays (four at either end of the building), office space on the ground floor for Lemoore Planning Department and a meeting/training room with kitchen. The second floor has been completely renovated with office space for the Secretary, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chiefs, a test area and an exercise room.

The volunteer firemen respond to all emergency, medical assistance and fire calls within their district. The LVFD also inspects buildings and vacant lots for fire hazards. It has the responsibility of managing weed abatement within the boundaries of the Lemoore City limits. An alarm located on the roof of City Hall is sounded only in the event of a structure fire. Retired firemen are called to assist in fighting a major fire or other emergencies by continued sounding of the alarm.

The LVFD owns eight fire trucks: a 1917 Model T Ford fire truck, currently on display near the Lemoore City Hall on Fox Street, a 1946 triple pumper (out of service), a 1962 triple pumper, a 1963 grass fire truck, a 1981 triple pumper, a 1987 triple pumper with a 55 foot aerial ladder, a 1997 mini-pumper and a 1997 triple pumper. The two oldest pumpers (excluding the Model T unit) are used strictly for training. These older units are obsolete and parts are no longer being

made for them. There is also a departmental car used for errands for parts, weed abatement, fire inspections, etc.

## **FINDINGS:**

The Committee met first with the Secretary who showed us the meeting/training room. We were joined by the Fire Chief who took us on a complete tour of the fire department building. The facility was very neat and clean.

The LVFD has a mutual aid agreement with the Kings County, Hanford and Lemoore Naval Air Station Fire Departments for response in those instances where extra help may be needed. This aid includes motor vehicle accidents requiring emergency medical assistance and/or recovery of occupants using the "Jaws of Life". The LVFD has one truck especially outfitted for rescue emergencies.

The 1997 triple pumper is designated for first out. It carries 800 gallons of water and can pump at a rate of 1250 gpm. The medical equipment/rescue truck responds to all calls. All firemen are trained for Emergency Medical Aid.

The LVFD received a \$63,000 Federal Emergency Grant and a \$6,000 donation from the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce for equipment. A Thermal Imaging Camera for detecting hot spots was purchased with a VCR for later viewing utilizing \$16,000 of this grant.

In 2002, the LVFD responded to 1,191 calls. This total included 255 fire calls and 936 medical calls. Fires ranged from vehicle to grass and electrical. Medical responses ranged from heart attacks to broken bones and insect bites. The LVFD provided public service tours of the facility for 419 children, engine demonstrations, rides for children at six city events and stand-by medical support for sporting events.

The LVFD has a Class 3 Rating (number 1 high to 10 low) for its average response time of 4 minutes 10 seconds. This is higher than some non-volunteer Fire Departments throughout the State.

The Volunteer Firemen attend 52 meetings and/or drill nights per year. Training includes Survivair repair and equipment use. The Survivair is an air canister to provide air to firemen in smoke-filled environments.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Purchase a new pumper to replace the out of service and out-dated trucks.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Fire Department  
Station #1  
350 W Grangeville Blvd  
Station #2  
10553 Houston Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
#1 (559) 585-2545  
#2 (559) 585-2548**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tours  
Station #1 Oct 17, 2002  
Station #2 Dec 12, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Hanford currently maintains two fire stations with trained personnel to protect property and provide emergency medical and other services for its 44,000 citizens. A third station is proposed. Primary equipment includes four fire trucks (one a ladder truck) and two squad vehicles. Two trucks and a squad are housed at each station. Each station is equipped with life saving equipment that is carried on response vehicles. Normal complement of employees for the two Hanford Fire Stations is 31. This includes a Chief, Assistant Chief, six Captains, six Engineers, 15 Fire Fighters, one Fire Inspector and one Secretary. Currently the department is seeking to hire an Assistant Chief. These employees are assisted by ten volunteers that respond as needed.

**FINDINGS:**

The Hanford Fire Department (HFD) is well equipped to respond to fire calls, approximately eighty percent of their responses are to medical emergencies. These include medical problems, vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, hazardous material spills and assault injuries.

In addition to emergency responses, which average eight calls per day, the HFD personnel maintain vehicles, equipment, fire hydrants (1,400) and blue street reflectors, which indicate fire hydrant locations. They also perform inspections on buildings, sprinkler systems and post fire investigating.

Additional duties include 50 hours annual training of personnel, two days per month training of volunteers and 100 hours annually of public education, primarily with students at various schools in Hanford and surrounding county areas.

Mutual aid agreements are in place with Lemoore Volunteer, Kings County, Visalia, Fresno and Lemoore Naval Air Station Fire Departments. In dire emergencies, the HFD can call for aid statewide and in turn, must provide assistance statewide if requested.

To maximize safety, victim recovery and fire fighting efficiency, the HFD is seeking to acquire a Thermal Imaging Camera to assist personnel when entering smoke-filled buildings. A computer-mapping device is also on their want list. Current average response time to calls within the City of Hanford is four to five minutes. Budgeted funds for the HFD is two million dollars for two years. These funds cover salaries, equipment maintenance/replacement and normal expenses. Unfortunately, given the current government financial crisis, a portion of these funds may be in jeopardy.

With the continued expected growth of the City of Hanford, especially to the west, including additional shopping centers, College of the Sequoias and expansion of Hanford High School facilities, a third fire station installation may soon become a necessity. For this reason the City of Hanford is proposing a third facility at the corner of Seventh Street and Campus Drive. This new unit could service both the downtown area and new growth to the west. The City of Hanford is expected to grow by 1,500 people per year to a population of 54,000 by 2010.

Opticom is a new state of the art on-board computer system being installed that allows city emergency fire and medical vehicles to change traffic lights to green signals. This accomplishes two advantages for emergency vehicles.

1. Stopped traffic can proceed to clear the intersections
2. Emergency response vehicles obtain a clear path to their destinations

This allows emergency vehicles to reduce their response time by as much as 90 seconds or more. Given the fact that structural fires double in size every 60 seconds and heart attack or accident-bleeding victims need immediate response, Opticom is vital for emergency response. Other devices that have been included in the arsenal of life-saving equipment include “Jaws of Life”, air bags for freeing automobile accident victims and defibrillating equipment. Each fire pumper has a capacity of 500 gallons of water.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Have the local and regional newspapers publish instructional articles that advise citizens of the inception of Opticom so that the public is aware of the changes in traffic control for emergency vehicles.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed by the efficiency and awareness of all personnel in the Hanford Fire Department.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Sheriff's Office  
and Main Jail  
1444 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2993**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law & Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
November 21, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) is responsible for approximately twenty-two departments, one of which is the Kings County Main Jail. The Main Jail was built in 1964 and has a capacity of 290 inmates. It is a maximum-security facility and houses sentenced and pre-sentenced inmates. Both male and female inmates are housed in the Main Jail facility. As a result of litigation, the Sheriff maintains authority to grant early releases due to overcrowding conditions and approximately 576 inmates have been granted early releases. These types of early release are expected to continue and there is no immediate relief in sight. To help ease the overcrowding in the jail, several Alternative Sentencing Programs have been developed. These are called Alternative Work Offender Programs. Individuals who are qualified for these programs work off their jail time by completing work hours at different job sites throughout the county.

The functions of the KCSO include:

1. Operations/Investigations
2. Emergency Dispatch
3. Animal Control
4. Coroner/Public Administration
5. Civil Division
6. Detentions Division

Also and most importantly, the KCSO utilizes deputy sheriffs to provide law enforcement services in non-incorporated areas of the county and where commissioned by cities. The KCSO provides contracted law enforcement services to the city of Avenal. The KCSO coordinates and participates in a multi-agency Narcotics Task Force as well as a multi-agency Gang Task Force. In order to better serve outlying rural areas of the county, KCSO operates substations in the communities of Avenal, Kettleman City and Corcoran. The KCSO has Mutual Aid with all other law enforcement agencies within Kings County.

The Operations Division is commanded by an Assistant Sheriff. Reporting to him/her are the three commanders for Headquarters Patrol, Support Services, and the Sub Stations. Within Operations are the functions of Patrol, Investigations, Evidence, Crime Prevention, and D.A.R.E. Also within Operations Division's purview are the specialty tasks of Dive/Water Rescue, Special Weapons & Tactics, Agricultural Crimes and the K-9 force.

Kings County is a rural, primarily agricultural, mid-state county with a population of approximately 120,000 and encompassing 1,396 square miles. Kings County's primary cities include Avenal, Corcoran, Lemoore and Hanford. Naval Air Station Lemoore is also located within Kings County as well as Corcoran, Substance Abuse and Treatment Facility, and Avenal State Prisons. Small non-incorporated communities include Armona, Stratford and Kettleman City. Nearly 27 miles of California's sole interstate highway (I-5) runs through the southwestern portion of the county.

#### **FINDINGS:**

During a most informative tour the Committee learned the Main Jail houses offenders awaiting their trial process and some completing their jail sentences. If their sentence calls for state prison time then transportation is arranged and they are taken to the designated reception center.

The Main Jail is made up of various capacity cells, holding cells, visiting area, kitchen/cafeteria, laundry, administrative offices and a monitoring control room. It has a secure perimeter and an exercise yard. Prisoners are classified before they are placed into a cell and allowed to the exercise yard.

While touring the facilities of the Main Jail it was obvious the facilities are deteriorating to a point where making the necessary repairs are not economically frugal. The electrical systems, lighting, condition of the floor and wall surfaces are in dire need of repair and/or reconditioning. The inmate living quarters, staff offices and visiting areas are cramped and overcrowded.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Build a modernized jail to appropriately meet the needs of Kings County.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Sheriff's  
Department  
Communications Division  
1400 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford, CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 2720**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law & Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
February 27, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Communication Division of the Kings County Sheriff's Office has two sections: Radio Communication, which is responsible for the maintenance of radio and other communication equipment and Central Dispatch, which provides dispatch services for emergency response agencies including fire protection and law enforcement. Central Dispatch utilizes the emergency "911" telephone system.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Communications and Records Manager. She informed us that there are five Shift Supervisors (Senior Dispatchers), eleven dispatchers and one Training Officer. Central Dispatch operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are four Dispatchers and one Senior Dispatcher for every 12-hour shift. Central Dispatch has five dispatch stations. The dispatch stations include a 911-call taker, a primary radio channel, a secondary radio channel, a fire and medical radio channel and a supervisor station.

