

2003-2004

KINGS COUNTY



GRAND JURY

FINAL REPORT

2003-2004 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

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Members of the 2003-2004 Kings County Grand Jury

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AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Kings Area Rural Transit
Agency
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2696**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up and
Informational Interview
December 1, 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.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with KART Transportation Manager in the Grand Jury Chambers. The Committee was informed that all recommendations from the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report were in process of being complied with.

KART has 13 daily routes serving the city of Hanford, Lemoore, West Hills Community College, Lemoore Naval Air Station, College of the Sequoias, Cypress Medical Center in Visalia, Avenal, 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 Veterans Hospitals twice weekly. Eighty percent of KART's funding comes from federal, state and local taxes, the remaining twenty percent from passenger fares.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Treasurer/Tax Collector
Auditor/Controller
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford, CA 93230**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

**Ad Hoc
County Government**

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
January 7, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Auditor/Controller is elected for a four-year term. The Auditor/Controller is the "watchdog" over the legality of expenditures and handling of receipts; prepares financial audits of county departments and special districts; tabulates county revenues and expenditures and assessed valuation for the Assessor's rolls; computes tax bills; and provides administrative oversight to the County General Services Function.

The Treasurer/Tax Collector is elected for a four-year term. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer/Tax Collector to collect taxes on all secured and unsecured properties, miscellaneous license collections and collection of transient occupancy taxes. Responsibilities of the Treasurer/Tax Collector include cash management, safeguarding County funds, providing full accountability, maintaining an effective cash flow and investing idle funds.

FINDINGS:

The Grand Jury met in chambers with the County Administrative Officer, Treasurer/Tax Collector and the Deputy Administrative Officer at the request of the County Administrative Officer.

The County Administrative Officer provided the reasons why the Administration has recommended to the Board of Supervisors that Kings County combine the Treasurer/Tax Collector and Auditor/Controller into one Department of Finance.

By law, the electorate must approve the consolidation of two departments into one Department of Finance. This will be brought to the electorate on the March 2004 primary election.

Currently Treasurer/Tax Collector and Auditor/Controller are elected positions. The initiative proposes to change these positions from elected to appointed by the

Board of Supervisors. The State of California Constitution currently mandates only three positions are elected - Sheriff, District Attorney and Assessor.

The ballot initiative would combine the two departments and add cross training within the departments resulting in annual savings of \$12,000, possibly as high as \$25,000 in the first year.

There are three other counties in the state that have appointed Directors of Finance. Kings County would like to avoid making the same errors made in other counties, such as Orange County, whose risky investments and the liquidation of the county portfolios resulted in their filing of bankruptcy. State Legislation was passed in 1995 restricting county investments and shifting responsibility to the local Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is responsible for delegating investment authority annually.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Grand Jury supports the merger of Treasurer/Tax Collector and Auditor/Controller and encourages voters to carefully consider the initiative on the March 2, 2004 ballot.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury sees efficiency and savings to Kings County taxpayers in the proposed creation of a Department of Finance.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**County Library System
Administration
401 N Douty St
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-0261**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
September 22, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The County Library System provides library service through its seven branches located in Avenal, Armona, Corcoran, Stratford, Lemoore, Hanford and Kettleman City. The County Library and the Armona Elementary School District share responsibility for operating the Armona Community Library at Parkview School.

The proposed budget for 2003-2004 is \$1,072,800, which is down \$4,000 from 2002-2003. A percentage of property taxes collected in Kings County is the only constant source of income. Other sources of income are one-time grants, Friends of the Library, fines, and fees.

The Library System has a web site at www.sjvls.lib.ca.us/kings. The Library catalog is available on-line from a link on the Kings County Library's home page.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the County Librarian who spoke about the system as a whole and the Branch in particular. There are nine full time employees at the Hanford Branch. A tour of the facility followed.

There is a separate section for children where Book Buddy volunteers worked with 700 summer readers, under 13 years old, and 150 teenagers in 2003.

The California Public Library Foundation decides the funding from the state to county libraries. Kings County received \$70,000 for 2003, down from \$270,000 in 2002.

At the present time the library receives 300 magazine subscriptions, 9 newspapers in English and 2 in Spanish. There are ten computers in the computer lab and seven in the open floor area, all available for public use. The Hanford Branch contains approximately 90,000 volumes in English and foreign languages. Many

are in large print. The Librarian expressed a desire for more large print and non-fiction books, which would call for more space and added staff. All books checked in and out are done electronically. Borrowers with overdue books are sent two notices. Overdue accounts are turned over to Kings Credit Service for collection.

Available to the public is a quiet study area with separate computers for job searches and traffic school. Removing books from the quiet study area and putting them on the open floor shelves has caused a loss of space.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. When funds become available add extra floor space
2. When funds become available hire additional staff
3. When funds become available acquire new large print and non-fiction books

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Risk Management
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2379**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
August 11, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Risk Analyst is under the direct supervision of the County Administration. Duties include administratively directing management of all county insurance programs, including worker's compensation and general insurance liability. Other insurances carried by the county are: medical malpractice, crime/bond, dental and vision, and health.