While the Committee was at Central Dispatch, a Dictaphone Corporation representative was installing new updated recording hardware for Central Dispatch. The equipment will not cost Kings County any more than what they are paying for the yearly maintenance agreement.

In July 2002, the radio shop was closed. The Communication Division of the Sheriff's Office contracted with a local Motorola Certified Representative to maintain all radio installations, repairs and updating the equipment. This contract is a saving for the County.

The Communications and Records Manager told the Committee that the Communication Division of the Sheriff's Office cut their budget by 15 percent last

year and if they were required to cut any additional funds from the 2003-04 budget, it would affect personnel.

All calls are recorded in a 24-hour period at Central Dispatch and are archived for 100 days.

Central Dispatch has two generators in case of a power failure.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was very impressed with Central Dispatch and its operation. The Grand Jury thanks the Communications and Records Manager for taking the time to give us an informative tour.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Branch Jail  
690 East Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 ext 4102**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law & Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Information Tour  
December 5, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County Branch Jail was built in 1984 with the aid of a Federal Grant. It was originally a minimum-security facility. After an increase in the need for maximum-security accommodations, a new addition was built to house the most violent offenders. This addition opened in 1999 and was designed to meet the future needs of juvenile offenders. It is planned that when a new jail is built, the Branch Jail will become the Kings County Juvenile Center.

**FINDINGS:**

During a most informative tour, the Committee learned that the Branch Jail has a present population of 135. The Branch Jail is designed to house 155 inmates and the present administration has placed a capacity of 150 inmates that may be incarcerated.

The Branch Jail is made up of eight dorms, a multi-purpose room, kitchen/cafeteria, laundry, administrative offices and a monitoring control room.

One of the dorms houses the violent offender unit. Another dorm houses a total of 32 female inmates.

The Branch Jail is presently on lock down status and has been for approximately a year. Some inmates are confined to their cells for 23 out of every 24 hours. They receive an hour of day room privileges and an hour of outside yard area.

During the tour, the Committee saw portable steps and scaffolding left unsecured in the entry courtyard of the Branch Jail. The portable steps were high enough to allow an inmate to reach the top of the perimeter wire surrounding the Branch Jail.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The portable steps and the scaffolding should be stored and secured somewhere outside of the Branch Jail.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County District Attorney  
County Government Center  
1400 W Lacey Blvd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-0326  
www.countyofkings.com**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
August 15, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The primary mission of the Kings County District Attorney's Office (DA) is to ensure justice is served in a manner that is equitable to all persons. As part of that mission, they work closely with all components of the criminal justice system to protect the victim, assist witnesses and appropriately prosecute those charged with a crime.

The overall goal of the DA is to promote the quality of life for the people of Kings County and the State of California. By maintaining high standards, within the office and in their dealings with other agencies and individuals, they will have a positive impact on those with whom they come in contact.

The Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.) works closely with many other governmental agencies to investigate crime and to prosecute the perpetrators.

Their goals are:

1. Improving the quality of life in Kings County by identifying community needs
2. Attacking problems associated with gangs
3. Attacking drug trafficking and drug use
4. Developing innovative programs for the protection of children
5. Ensuring the safety and well being of our elderly population and protecting them from abuse, both physical and financial
6. Protecting our agricultural community from theft and related crimes

The C.I.D. is dedicated to providing fair and effective prosecution. The C.I.D. believes this contributes to the safety of Kings County residents. In California, the crime rate per 100,000 population is approximately 4,276. In Kings County, the

rate is 3,280, which is approximately 23 percent less than the statewide average. The C.I.D. has several specialized programs including Domestic Violence, Narcotics, Insurance Fraud, Rural Crime, Welfare Fraud, Gang Prosecution, Environmental, Prison Prosecution, Juvenile Prosecution, Statutory Rape Vertical Prosecution and both Felony and Misdemeanor Prosecution.

In addition to prosecuting crime related cases, the DA also plays a vital role in civil related matters. The DA assists with the prosecution of environmentally related cases and is responsible for addressing Citizen's Complaints. The DA maintains a website which allows citizens direct access to various types of information. As a result of developing the website, citizens of Kings County can contact the DA via e-mail.

### **FINDINGS:**

The Committee interviewed the Chief Deputy District Attorney and the District Attorney for Kings County. We were informed of the diverse functions of the office and the financing of the different programs operated by the District Attorney. The DA is divided into two areas. One area provides administrative support including clerical, information technology, media relations and support to the local law enforcement agencies. The other focuses on the prosecution aspect of criminal cases.

The Committee was informed the DA is comprised of 16 attorneys who are responsible for 11 areas of prosecution, 15 support staff members to assist with the clerical functions and 7 investigators. Approximately 30 percent of the DA budget comes from the county funds while approximately 70 percent is obtained via grant money.

The DA reviews approximately 10,000 cases per year. They prosecute approximately 1500 felony, 750 juvenile and 4,500 misdemeanor cases. Each attorney averages approximately 550 cases annually. Kings County maintains one of the lowest crime rates in the state. The D.A. works in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies to recover restitution on behalf of victims.

A recent major change has occurred in the Family Support area. The responsibility of maintaining and enforcing Family Support related cases has been deferred to the State of California. The change in authority resulted in loss of revenue as well as staff positions. The Committee was informed the D.A. had prepared in advance for the transition and the loss of positions was absorbed through attrition.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with the overall operation of the Kings County District Attorney's Office. The staff was courteous, informative and are dedicated civil servants.

What the Grand Jury found most remarkable was that the District Attorney's Office could operate with such limited county funding. It relies on operating primarily with grant money obtained through multiple venues and in doing so is actually saving the citizen's of Kings County a substantial amount of tax dollars.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Corcoran Police Department  
1031 Chittenden Ave  
Corcoran CA 93212  
(559) 992-5151**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
September 12, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Corcoran Police Department is located between City Hall and the Corcoran Council Chambers, across the street from the Superior Court and the Sheriff's sub-station. The population of Corcoran is approximately 12,000 (not including the prison population). The City of Corcoran is incorporated and covers a 5.8 square mile area.

The "Mission Statement" of the Corcoran Police Department is to serve as the capable guardian of Corcoran through a commitment to pride, integrity, compassion, fairness, accountability and excellence, assuring and preserving the right to safe streets, neighborhoods, schools and businesses.

**FINDINGS:**

The Police Chief provided a tour. The Police Department's annual budget is slightly over two million dollars and the Department employs 19 sworn officers and 9 support personnel. There are 19 sworn officers, which provide a ratio of 1.5 officers per 1,000 population. This is excellent in comparison to the other cities in Kings County. The current emergency response time for the department is 5 minutes and 43 seconds. The Committee noted this response time is considerably slower than other communities of similar size within Kings County. All law enforcement entities in the State of California report all part one crimes to the Department of Justice. Part one crimes are murder, rape, robbery, arson, burglary, grand theft and aggravated assaults. During the last three years, the Corcoran Police Department has reduced part one crimes by 48.3 percent. This reduction can be partially attributed to the Department's community policing effort. They have a minimum of nine programs that enhance the community's safety. The programs are:

1. Bike Patrol
2. Bridge Operation

3. Chaplain Program
4. Citizen's Academy
5. Explorer Program
6. Neighborhood Watch
7. Operation T.R.A.C.I. (To Rescue Abducted Children Immediately)
8. Canine Program (drug detection)
9. Police Athletic League (P.A.L.)

The Committee found the P.A.L. program most impressive. This program helps create a bond between the officers and some of the youth in Corcoran. Participants feel they can trust the officers and speak freely with them. The program is housed in a large building on Whitley Avenue and provides boxing, field trips, an annual car show, after school entertainment that includes snacks and is open on weekends. The youth also have access to computers for games and literacy programs. P.A.L. provides a reading and writing program.

The Committee did not find any safety issues during the department inspection.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The department needs to improve its emergency response time.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the Police Chief for an informative meeting and a pleasant tour of this department and the P.A.L. location. The Police Chief is managing a department that is doing a good job for the community.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Police Department  
425 N Irwin St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2540**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
January 30, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Hanford Police Department (HPD) is dedicated to ensure the safety and security of all the people in the City of Hanford, by providing responsive and professional police service. HPD is responsible for the detection and suppression of crime and for community education in crime prevention. The HPD is organized into seven program areas including: Operations, Support, Services, Records and Communications, Traffic Enforcement, School Resource Officer, Narcotics Task Force, Gang Task Force and the Problem Oriented Policing Team.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Chief of Police and was given a complete tour of the police station facilities. The Chief informed us the average response time for an emergency is approximately three minutes and for non-emergency it is approximately 30-45 minutes.

The HPD has a two-year budget and an annual operation cost of approximately five million dollars. At present, the personnel include a total of 67 staff with 49 peace officer positions. There are currently four vacant peace officer positions.

There were 1,915 burglar alarm calls comprised of both commercial and home alarm systems. The Chief informed us approximately 98 percent of those alarms were determined to be false. As a result of the large amount of false alarms the HPD has instituted a city ordinance governing the fees and fines to monitor the registered alarms within the City of Hanford. A business/commercial fee is \$30.00 and residential fees are \$20.00. The fine for a false alarm(s) in a calendar year is as follows:

- |    |     |           |
|----|-----|-----------|
| 1. | 1-3 | no charge |
| 2. | 4   | \$25.00   |
| 3. | 5   | \$50.00   |

4. 6+ \$75.00 (alarm privileges may be suspended)

The Chief informed us all 911 calls within the city limits are dispatched through the HPD. HPD maintains a dispatch center for medical and fire as well as the calls for police service. 911 calls placed from a cellular phone are routed through the office of the California Highway Patrol. However, there are plans for the calls to eventually be automatically dispatched through repeater towers.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lemoore Police Department  
210 Fox St  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-9574**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
September 19, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Lemoore Police Department moved into its new facility in 2000. The men and women of the Department are dedicated to preserving the peace of Lemoore and the protection of its 21,000 citizens through proactive problem solving and community partnerships.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Chief of Police and the City Manager at the Lemoore Police Department. Though relatively new, the building is already overcrowded. Plans are being made to expand the facility in the near future.

The Department works with a yearly budget of just over two million dollars. It is the lowest paid law enforcement agency in Kings County. At present, the personnel include 28 officer positions, of which 23 are filled. There is an active recruitment program in progress aimed at filling the additional five sworn officer positions. The Department's average emergency response time for priority one calls was 3.29 minutes in 2001. At the present, the average time is 3.40 minutes.

The Department has a Take Home Car Program. Each officer is assigned a marked patrol car. Those living in the Lemoore City limits, may take it home. The initial cost of having more cars in the Department is offset in three to five years through reduced maintenance expenses and longer life of the vehicles.

There is a Youth Development Officer assigned to the High School and the Middle School. These officers make arrests, conduct investigations, complete school reports and serve as liaison between the schools and the Police Department.

The Community Service and Crime Prevention Program has active volunteer participation in the Neighborhood Watch Program with 90 groups in the city. There is an Anti-Graffiti Task Force and the Lemoore Police Explorer Post with 25 members age 14 through 20. The Citizens Police Academy provides two

sessions a year. Graduates of the Academy may join Volunteers in Policing and make patrol checks, do clerical work, work radar, finger printing and other tasks as required. Last year the Volunteers in Policing donated 5,390 hours of volunteer time

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The City of Lemoore should review the salary of the sworn personnel and make it competitive with the surrounding agencies.

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury congratulates the Department for its effective use of the Lemoore volunteers. Without this force of volunteers, the lack of a full complement of sworn officers would cause a severe hardship in the quality of life of Lemoore citizens.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Avenal State Prison  
One Kings Wy  
Avenal CA 93204  
(559) 386-0587**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
October 24, 2002**

**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 to be solicited by a local community. ASP opened in 1987 and was the first all-new prison built in California in 20 years.

ASP is a Level II institution and is a low-medium security facility. The institution utilizes an electrified perimeter fence and two armed perimeter towers. The Mission of ASP is to provide for the control, care and treatment of those inmates committed to the California Department of Corrections (CDC) by the courts.

The large influx of convicted felons committed to the CDC contributes to the current occupancy of 6,919 beds in general population housing. At double occupancy, ASP can house 6,978 inmates. ASP was originally designed to house approximately 3,400 to 3,500 inmates. ASP has a total staffing level of 1,458. The institution has eight housing units, Facility I through Facility VI, Firehouse and the Main Infirmary.

**FINDINGS:**

During the course of our tour we visited a dormitory housing unit designed to be accessible for inmates in the Disability Placement Program (DPP). We were informed that all inmates at ASP in the DPP are expected to participate in the Work Incentive Program and no exceptions are made for mobility-impaired inmates, inmates who are confined to wheelchairs or other wise handicapped, everyone works. ASP has been exceptionally creative in developing constructive work assignments for inmates with limited mobile abilities. Additionally, ASP has retrofitted the dormitory, which houses the handicapped, in such a manner that all amenities are readily accessible.

The Committee discovered that ASP provides ten programs to assist the inmate population. These programs are in-depth with many of them having several satellite structures. The programs are:

1. Custody Program
2. Medical Services
3. In Service Training
4. Food Services
5. Fire Services
6. Prison Industry Authority
7. Community Resources
8. Substance Abuse
9. Recycling and Salvage
10. Education

The Committee visited several of these programs and obtained information on those not visited. The Prison Industry Authority Program (PIA) provided the most interest. In the State of California the PIA produces over 1,800 different products that are now being made by prison inmates. The product line includes office and computer furniture, textiles, bedding, shelving, agriculture products, eyeglasses and many others. PIA is a self-supporting program directed to providing inmates with meaningful jobs. The PIA for Avenal State Prison has projected revenue of over \$16,000,000.00 annually.

In the agriculture product area of PIA at Avenal State Prison there is an egg production facility. ASP provides eggs to all California State Hospitals, the California Youth Authority and the California State Prison System.

**RECOMMENDATION:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the Food Services Program for the excellent buffet style lunch served to all and a special thanks to the new Warden for his cordiality.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**California State Prison-  
Corcoran  
4001 King Ave  
Corcoran CA 93212  
(559) 992-8800  
www.cdc.ca.gov.us**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law & Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
October 10, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

California State Prison-Corcoran (CSP-Corcoran) is built on what was once Tulare Lake, home of the Tachi Indians. It was the first California prison with a separate facility built exclusively as a Security Housing Unit (SHU). CSP-Corcoran is located in Kings County in the south area of the City of Corcoran. The prison grounds cover 942 acres, with 63 acres fenced.

CSP-Corcoran houses inmates at three levels of security. Level I inmates are allowed to leave the prison on work details and similar assignments. Level I consists of a camp-type setting with dormitories. Level III inmates are allowed to leave the immediate vicinity of their cells to take part in vocational training and other schooling, but not leave the prison. Level III cells are 6 feet by 11 feet. Level IV inmates are housed in SHU because they are too violent to be released into the general prison population. Level IV cells are slightly larger than the others because the inmates are confined to them most of the time.

Like other modern California State prisons, CSP-Corcoran is circular in design, so that if problems with inmates arise, security personnel can respond quickly. The electrified fences at CSP-Corcoran are powerful enough to deter any attempt to escape over the fence. The fence at CSP-Corcoran has 650 milli-amperes, 70 milli-amperes are enough to kill.

CSP-Corcoran presently employs 1,723 people. Of these, 1,160 are custody staff and 563 are support staff. The annual budget is \$117.5 million.

CSP-Corcoran provides vocational, work and industrial programs to minimum and high-medium custody inmates. The separate SHU houses inmates requiring maximum custodial constraints. Contained within the SHU facility is the Protective Housing Unit, which opened in June 1992, the Enhanced Outpatient

Program, which began operating in January 1995 and the Administrative Segregation Unit, which was activated in September 1996.

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 Community Resource Manager (CRM) at CSP-Corcoran for a presentation of 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 their release. In addition to the CRM, the Committee met with the prison's Chief Deputy Warden and received additional information regarding the overall operation of the prison.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Committee was impressed with the staff's attention to security detail while touring the facilities. The grounds are well maintained and the acute-care facility was very impressive.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

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

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
October 31, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

Activation of CSATF took place August 4, 1997. It was the 33<sup>rd</sup> prison built in California. The CSATF building design is set up in four clusters, each with a central hub that allows for greater security. Each cluster has group meeting rooms, counselor offices, classrooms and two separate tiers of six four-man dormitories.

CSATF is the largest substance abuse treatment facility in the United States. Inmates are confined to three levels of security, levels II, III and IV. The facility currently holds 6,823 inmates.

**FINDINGS:**

Two private contractors provide the 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 provides a 6 to 18 month comprehensive program. This counseling is available to all inmates and requires a minimum of 20 hours of treatment per week. Additionally, inmates are required to work four hours a day to complete the full, eight-hour workday requirement.

The drug treatment program at CSATF consists of four phases, which are Orientation, Therapeutic Community, Pre-entry and Aftercare.

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 i.e. crops farming, dairy/milk processing, laundry, manufacturing,

metal fabrication, wood products, auto mechanics, computer technology, dry cleaning, electronics, machine shop, mill & cabinet, sheet metal, upholstery and welding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the Business Manager and Assistant Training Manager of CSATF for an interesting tour.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Kings County Probation  
595 Clyde Dr  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 582-3211 Ext. 2850  
www.countyofkings.com**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Law and Public Safety**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational/Follow-Up  
Tour August 22, 2002  
September 9, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Kings County Probation Department is dedicated to providing the highest standard of services to the citizens of Kings County by empowering individuals and families to work together achieving safe and healthy neighborhoods. The department provides a professional, ethical response to crime and its effect in the community. It provides leadership by actively participating in inter-agency efforts to enhance the quality of life. The Probation Department investigates and reports to the court on sentences or programs for persons convicted of crimes. It advises the court on bail for persons awaiting trial, and supervises persons during their probationary period. The Probation Department also operates the Juvenile Center, Boot Camp, Female Treatment Center, Gang Task Force and various alternative sentencing programs. It makes recommendations to the court on child abandonment and contested child custody cases.

**FINDINGS:**

**Probation Department**

The Committee interviewed the Chief Probation Officer and staff members. We were informed of the various functions of the Probation Department. The Incarcerated Minors Prevention and Correctional Treatment Program is a long-term program. The intent is to make a final effort in the local facilities to reach a minor who continues to re-offend and has failed the other programs offered by Kings County Probation Services, Juvenile Facilities, Group Homes and Foster Homes. The long-term program is for a period of six months or more as determined by the court. Local incarceration assists both the minor and the family, while the minor is in custody, to remain closer to the family unit. This allows interaction for family counseling, encourages support and permits regular visits. The minor is required to continue education and participate in mental health and substance abuse counseling.

## **Boot Camp**

The Boot Camp Program is designed for juveniles age 14 through 17, however the age requirement is flexible and is modified on a case-by-case basis. It is operated as a paramilitary program and provides open dorm type housing. The program is available for both male and female offenders. It stresses military protocol, physical conditioning, education and life skills. The program is initiated by the recommendation of the probation officer and if approved, a judge will order the offender, male or female, to Boot Camp for a specific period of time.

The Female Treatment Center is located at the Boot Camp facility and has a capacity of 15 participants. The program is currently full and normally operates at capacity. It is a pilot program and is operated by a staff of volunteers. There are both short-term and long-term programs. The short-term is a 90-day commitment while the long-term is a 150 day, in-custody commitment with a 30-day house arrest follow up. Both programs are similar to the Boot Camp program and are also operated in a paramilitary manner. Females participate in physical training, academics, victim awareness, drug and alcohol counseling, anger management, ethics and community service. Additionally, all females are required upon their release to attend at least 12 aftercare classes within the first 5 months.