Staff consists of one full-time clerical assistant for the Risk Analyst.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Risk Analyst in the Grand Jury chambers. The analyst explained the duties, which consist mostly of worker's compensation and employee health benefits. Claims for these benefits go to the Risk Analyst. Final decisions are made by Kings County Administration. If retirements are recommended, the analyst tries to make the transitions as smooth as possible. When a Claim for Damages is filed against the County, the claim is submitted to the Board of Supervisors. The Clerk of the Board distributes a copy of the claim to County Counsel and to Administration-Risk Manager. County Counsel calendars each claim to monitor times statutes.

During that period of time, it is the Risk Analyst's responsibility to determine who should handle a particular claim. Claims that pertain to road liability are generally coordinated through the Public Works Department. Risk Analyst checks with County Counsel for any claim they may be dealing with before making any outside referrals. A recommendation is then made by the Analyst to the Board of Supervisors to either reject or accept a claim. If a complaint is served on the Board the Analyst checks with County Counsel to see if the complaint should be handled in-house or not. Most complaints are then sent immediately to an outside attorney who handles the complaint through to resolution.

The analyst visits the various county departments and conducts training sessions. Part of the duties of this position is to interview new hires and explain all the optional insurances available to them, such as: life, income protection, etc. Employees working 20 hours a week, or more, are eligible for all benefits. At the present time the county is self-insured for claims up to \$500,000. The broker for the County is in Fresno. The analyst explained the broker was the best person for the job.

The County Safety Officer works with the Risk Analyst and provides information regarding accidents, injuries or illnesses of employees.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Risk Analyst for the interview.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Department of Child
Support Services
525 W Third St
P O Box 1289
Hanford CA 93232
(559) 584-1425 ext 4163**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
October 27, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Department of Child Support Services promotes the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of families by delivering effective child support services to help meet the financial, medical and emotional needs of children.

No one will be excluded from services or denied access to the child support program or otherwise subjected to treatment that is different than that provided to others because of age, color, disability, ethnic group identification, national origin, race, religion or sex.

FINDINGS:

The Committee went on an informational tour to Child Support Services and met with the Director and the Assistant Director. The Committee was informed that the service has been at this location approximately one year. Originally the department was part of the District Attorney's Office. It became a stand-alone Department of Child Support Services on July 1, 2002. The Governor signed legislation in 1999 establishing a California Department of Child Support Services transferring local programs from district attorneys to county departments.

Services offered by the Child Support program include: establishing paternity (fatherhood); locating parents; requesting child support orders from the court; requesting medical support orders from the court; enforcing child and spousal support orders; modifying child support orders and collecting and distributing child support.

Staffing consists of 73.5 positions which include process servers, lawyers, support specialists, etc. Funding comes from the State of California 34 percent and Federal funds 66 percent. With the current budget cuts, the service is facing a reduction in staff funding.

In 2002 there were between 10,000 and 11,000 active cases, with \$13 million collected in child support. The service is not able to collect in all cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Director and Assistant Director for the tour and refreshments.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Kings In-Home
Supportive Services
Public Authority
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 3610**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
January 12, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) was affiliated with the Kings County Human Services Department. The IHSS became a new department, per state mandate, which had not been visited by the Kings County Grand Jury.

FINDINGS:

The Executive Director of IHSS met with the Committee in the Grand Jury Chambers. The Director advised the Committee that the current Governor of the State of California has earmarked the agency for elimination as part of the California State budget reduction. The agency was mandated by legislation and had to be in place by January 1, 2003. The Welfare Department administers the IHSS with funds from the Federal Government (50 percent), State Government (30 percent), and County Government (20 percent). The current annual budget is \$375,000.

The IHSS is guided by a state mandated and locally appointed advisory council, the majority of whom are current or past users of IHSS, and the Kings County Board of Supervisors who sit as the Board of Directors for this public agency.

Kings County has 1,200 recipients of IHSS. Providers, those employed to work for the recipients, have thorough background checks, past employer reference checks and orientation and training. A registry is maintained with names of those qualified and approved as providers. The recipient makes the final choice of whom they hire as a provider. The State of California makes payment to a provider, with each being paid for a twenty-hour week maximum. Recipients of IHSS are qualified by receiving Supplemental Security Income, having a low income, being elderly or disabled. The IHSS is for recipients who wish to live in their own homes but need help with daily activities. Providers help with bathing, cooking, appointments and medication.

The general purpose of this agency is to improve the program for IHSS users and workers. Approximately 65 percent of IHSS are now performed by paid family members.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Executive Director of IHSS for his time and informative presentation.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Economic Development
Corporation
120 N Irwin St
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-3576
1(800) 533-4039
www.kingsedc.org**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
December 1, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Economic Development Corporation (Kings EDC) has the task to advertise and recruit new businesses to Kings County.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Kings EDC President-CEO, who is also the director of the Job Training Office. The corporation consists of 49 employees with a budget in excess of \$4 million.