During the course of our tour the Committee was informed of how the Probation Department provides for the medical and psychiatric needs of those committed to the facilities. A new medical provider has been contracted to provide for the medical and psychiatric concerns of those committed. Although they have been meeting the expectation in regards to the medical needs, we were informed they have been less than adequate in regards to the psychiatric care provided.

## **Gang Task Force**

The Gang Task Force began in 1993 and is responsible for suppression, intervention and prevention of organized gangs. It is comprised of officers assigned from various law enforcement agencies. Plain-clothes officers will make direct contact with gang members to assess which gang they belong to and to what extent their involvement is in that particular gang. Presentations are given at schools and civic groups for teachers, children and parents on the signs and consequences of gang involvement. Telltale signs of a gang member are:

1. Self-admission
2. Association
3. Tattoos
4. Clothing
5. Photographs

6. Reliable source of information
7. Documentation
8. Graffiti with their name and/or monikers
9. Hair styles
10. Colors and numbers

California Penal Code 186.22 (f) defines gangs as three or more people with common names that are involved with criminal activity. If three out of twenty-five selected crimes can be connected together, they are classified as gang related crimes. Members range in age from approximately 14 to 24. There are two documented Hispanic gangs that make up over half of the 2500 gang members in Kings County. There is one documented Asian gang and gang involvement has been discovered in the military. Proposition 21 was passed in 2000 making harsher sentences of seven years to life for vandalism exceeding \$400, for graffiti. A 14 year old can be charged as an adult. Young people get involved with gangs for various reasons. Most come from low-income families with no real parenting at home and parents that have no regard for the law. The gang provides economics, protection, friends and tradition for an otherwise non-existing social life. The gang will lure a person with drugs, alcohol, money material items and sexual favors. Once a member, females can be sold for sex and/or drugs. Stolen items will be used as a major source of income. Members will get gang tattoos and clothing to show alliance. They won't take a plea bargain, but would rather go to trial and beat the charges to get the respect of other gang members. The clothing industry is putting out clothes and shoes that identify gangs. Professional sports have players that have gang ties/loyalties and some programs on television promote gang involvement.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Assess the care being provided with the level and type of psychiatric concerns actually needed. Once determined, the Grand Jury believes an appropriate course of action can and should be initiated.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with the overall operation of the Kings County Probation Department. The staff was courteous and the Chief Probation Officer was informative. While conducting the tour the Grand Jury members sampled the sack lunch provided to the wards and found it to be nutritious, plentiful and tasty.

## SUMMARY

### LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Law and Public Safety Committee was formed with nine original committee members. As the year progressed the Committee transitioned into a body of seven active members. The Committee began the year by visiting the Kings County District Attorney's Office and was given an overview of our judicial process. This presentation set the foundation for our visits with the Kings County Sheriff's Department and Probation Department.

The Committee toured the Hanford, Corcoran and Lemoore Police Departments. We were pleased and impressed with the quality of law enforcement our cities enjoy. During the course of the year the Committee visited all three prisons located in Kings County: Corcoran State Prison, California Substance and Abuse Treatment Facility and Avenal State Prison.

The Committee toured the Hanford City Fire Department Station #1 and Station #2. We were informed the Opticom system is almost completely installed. The Committee also toured the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department and was informed the department is staffed with all volunteer firefighters; there are no paid/career firefighters. The Committee toured all but two of the County's fire stations, Stations #3 and #8 due to their pending closure by the end of the year. The Operations Division has been re-structured into two Battalions, East and West. We toured the training grounds and were informed Kings County Fire Department received Federal and State grants to fund some of the training props currently in use.

The Committee was impressed with the operation of the Probation Department and the leadership demonstrated during our visit. We were pleased with the effectiveness of all aspects of the Kings County judicial system, law enforcement and the expectations set for zero tolerance towards crime. Additionally, the Committee was impressed by the operation of the Kings County Fire Department, Hanford Fire Department and the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department. In a time of budget crisis these departments have been able to keep up with modernization of equipment and with the latest training techniques available through creative acquisitions of grants.

Richard Martinez, Chairperson  
Ted Schlosser, Assistant Chairperson  
Kenneth Beinhorn  
Nancy Cartwright

Glenver Myers  
Larry Orth  
Elizabeth Anne Sutton

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Armona Community  
Services District  
10956 14<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Armona CA 93202  
(559) 584-4542**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
May 9, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Armona Community Services District covers an area of approximately one square mile. It has a five-member Board of Directors who are elected by citizens within the district. The District is responsible for the operation and control of the domestic water distribution, waste water treatment and garbage pickup.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Office Manager and the Water Specialist Contractor. The Office Manager is responsible for daily office operations and customer contacts and is assisted by a part time clerk and reports directly to the Board of Directors. All office records and billings are computerized and the system is updated annually.

All payments received are deposited daily and funds not deposited are placed in a locked office safe. Delinquent payments are assessed a ten percent penalty. A collection agency is utilized for uncollectable accounts. After hour payments may be made at a local market or dropped in an open unsecured slot at the office. An accounting firm, as determined by a competitive bid, performs an annual audit.

The water and sewer services are contracted to a water specialist company who trains the service district employees and ensures all testing is conducted and advises the board of any necessary updates, improvements or legal requirements. The contractor does not set fees or collect monies for the services. Garbage service is contracted to an outside agency.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Install a secure payment drop box for after-hour payments.

2. As the area covered and the population increases in future years, the Board of Directors should consider the addition of a qualified Services District Manager.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Avenal  
919 Skyline Blvd  
Avenal CA 93024  
(559) 386-5766**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
October 8, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Avenal is an incorporated city in the County of Kings, which is located near the Kettleman Hills. It has a population of about 8,700 people, not including inmates of Avenal State Prison. The 2001-2002 Grand Jury made a recommendation that handicapped parking areas and signs be installed at the City Hall parking lot.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee toured the parking lot and found that stalls for general parking were painted, signs for visitor and official parking were installed but could find **NO** designated handicapped parking spaces.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Install handicapped parking areas in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Corcoran  
1033 Chittenden Avenue  
Corcoran CA 93212  
(559) 992-2151 Ext. 7**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up  
October 22, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Corcoran is located west of the junction of California Highways 43 and 137 in the eastern edge of Kings County. The City's population is about 21,897 including the prison and the prison substance abuse treatment facility. It continues 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 talked with the Parks Director and visited Cesar Chavez Park on a follow-up of the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Report which had the following recommendation: discuss with Corcoran Unified School District better ways of keeping the park clean. During discussion with the Parks Director, he mentioned that the M.E.Ch.A. \* Club was taking care of keeping the park clean and the previous weekend had in fact cleaned up graffiti and damage caused by vandals to the park.

The multi-level playground structure has been replaced. Sand in the playground area has been replaced by wood chips. The cleanliness of the park is commendable. The men's restroom was in excellent condition and considering the overall cleanliness of the park the condition of the women's restroom must be the same.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury recognized the excellent condition of this park and commends the City and the caretakers for a job *well done*.

\* Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Lemoore  
119 Fox St  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6700**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
December 6, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Lemoore is located in Kings County near the intersection of State Highways 41 and 198 and has a population of approximately 21,000. There is a small industrial base within the city and it is surrounded by prime agriculture land. Nearby is the Naval Air Station Lemoore, which is a master jet base.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee interviewed the City Manager in the Grand Jury Chambers. He stated the basic functions of the city government have remained the same in recent years with only a small increase in the population. Several items are worth noting about the way the city functions and its environment: There is very little sub-standard housing within the city, which adds to the attractiveness of the cities residential areas. The City has planned and developed a domestic and wastewater policy that should serve its needs for the next 15 years.

The city owns and operates an 18-hole golf course. This facility has operated at a loss for a number of years. The City Manager expects the course to operate with a profit within a short time span of two to five years and satisfy its loan payment.

The citizens of Lemoore volunteer their time to provide the residents with many activities including youth programs, senior citizens events and adult programs. There is a very extensive neighborhood watch program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

Lemoore sets an outstanding example for other cities within the county in recruiting and retaining volunteers for community citizen activity participation.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Lemoore Public  
Works Department  
406 B St  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-6735**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
March 7, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Public Works Director reports directly to the Lemoore City Manager. At present, the Public Works Department has 34 employees including one Code Compliance Officer. The Public Works Department provides maintenance of streets, streetlights and other related functions.

**FINDINGS:**

The Public Works Director has been a Lemoore City employee for 27 years, the first 12 years as the City Building Inspector and 15 years as Public Works Director. We were told employee turn-over is low.

A question and answer discussion with the Public Works Director took place to find answers to citizen's complaints. Among these questions were left turn lane arrows at intersections with traffic signals. Funds have been budgeted to convert the intersection of Hanford-Armona Road and Lemoore Avenue to control left turn lane signals. Proper maintenance of Lemoore streetlights and ways to slow down traffic on residential streets were discussed. The City of Lemoore is currently inventorying street and area lighting to insure the city is not being overcharged for the service provided by the utility company.

The City of Lemoore purchased the vacated Candlewick Yarns property on Cinnamon Drive in the northwest part of Lemoore. This has approximately eight acres under roof and sits on 25 fenced acres. The Public Works Department will be consolidated at this site instead of numerous sites throughout the city to save time and money. The City of Lemoore will use portions of the property for other city activities and portions will be rented to public and/or private entities.

The Lemoore Golf Course maintenance is contracted out, this contract is awarded to the lowest bidder.

Lemoore received a \$2,000,000 grant for a light industrial site located west of Hwy 41 and north of Hwy 198, with service by the San Joaquin Valley Railroad, which runs between Fresno and Tulare Counties.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Lemoore Golf Course  
350 Iona Ave  
Lemoore CA 93245  
(559) 924-9658**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
April 11, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Lemoore Golf Course is situated on approximately 100 acres and consists of 18 holes. The City made improvements to the course in 1992, expending 4.25 million dollars to improve the course. The course is managed by the Sierra Golf Management Corporation and currently has a two-year contract with the City of Lemoore. The management currently has 11 employees, four of which are part-time. The golf complex consists of a pro shop, snack bar, carts, cart barn and a driving range.

The golf course has a fee schedule for those who use the course and reduced fees for high school golf teams, military and senior citizens on weekdays.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Manager/Golf Pro of the Lemoore Golf Course and was given an interview and tour of the course. In touring the facility, the Committee was told of golf clinics and tournaments that the city and the schools sponsor. While on the tour, the Committee observed certain areas of concern in that the cart barn area was extremely dirty, the golf carts needed cleaning and trash was viewed around the cart area. The trash containers needed to be emptied.

The Committee also met with the Assistant City Manager concerning the financial details of the golf course indebtedness. The City continues to pay the majority of the indebtedness. He advised us that the City would consider selling the course if a reasonable offer was received.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The management of the golf course should take immediate and positive steps to:

1. Clean the cart barn and the golf carts.
2. Remove the trash from the barn area and install larger trash containers.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Parks  
and Recreation  
900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2561**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
August 23, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Hanford Parks and Recreation Department are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of city parks. The 2001-2002 Grand Jury Local Government Committee inspected five Hanford parks. Recommendations were made to correct grounds maintenance and safety concerns at Earl F. Johnson and Hidden Valley Parks.

**FINDINGS:**

**Earl F. Johnson Park**

On entering the park several dead trees are noted. The restrooms are in deplorable condition, indicating a lack of proper care and maintenance. The children's play area has a sand base that shows a need for additional sand for the safety of children playing on the slide. One area of lawn is saturated because of standing water so that the lawn mower is unable to operate. Park users cannot utilize this area. Exposed tree roots are a tripping hazard.

**Hidden Valley Park**

The Cortner Pavilion playground and picnic area has three drinking fountains. One fountain is turned off and another has a plugged drain. Both restrooms have deteriorated partitions, and the lighting fixtures and skylights need cleaning. The footbridge over the slough is in very poor condition. The railings are loose and warped and reflect that some substandard repairs had been attempted. The flooring has rotted cross members that could be a safety hazard to those using the bridge. The picnic tables are not handicap accessible.

The triple slide in the children's playground area has a large hole near the top of the center slide. ***This is an extreme safety hazard should a child become wedged in the opening.***

Near the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue parking lot, a previous construction site is covered with plywood that has deteriorated causing a safety hazard. The perimeter chain and the bicycle rack need repairs. At the Oaks Picnic Shelter there is standing water due to irrigation problems. There is a tree obscuring the flagpole. There was a fallen pine tree near the parking lot. There are dead trees throughout the park.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **Earl F. Johnson Park**

1. Remove dead trees.
2. Replace the restrooms.
3. Add sand to child's play area, especially under the drop off of the slide.
4. Eliminate standing water.
5. Cover exposed tree roots.

### **Hidden Valley Park**

1. Repair drinking fountains.
2. Replace partitions in restrooms.
3. Clean lighting fixtures and skylights in restrooms.
4. Replace bridge. \* (See below)
5. Make picnic tables handicap accessible.
6. Replace triple slide.
7. Finish job at construction site.
8. Repair chain at end of parking area.
9. Repair bicycle rack.
10. Repair irrigation problem at Oaks Picnic Shelter.
11. Remove dead and fallen trees.

\*The Grand Jury strongly recommends that the bridge at Hidden Valley Park be replaced as soon as possible since it poses a safety hazard for the citizens using it. The potential for liability against the city for personal damages exists as the replacement is only tentatively scheduled for 2004 and would not be soon enough. It is felt that some other capital expenditure that has been approved, but does not involve safety, be used to replace the bridge. The delayed expenditure could then be budgeted for the fiscal 2004 budget.

## **COMMENTS:**

Prior to visiting these city parks, the Committee had the opportunity to tour the City Offices. On that visit it was noted that there was quality furniture throughout

the working areas, good lighting and excellent housekeeping. The contrast between the environment of the offices versus that of Earl F. Johnson and Hidden Valley Parks was dramatic. Could it be that the old adage "out of sight out of mind" may apply here?

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Old Courthouse Square  
City of Hanford  
Hanford CA 93230**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tours  
October 25, 2002  
December 20, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Old Kings County Courthouse and Jail were built in 1876. They are bordered by Douty, Eighth and Irwin Streets. They were used as the main courthouse and jail until 1978 when they were subleased, for a relocated Kings County Government Center that had new court facilities and a jail. The Old Courthouse is located in central Hanford, one block north of the town's main business section. The buildings are listed in the National Register of Historical Buildings. The County of Kings leased the entire site to the City of Hanford in 1979 and the City then subleased it to a private enterprise the same year.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee toured the buildings and grounds, which are referred to as the Old Courthouse Square properties. The Kings Corporation with Peter Katzman of Santa Monica, CA is named as the guarantor of the lease.

During the tour it was noted that the overall appearance reflected serious neglect by the leaseholder. Specifically, the exterior awnings in some locations were in tatters and an open electrical panel on the grounds near the carousel was such a hazard that the city was notified and immediate action was taken to enclose it.

The brick surfaced plaza area on the north side of the property has several depressions, which are tripping hazards.

The faulty rain downspouts on the west side required one occupant to place sandbags to reduce flooding of the business entrance.

Several areas of the metal roof surfaces show signs of rust and will only get worse if not repaired in a timely manner.

The Hanford Fire Department inspects any new occupant's leased spaces to ensure that current fire codes are in compliance. During a tour of the site with fire

department staff, it was noted that there were two areas that had a sprinkler system installed. The staff indicated that the system was installed before the current fire prevention codes were in force. They do not know the source of the water for the system nor how to turn it off, on or to test the system. It is not known if the system is operable.

There is no alarm system to alert occupants or visitors that there is a fire and to evacuate the building.

One of the tenants has been selected by the leaseholder to act as caretaker of the building. They do not have any records of rents, expenditures or maintenance details as required by the master lease to be available on site.

Following the inspections of the Old Courthouse Square, visits were made to the following tax supported organizations: The Hanford Chamber of Commerce, The Hanford Visitor's Bureau and the new Main Street Hanford offices. All executives in charge of these organizations agreed that the Old Courthouse Square would be an asset to the city if maintained and promoted properly. At the time of the visits to the above organizations, it was noted that they all advised clients and visitors to avoid the property as it distracted from the attributes of the city. The minutes of each organization indicate a strong displeasure in the management and oversight of the property.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The City of Hanford must take the lead to determine if the leaseholder has fully complied with the conditions of the lease; if not, cancel it. The leaseholder agreed to maintain the buildings and grounds as an asset to the city. Should the current leaseholder secure a buyer for the lease, the city must approve the sale per the master lease. The city should ensure that the buyer is not an absentee landlord, is financially sound and has a plan to maintain, improve and promote the site. If the preceding recommendations are not complied with, the County of Kings should take control of the buildings and grounds and cancel the master lease.

#### **COMMENTS:**

This Grand Jury believes The Old Courthouse Square deserves immediate attention.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Building Department  
City of Hanford  
319 N Douty St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2584**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
August 30, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The department has a proposed yearly budget (2002-2003) of \$559,800 funded from fees collected with \$43,430 from city general fund. The department is composed of personnel consisting of one supervisor, one secretary, one code enforcer and three building inspectors. The last Grand Jury visits to this department were over three years ago.

**FINDINGS:**

The committee interviewed the Superintendent of the Building Department in the city offices. The Building Department issues building permits, inspects building sites and investigates complaints. The Building Department follows TITLE 24 of the California Building Code with modifications for building safety. New building codes will be effective November 2002.

Computer scheduling, to ensure proper follow-up, controls complaints from citizens. Anonymous written or oral complaints are accepted. Approximately twenty to thirty complaints are received monthly.

The City of Hanford has an ordinance for removal of abandoned vehicles. Last quarter the department removed 160 abandoned vehicles.

The Supervisor informed the Committee that all departments of the city worked well with the Building Department.

We were informed that covenant, code and restriction enforcement is not the responsibility of this department.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Recreation  
Department  
315 N Douty St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2525**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
October 25, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Hanford Recreation Department is responsible for overseeing the development and operation of the Hanford City Parks. The Hanford Recreation Department intentions are to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations of residents through programs and facilities that meet the social and leisure needs of the community.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with and discussed the duties of the Recreation Director and staff. The staff includes two Recreation Supervisors, one Recreation Service Manager, one Senior Typist Clerk and other staff. These duties include monitoring the Hanford City Parks, which includes:

1. Coe Park located on South Douty Street
2. Centennial Park located on West Hanford-Armona Road between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Cortner Street

The Hanford Recreation Department also oversees the following programs: Aquatics, Therapeutic Recreation, Cultural & Special Events, Teen Center, Adult/ Youth Sports and Senior Center. The various fees collected are accounted for on a specialized computer program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury recognizes the vast responsibilities of the Recreation Director and the staff.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Refuse Waste  
Department  
900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2550**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
March 28, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Hanford Refuse Waste Department, a self-supporting enterprise, provides weekly pick-up service of garbage, recyclables and green waste. Garbage and recyclables are collected on one day and green waste is picked up on another day. Some trucks are rigged for commercial service to handle large bins or dumpsters and others in residential service are automated and extend an arm to pick up a container, dump the contents into the refuse compartment and then replace the empty container back on the ground. Frequently, the packer is operated to compress the refuse as needed.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee interviewed the Refuse Superintendent in the Grand Jury room to determine the current operation of the Refuse Department in anticipation of possible future budget restraints. The previous problem of truck contents leaking onto residential streets has been rectified by twice daily truck inspections, frequent high pressure washing, checking seals, seal replacement when needed and driver training.

The Refuse Department is currently operating 18 trucks (6 commercial and 12 automated types) on a twice-weekly trash pick-up service. One pick-up is for green waste only. The tipping fee (cost of dumping) for clean uncontaminated green waste is \$35 per ton. Green waste is approximately 30 percent of the total waste pick-up in Hanford. To ensure clean green waste is not contaminated, green waste inspectors frequently check curbside containers and cite residents for violations when observed. This may result in a \$35 fine if the offense is repeated. The second pick-up (black container) is for garbage, trash and recyclables. The tipping fee for mixed waste, currently \$70 per ton.

Residents are encouraged to deposit recyclables (paper, glass, plastics, metals, cardboard, aluminum etc.) in school recycle bins. They are picked up and handled

by the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) for only \$30 per bin. This results in less cost to the city, reduced truck expenses and the schools receive the monetary benefits.

Commercial establishments are also encouraged to separate recyclables from garbage when possible to keep them out of the landfill. Accumulations of corrugated cardboard at business locations are picked up free, when requested, as clean material is worth \$40 per ton to the Refuse Department.

Waste containers are available for rent. They vary in size and are priced accordingly. For instance, a small dumpster rents for \$35 per month and is emptied four times. This is great for yard clean up or remodeling debris.

The Refuse Department anticipates 400 new customers annually. This requires 800 containers and explains the seemingly great available supply on hand. 12,400 containers are presently in service including 800 – 60 gallon units.

The refuse containers are provided to customers in requested sizes and prices. The replacement cost to the city for the 100 gallon capacity is \$45 and the 60 gallon capacity is \$42 each.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the Refuse Waste Department Superintendent for his interview and frank answers to our questions.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Hanford  
Fleet/Building Manager  
900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2554**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
February 14, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Hanford Fleet/Building Maintenance office is in the Hanford City Yard Complex.

The Fleet Maintenance Department includes one manager, one supervisor, one lead mechanic and four mechanics.

The Building Maintenance Department includes three custodians and one lead custodian/maintenance person.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Fleet/Building Manager (FBM) in the Grand Jury Chambers. The responsibilities of the Fleet and Building Maintenance position includes managing the repairs and maintenance of most of the city vehicles and city owned buildings, including the city owned Amtrak Station.

The FBM is responsible for purchasing parts, materials and new vehicles. The City Council must approve any purchase over \$5,000.

This department uses their own state regulated drivers training program to allow employees to become "A" and "B" certified licensed drivers.

Smog checks are required on all gasoline-operated vehicles. Vehicle smog checks are performed by qualified local merchants.

The FBM has researched the use of vehicles using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and electric powered vehicles. The FBM purchased ten vehicles that use CNG fuel. Refueling is done at the Kings County facility on South 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the city is billed for the service. The city has acquired five electric powered vehicles.

Recycled oil products are used in all city vehicles.  
This department uses clear plastic bags as required for proper recycling.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury thanks the Fleet/Building Manager for the time and information he provided.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Hanford  
Field Utilities  
900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2560**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
October 11, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Hanford Field Utilities Division is one of eight Divisions of the Public Works Department. All divisions are under the control of the Director of Public Works. The Utility Superintendent supervises Field Utilities. This division is divided into water distribution and sewer/storm collection. At present there are 14 employees (including the Superintendent) with six assigned to the sewer/storm collection section. All of the employees are Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified by the State.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Superintendent in the Grand Jury Room. The water distribution system has 19 wells (three are capped) drilled to a depth of approximately 1500 feet. They are sealed down to 450-500 feet to prevent contaminants from entering the water system. Samples are taken from 20 stations weekly as monitoring is state mandated.

There are two tanks in the water distribution system. One has a 500-gallon capacity and the other has a 300-gallon capacity. The large tank cycles daily and the smaller tank cycles twice daily. This keeps the water from getting stagnant. No chemicals of any type are added to the distribution system. Hanford has an arsenic problem that is naturally occurring and steps are being taken to keep the arsenic level under control.

Personnel that work in the sewer/storm water collection section are all certified and cross-trained to work in the water distribution system. The Field Utilities Superintendent stated that in recent years the winter storm patterns have changed. Instead of getting a slow drizzle from storms as in the past, we are now getting more rain in a shorter time that can inundate the storm collection drains and cause flooding, especially in street intersections.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

Water meters are required on all new installations. Hanford has a combination of water meters and flat rate water charges.

The Grand Jury thanks the Superintendent for his interview.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Hanford  
Finance Department  
315 Douty Street  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2500**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
September 27, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Finance Department is composed of two areas; Accounting and Utility Billing. Accounting has seven employees and Utility Billing has three employees.

Accounting has responsibility for cash management, financial management services, payroll, accounts receivable, business license administration and insurance services. During fiscal year 2002, the Accounting Department will issue approximately 7,400 business licenses, process 3,000 purchase orders, issue 6,700 payroll checks, process 5,350 claims and prepare 224 different financial reports.

Utility billing is responsible for customer services for the refuse, sewer, and water operations. During the fiscal year, they are expecting to issue over 116,440 utility bills. With accounts receivable in excess of 11 million dollars, the utility billing division will keep non collectibles below 30 thousand dollars per year and achieve a unit cost of \$1.85 per bill, demonstrating continued levels of efficient service. In the fall they will be implementing every other month meter reading through the new automated utility billing system.

**FINDINGS:**

Hanford City services have approximately 13,500 billing accounts with a delinquency rate of approximately seven-percent of which approximately three percent is not collectible.

The Finance Department is in charge of city investments and which has 15 million dollars is invested in Local Agency Investment Fund, 7 million dollars with Fanny Mae, Federal Home and local banks and which are F.D.I.C insured. No funds are invested in the stock market.

The City Finance Department is annually audited by an outside auditor firm.  
The City of Hanford share of sales tax revenue is 0.95 percent of one cent,  
bringing approximately 5.8 million dollars to the city.  
The Finance Department assists the city in writing grants.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Grand Jury recommends that all departments of the city that handle financial transactions be audited annually by an outside auditing firm.

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Wastewater  
Treatment Plant  
10555 Houston Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2576**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
January 17, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The treatment plant is located on 300 acres south of Hanford. The plant sits on 40 acres; 75 acres are used for storage for irrigation, and 185 acres of disposal and storage ponds. All city waste sewage is treated here.

The treatment plant is a sophisticated, multimillion-dollar facility responsible for the treatment of nearly 1.7 billion gallons of sewage each year. The facility is a major part of the city's effort to keep our environment clean and to provide a water resource for irrigation and water recharge. The treatment plant will conduct over 63,187 laboratory tests, checking the performance levels of the total plant and individual components. The expansion of 2003 will bring the treatment capacity up to 8 million gallons per day. This is projected to be sufficient to the year 2018 when it is estimated that the population of Hanford will be 67,000.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee toured the plant with the Manager who interpreted the present facility operation, explained the improvements of operations and increased capacity that will result from the current expansion. The expansion construction is contracted to an outside contractor by bids.

Currently wastewater is fed into the plant from four separate input areas of the city. The current average input to the plant is 5.8 million gallons per day. The new plant will have a capacity of 8 million gallons per day.

The plant has a standby generator to keep operations flowing smoothly in case of power failure.

The operation of the plant is completely automated and has a staff of nine persons with two additional positions currently unfilled. All operational personnel are certified for their positions. Testing input and output wastewater is performed

daily to control types of input and verify safety of output. The state requires monthly reports on all wastewater ponds. Sludge from the plant is used on some agricultural crops and the water is released for irrigation to area farmers.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury acknowledges the foresighted planning for increased capacity to provide for the needs of Hanford for the next decade. We thank the Management and Staff for explaining in layman's terms the operation of a highly sophisticated system.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Hanford  
Street Maintenance  
900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2565  
(559) 583-1529 FAX**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Interview  
November 8, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The largest capital asset owned by the City of Hanford is its street system. Composed of a network of over 180 miles of streets, this system requires continual attention and maintenance. Over the past few years the city has invested extensively in streets capital improvement projects. Street maintenance is responsible primarily for maintenance of local streets and city parking lots as well as supervising painting activities, maintenance of traffic signals, streetlights and other maintenance activities. Residential streets are swept once a week and the downtown area on a five-day-a-week basis.

**FINDINGS:**

The City of Hanford Street Superintendent met with the Committee in the Grand Jury Chambers for an informational interview. The Committee asked questions about how the street department operated and the duties of the street division in general. In response to questions, the following information was received: 10<sup>th</sup> Ave is being widened from Second St. northward to Grangeville Blvd. And the last portion from Cameron St. to Grangeville Blvd. is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2003. Grangeville Blvd. widening from 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 9 1/4 Ave. is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2003.

Citizen reports of holes in the pavement are usually fixed within five to seven days. If serious, they are fixed with buckets of patch immediately. Contractors do center line striping. The city crews maintain crosswalk striping and buttons on the centerlines. Manholes in the streets, which are too high or too low, can be reset to level to eliminate bumps. The City has a Seasonal Leaf Pickup Program, city crews starts leaf pickup in mid November.

A system for emergency vehicles to control signal lights on certain major intersections is currently being installed. The Street Superintendent or his

representatives often attend appropriate conventions to learn of new methods or ideas involving streets.

New subdivision sidewalks are located next to the curb to eliminate the small strip of grass between the curb and walkway and make the walkways more accessible to the handicapped. Broken sidewalks are repaired if caused by a tree problem. If the problem is the property owners' responsibility, the city will notify them to make repairs at their expense.

A disaster plan is in place to coordinate Kings County and The City of Hanford Public Works Department personnel in emergencies, to furnish extra equipment as needed. Labor and equipment is also available on demand from the boot camp and contractors.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford City Offices  
319 N Douty St  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2515**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
August 9, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Hanford is the county seat of Kings County and is located in the Central Valley of California equal distance from Los Angeles and San Francisco. Hanford has a City Manager form of government with a City Council consisting of five members elected for a term of four years.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the City Manager who provided the members with an overview of city operations. All city employees are under his management and he is responsible for the fiscal management of all city funds. The City Manager reports to and is under the direction of the elected City Council.

The City of Hanford has a population of approximately 44,000 citizens and encompasses 14 square miles. There are 223 full time employees, serving in 7 departments and 33 divisions. The 2002-2003 budget of \$43,000,000.00 reflects a biennial budgeting process. A semi-annual review is conducted to provide a current update.

In December each City Council member selects at least five citizens to participate in a facilitation process. During this process all council members must remain silent while the citizens offer constructive criticism, areas for improvement and recommendations for the city five and ten year General Plan.

The city's revenue is generated from sales tax, vehicle registration and property tax including three major enterprise divisions of water, sewer and refuse departments. These three enterprise divisions are self-supporting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Hanford Municipal Airport/  
Park  
954 E Hanford-Armona Rd  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2589**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Follow-up Tour  
January 31, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Hanford Municipal Airport is located on 297 acres of land southeast of town. Of these 297 acres, 51 acres are leased to agricultural farmers and a leased vineyard covers 80 acres. Airport utilization consists of 20,000 to 25,000 flights a year. The Airport elevation is 242 feet above sea level. The single runway has been lengthened from 3,962 feet to 5,180 feet and a new runway light system has been installed. The entire airport is fenced to keep stray animals, trespassers and unauthorized vehicles away from the runway and taxiway surfaces. All entrance gates are closed and coded for security after hours.

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. Lessees must have \$1 million liability insurance. The airport operates as an Enterprise Zone and is largely self-supporting.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Airport Manager in his new office located adjacent to the new large hangar and the new restrooms. This office commands a good view of the airport operating area at ground level and is convenient to the parking lot, walk-through security gate and landscaped walkways. The new hangar is a sturdy, well-insulated, steel frame structure with automatic doors on each end. This permits pass-through jet aircraft movement for security, shelter and maintenance. An alarm system and overhead sprinklers provide fire protection and enhance security after hours.

As reported previously, no commercial flights are using the airport and no crop dusting/spraying activity is permitted. There are no charges for taking off or landing and general aviation use is encouraged. Aviation gasoline (100 octane) and lubricating oil is available. Jet fuel is not available at this time due to lack of

sufficient demand. The Fixed Base Operator (FBO) provides the aircraft services. The FBO is a private commercial activity known as Hanford Flight Center. They offer charter flights, tours, aircraft inspection, repairs and routine maintenance service. In addition, flight training is available for pilot certification, single or multi-engine, and instrument ratings.

The runway and taxiways have been overlaid and resurfaced, with striping and numbering redone. The new runway lights are high and low intensity and are pilot controlled, activated by microphone clicks. Taxiway lighting is still pending and the taxiways are currently marked with reflectors. Precision landing aids are pending also. The Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) in its present location is inaccurate and must be relocated away from buildings. The move was delayed until late spring 2003, as published in the Hanford Pilot Update dated January 2003. The RCO, a remote radio relay feature at Hanford Airport, allows pilots on the ground to communicate with Fresno Approach Control for clearance and routing instructions before take-off and after landing.

The airport operates on an annual budget of \$78,000 per year plus federal and state grants. Grants are applied for and received 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. Hanford Public Works and City employees provide major maintenance and repair of the airport facilities. The Airport Manager initiates the actions that keep the airport functioning properly within the budget, however, there is no assigned back-up for the Airport Manager.

The City of Hanford Fire Department and the Airport Manager have developed a disaster plan for the airport. A copy of the plan is available at the airport office and the Hanford Fire Department.

The Experimental Aviation Association program called "Young Eagles" provides free flights for children, followed by family-style barbecues. Volunteers from the community furnish flights to youth interested in flying. Certificates are awarded to participants who complete the program.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The City should provide and train a back-up for the Airport Manager.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The City of Hanford is commended for having the foresight to develop a small, first class airport. The City has been very fortunate to have an experienced Airport Manager to guide the improvements and expansion of the site.

All tax supported entities, and others promoting the City and surrounding areas, should include in their written and verbal descriptions, the fine attributes of the Hanford Municipal Airport.

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Hanford  
Corporation Yard  
900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2550**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
September 13, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Public Works Department is one of six departments in the City of Hanford and includes seven divisions, which are Building Maintenance, Park Maintenance, Field Utilities, Fleet Maintenance, Street Maintenance, Refuse Division and Waste Management. Field Utilities includes sewer/storm collection and water distribution. Fleet and Building Maintenance operate jointly under one manager. Waste Management includes WasteWater Treatment Plant operation.

**FINDINGS:**

The Department currently has 95 employees. The Director stated that his divisions have regular safety meetings. Public Works had three lost time accidents last year and there were no reportable accidents in the previous 13 days.

The Committee toured the Corporation Yard with the Director, first visiting the on site water well pump house, noting the emergency portable generators on hand.

There is a computer card-lock gasoline and diesel fueling system for servicing city vehicles. Records are electronically tabulated and charged to the user's account. Emergency vehicles have access for refueling after hours. Future plans are in place for converting to low sulfur fuels.

Used motor oil is collected for recycling during normal working hours. The public is encouraged to bring uncontaminated lubricating oil to the site for disposal. Assistance is available upon request.

High-pressure graffiti removal equipment is kept maintained in the yard and available for use when needed.

Refuse trucks are serviced and cleaned regularly in the yard. One was observed on the wash station being pressure washed during our visit. An adequate supply of waste pickup containers is stored on site.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**City of Hanford  
Public Works  
Engineering Department  
900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Hanford CA 93230  
(559) 585-2555**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Interview  
November 15, 2002**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Assistant City Engineer met with the committee in the Grand Jury Chambers. The City Engineering Department is located in the facility at 900 S 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The department has 15 employees and is headed by the City Engineer, who is a licensed Civil Engineer and reports to the Director of Public Works.

**FINDINGS:**

This department has a number of primary responsibilities, which are basically associated with new development and all civic capital improvements within the city limits. An example of the part the engineering department plays in a new project, is the commercial development across from Centennial Plaza. The site design and plans had to be reviewed and approved. In addition, the street right of way was enlarged, sewer and storm drain plans were approved, built and inspected and traffic signals designed and installed for proper traffic flow.

Capital improvements include widening of streets, improving old or installing new sewer and storm drain systems, improving or designing new domestic water service. All work done by outside contractors must have approval of the City Engineering Department, which checks the vendors' competency to complete the job and be financially responsible.

The City Engineering Department takes an active roll in assisting the city in its five and ten year plans for the infrastructure of the city.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

**AREA OF INQUIRY:**

**Home Garden Community  
Services District  
11677 2<sup>nd</sup> PL  
Hanford, CA 93230  
(559) 582-4053**

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:**

**Local Government**

**PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

**Informational Tour  
May 28, 2003**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Home Garden Community Services District is located southeast of the City of Hanford. It is an unincorporated section of the County of Kings and receives policing from the Sheriff's Department and road maintenance from the Kings County Public Works Department. The District provides water and sewer services. Garbage pickup and street lighting are provided by contracted sources.

**FINDINGS:**

The Committee met with the Office Manager in the Services District's Office. The Manager advised us that the 2001-2002 Recommendations regarding the position of Secretary/Treasurer, to be an elected board member was presented to the Board. They did not wish to change the appointments of the Board. They will continue with the same responsibilities as it is now operating.

There is a preliminary design for the District to have all water connections in one section to be made from the street to each property. The money for this improvement would have to come from a grant, which has not been prepared.

The subject of green waste pick-up has been before the Board and the cost would be prohibitive based on the projected amount available for pick-up. The Committee's tour of the area confirms that indeed there would not be enough green waste generated.

All other aspects of the operation remain the same as reported by the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS:** None

## **SUMMARY**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee, after a review of the previous Grand Jury visitation log, decided to concentrate on all aspects of the departments within the City of Hanford and Lemoore including visits to the cities of Avenal and Corcoran and the Community Services Districts of Armona and Home Garden.

The Committee was a very able and dedicated group who took their responsibility very seriously and did an excellent job. Many major departments of the Cities of Hanford and Lemoore were either visited on site or had the department head come to the Grand Jury Room for an interview.

Every department head reflected a sincere dedication to the job and was very open to all questions from the Committee. Most of the managers have been employed by the cities for many years and expressed a desire to continue their work.

The Committee thanks the citizens of the County of Kings and the Superior Court for the opportunity to serve on the Grand Jury, also to provide all the citizens of Kings County an insight into how each governing department functions, its responsibilities and overall effectiveness.

Herbert Biddle, Chairperson  
Tom Ross, Assistant Chairperson  
William D. Bowen  
Shawn Poirier  
Katherine L. Ramsey  
Jack Rea  
Dallas Uffman

**2002-2003 GRAND JURY**

**County Government Committee Record of Visits**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>00-01</b>	<b>01-02</b>	<b>02-03</b>	<b>03-04</b>
<b>Board of Supervisors</b>				
County Administrative Officer		X		
Human Resources - Employment		X		
<b>Agriculture</b>				
Commissioner/Sealer	*	X		
Agriculture Extension Services		X	17	
<b>Alcohol and Drug Programs</b>				
Cornerstone	*			
Kings View Outpatient Community Services	*			
<b>Assessor/Clerk/Recorder</b>				
Assessor/Clerk			6, 30	
Recorder			6, 30	
Elections			30	
<b>Auditor-Controller</b>				
Purchasing Agent				
<b>Chemical Waste Management</b>	*		13	
<b>Human Services</b>				
Administration			6	
Job Opportunities and Benefits Services (JOBS)				
Social Service Program				
Child Protective Services			38	
Special Investigation Division				
<b>Information Services (IT)</b>	*			
Administration			6	
Computer Room				
Central Microfilm/Records Storage				
HELP DESK				
<b>Kings Waste and Recycling Authority</b>	*	X	25	
<b>Kings County Law Library</b>				
<b>Kings County Library</b>				
Administration				
Armona	*			
Avenal	*			
Corcoran	*			
Hanford	*			
Kettleman City		X		
Lemoore	*			
Stratford		X		
<b>Kings County Housing Authority</b>		X		

**2002-2003 GRAND JURY**

**County Government Committee Record of Visits**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>00-01</b>	<b>01-02</b>	<b>02-03</b>	<b>03-04</b>
<b>Planning Department</b>		X		
<b>Public Works</b>				
Government Center/Parks Shop	*	X	19	
Building Maintenance				
Engineering				
County Shop		X		
Kings Area Rural Transit Agency (KART)			15	
Motor Pool				
Shop/Road Department		X	12	
<b>Parks</b>				
Superintendent of Parks			1	
Burris Park and Museum	*	X	22	
Hickey Park	*	X		
Kingston Park	*	X		
<b>Special Purpose and Assessing or Taxing District</b>				
Corcoran Irrigation District				
Clarks Fork Reclamation#2069 (Lemoore)				
Consolidated Reclamation #812 (Corcoran)				
Delta Lands Reclamation #770 (Corcoran)				
Duncan Reclamation #685 (Corcoran)				
El Rico Reclamation #1618 (Corcoran)				
Empire West Side Irrigation (Stratford)	*			
Green Valley (Stratford)				
Homeland Reclamation #780 (Corcoran)				
Island Irrigation	*			
Island Reclamation #776 (Lemoore)				
Kings County Water (Hanford)	*	X	30	
Lakeside Irrigation (Hanford)	*			
Lovelace Reclamation #739 (Corcoran)				
Melga Water District (Corcoran)				
Newton Water District				
North Central Consolidated #2071 (Corcoran)				
Salyer Water District (Corcoran)				
South Central Reclamation #2125 (Corcoran)				
Stratford Irrigation District				
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District				
Tulare Lake Reclamation #749 (Corcoran)				

**2002-2003 GRAND JURY**

**County Government Committee Record of Visits**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>00-01</b>	<b>01-02</b>	<b>02-03</b>	<b>03-04</b>
<b>Special Purpose and Assessing or Taxing District (Continued)</b>				
Tulare Lake Reclamation #761 (Stratford)				
Excelsior Reclamation (Hanford)				
Kings River Reclamation (Hanford)				
<b>Kings Mosquito Abatement</b>			4	
<b>Treasurer - Tax Collector</b>		X		
<b>Veteran's Services/Public Guardian</b>		X	36	
<b>Victim Witness Program - Probation Dept.</b>			28	



## 2002-2003 GRAND JURY

### Health and Education Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
<b>Kings County Office of Education &amp; Schools</b>				
Administration				
Cyesis Program		X	58	
Kings County Community School	*	X		
Kings County Regional Occupational Program		X		
Special Education - Shelly Baird		X		
<b>Kings River-Hardwick District &amp; School</b>		X		
<b>Kit Carson Union School District &amp; School</b>		X	95	
<b>Armona Union School District</b>				
Armona Elementary School		X	61	
Parkview School		X	62	
<b>Lakeside District</b>				
Lakeside School		X	96	
Gardenside School		X		
<b>Central Union Scholl District</b>				
Central Union School		X		
Neutra School		X		
Stratford School		X		
<b>Corcoran Joint Unified School District</b>				
Administration		X		
Bret Harte School	*			
John C. Fremont School	*			
Mark Twain School		X	75	
John Muir School		X		
Corcoran High School	*	X		
Corcoran Community Day School		X	73	
Kings Lake Education Center		X	76	
<b>Delta View Joint Union District &amp; School</b>		X		
<b>Hanford Elementary School District</b>				
Administration	*			
Jefferson Elementary School		X	79	
James Monroe Elementary	*	X	77	
Joe Simas Elementary	*	X	85	
Lee Richmond Elementary School		X	81	
Lincoln Elementary	*	X		
Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School		X	93	
Roosevelt Elementary School	*	X		
Washington Elementary School		X		
John F. Kennedy Junior High School		X	83	
Woodrow Wilson Junior High School		X	84	

**2002-2003 GRAND JURY**

**Health and Education Committee Record of Visits**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>00-01</b>	<b>01-02</b>	<b>02-03</b>	<b>03-04</b>
District Central Kitchen		X		
<b>Hanford Joint Union High School District</b>				
Hanford High School	*	X	86	
Hanford West High School	*	X	87	
E.F Johnson Continuation High School			89	
Hanford Adult School			91	
<b>Island Union District &amp; School</b>		X	111	
<b>Lemoore Union Elementary School District</b>				
Cinnamon Elementary School			97	
PW Engvall School			99	
Lemoore Elementary School		X	100	
Meadow Lane School		X	101	
Liberty Middle School	*		103	
<b>Lemoore Union High School</b>	*		105	
Donald C. Jamison Continuation High School			108	
Lemoore Adult School				
<b>Pioneer Union School District</b>				
Pioneer Primary School		X		
Pioneer Middle School		X		
<b>Reef - Sunset Unified School District</b>				
Avenal Elementary School		X	63	
Avenal High School		X	66	
Kettleman City Elementary School	*			
Reef-Sunset Middle School	*			
Adelante (Continuation) High School (Avenal)	*		68	
Sunrise (Continuation) High School (Kettleman City)	*		70	
Tamarack Elementary School			64	
Reef-Sunset Primary/Secondary Community Day School				

## 2002-2003 GRAND JURY

### Law and Public Safety Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
<b>California State Prisons</b>				
California State Prison - Avenal	*	X	145	
California State Prison - Corcoran	*	X	147	
California Substance Abuse and Treatment Facility - Corcoran		X	149	
<b>City Fire Departments</b>				
<b>Hanford</b>				
Station #1			127	
Station #2			127	
<b>Lemoore Volunteer Fire Station</b>		X	124	
<b>County Counsel</b>				
<b>Kings County Fire Department</b>				
Department Office			113	
Training Center			113	
Burriss Fire Station #1		X	113	
Hardwick Fire station #2			113	
Kit Carson Fire Station #3 (closure pending)	*		N/A	
Armona Fire Station #5	*		113	
Island fire Station #6			113	
South Lemoore Fire Station #7			113	
Guernsey Fire Station #8 (closure pending)			N/A	
Kettleman City Fire Station #9			113	
Stratford Fire Station #10			113	
Corcoran Fire Station #11	*		113	
Avenal Fire Station #12		X	113	
<b>District Attorney</b>				
Administration			6, 136	
Investigations				
Prosecuting Attorneys				
<b>Minor's Advocate</b>		X		
<b>Police Departments</b>				
Corcoran Police Department	*		139	
Hanford Police Department	*		141	
Lemoore Police Department	*		143	
<b>Probation Department</b>				
Administration	*		6, 151	
Boot Camp	*		151	
Female Treatment Center	*		151	
Gang Task Force			151	
Juvenile Center/Inmate Health	*		151	



## 2002-2003 GRAND JURY

### Local Government Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
<b>Avenal</b>				
City Clerk		X		
City Manager		X	157	
Finance Director		X		
City Council	*	X		
Planning Department	*	X		
Public Works	*	X		
Building Maintenance		X		
Road Department		X		
Solid Waste		X		
Shop Facilities		X		
Water Department		X		
Recreation & Parks Department		X		
Floyd Rice Park		X		
<b>Cemetery Districts</b>				
<b>Corcoran</b>		X		
<b>Hanford</b>				
Hanford Cemetery	*			
Calvary Cemetery	*			
Kings River Cemetery	*			
Lakeside Cemetery	*			
<b>Lemoore</b>				
Lemoore Cemetery	*			
Grangeville Cemetery	*			
<b>Community Service Districts</b>				
<b>Armona</b>				
Office		X	155	
Parks & Recreation				
Waste Water Treatment Plant		X		
<b>Home Garden</b>				
Office		X	189	
Parks & Recreation				
<b>Kettleman City</b>				
Office		X		
Parks & Recreation		X		
Public Works		X		
<b>Stratford</b>				
Office		X		
Parks & Recreation				
Public Works		X		

**2002-2003 GRAND JURY**

**Local Government Committee Record of Visits**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>00-01</b>	<b>01-02</b>	<b>02-03</b>	<b>03-04</b>
<b>Stratford (Continued)</b>				
<b>Corcoran</b>				
Building Department		X		
City Clerk		X		
Mayor & City Council		X		
City Manager	*	X		
Finance Manager		X		
Planning Department		X		
Public Works Department		X		
Parks & Recreation		X	158	
Burnham Smith Park	*	X		
Cesar Chavez Park	*	X	158	
Christmas Tree Park	*	X		
John Maroot Park	*	X		
Father Wyatt Park	*	X		
Road Department		X		
Sewage Department		X		
Water Department		X		
<b>Hanford</b>				
City Clerk				
City Council				
City Manager			182	
Old Courthouse Square			166	
Finance Manager			176	
Municipal Airport/Park	*	X	183	
Parks & Recreation Department		X		
Centennial Park	*	X	169	
Civic Center Park	*	X		
Coe Park	*	X	169	
Earl F. Johnson Park	*	X	163	
Hanford Community Garden		X		
Hidden Valley Park	*	X	163	
Lacey Park	*	X	169	
Longfield Center		X		
Municipal Swimming Pool		X		
South Harris Softball Park		X		
Skateboard Park		X		
Youth Athletic Complex		X		
Planning Department	*			
Building Department			168	

**2002-2003 GRAND JURY**

**Local Government Committee Record of Visits**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>00-01</b>	<b>01-02</b>	<b>02-03</b>	<b>03-04</b>
Public Works				
Engineering Department			188	
Fleet/Building Maintenance			172	
Refuse Waste Department			170	
Street Maintenance Department			180	
Shop Facilities				
Waste Water Treatment Plant			178	
Water Department			177	
Corporation Yard			186	
Field Utilities			174	
<b>Lemoore</b>				
Building Maintenance		X		
City Clerk		X		
City Council		X		
City Manager		X	159	
Finance Director		X		
Planning Department	*	X		
Public Works Department	*	X	160	
Refuse Department		X		
Road Department		X		
Sewage Department	*	X		
Shop Facilities	*	X		
Water Department	*	X		
Parks & Recreation Department				
19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Park (Vierra Field)	*	X		
Heritage Park ( Hanford-Armona Road)	*	X		
Lemoore City Park	*	X		
Plaza Park	*	X		
Skate Board Park	*	X		
Westfield Lions Park	*	X		
Lemoore Golf Course			162	