Some of the accomplishments for this corporation to be proud of are as follows:

1. The construction and opening of Leprino Foods, the world's largest mozzarella cheese manufacturing facility, near Lemoore
2. The opening of AGUSA Inc., near Lemoore, a high quality tomato powder producing plant with world wide distribution
3. The cities of Avenal and Lemoore received over \$5.7 million in federal economic development funding to develop additional industrial parks
4. The Cross Valley Rail Corridor Project completed the upgrade of the rail originating in the Fresno County community of Huron, continuing east through Lemoore and Hanford to Visalia. The 44-mile line now accommodates the new generation "Super" rail cars, providing improved transportation capabilities

5. The completion of a second GWF Energy peaker plant in Kings County
6. West Hills Community College in Lemoore completed the first phase of its construction
7. Rite Aid opened a new store in the City of Corcoran
8. The City of Hanford welcomed Home Depot, approved a new Target Center and is scheduled for one of California's first Wal-Mart Super Centers

All of these additions have helped the employment situation in the county, but much more is needed to lower the 14.5 percent unemployment rate. Kings County has a current population of over 134,000 and is expected to grow to 200,000 by the year 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury found the informational tour to be very enlightening and a source of good information. We thank the President-CEO for the time he devoted to us. He was more than willing to answer our questions. Keep up the good work.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Government Center
and Park Shop
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2690**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour and
Informational Interview
February 9, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Government Center moved to the present site in 1977-1978. It consists of approximately 77 acres and 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.

This follow-up tour and informational interview was a result of the recommendations of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report. The recommendations were:

1. The drainage grate on the 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 cross walk 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.

The 2002-2003 County Government Committee made an inspection on April 14, 2003 and found that recommendations numbers 1, 2, 3 and 7 were completed. Recommendation numbers 4, 5, 6 and 8 still required action to be taken to insure compliance.

FINDINGS:

The Committee toured the areas of concern and found that recommendation numbers 5, 6 and 8 had been addressed. Due to budget restrictions and shortage of personnel recommendation number 4 cannot be accomplished. The safety hazards addressed in number 7 will be rectified upon completion of the new park's shop. The old park's shop will be demolished.

The Committee met with the Director, the Building Maintenance Superintendent and the Parks and Grounds Superintendent in the Public Works Conference Room. The Committee was informed that with anticipated budget cuts, staff reduction and loss of inmate help the grounds cannot be properly maintained.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Director, the Building Maintenance Superintendent and the Parks and Grounds Superintendent for the interview.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up and Tour
March 1, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Shop is located on 11th Avenue north of Houston Avenue. This shop is responsible for repairing and maintaining most of the county equipment, including vehicles for the Sheriff's Department, and large equipment for the Kings County Road Department. Maintenance for Fire Department vehicles and equipment is contracted to a local farm equipment maintenance company. There are seven employees in the 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.

This follow-up tour was in response to the Grand Jury 2002-2003 Final Report recommendation to replace rain gutters on the south side of the building.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Fleet Service Manager and found the rain gutters have been replaced.

A tour of the facility revealed the shop well organized and maintained. All shop employees are Master Mechanics (Automotive Service Excellence Certified).

The Committee found containers of recycled lubricant and antifreeze in an open area. These are subject to spills and ground contamination during inclement weather. Construction of an awning over this area would help prevent contaminants from draining to the surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The County Shop and the Fire Department should conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the possibility of the County Shop maintaining the vehicles and equipment for the Fire Department.
2. An awning should be constructed to protect the lubricant and antifreeze containers from drainage during inclement weather and to help protect the environment

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Fleet Service Manager for an informative tour of the shop.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Planning Agency
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 584-8989**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
March 8, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

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

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

1. For building valuations, the Valuation Table of the Building Standards
2. For building code fees, the Valuation Building Code Tables
3. For plumbing code fees, the Uniform Building Code
4. For electrical fees, the National Electrical Code

These state and national standards are periodically updated. For example, California State Building Code Valuation Tables are issued on a three-year cycle.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Director of Planning and Building Inspection in the Engineering Building. The Kings County Planning Agency includes the following departments and divisions: Kings County Planning Department, Kings County Building Inspection Department and Kings County Code Enforcement Compliance Division. Staff allocations consist of 16 positions: one director, two administration support, three building inspectors, four planners, three

transportation planners, two code compliance officers and one building-planning technician.

Additional duties of the Director include Local Agency Formation Committee Executive Officer and Kings County Associations of Governments Executive Secretary.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Director for his time.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Kings Mosquito
Abatement District
10871 Bonnie View
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 584-3326**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Interview
December 26, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Mosquito Abatement District (KCMAD) currently covers 552 square miles, which includes a small portion of Tulare County. The KCMAD is governed by a seven member Board of Trustees, which has two openings at the present time. The District has eleven permanent and ten to fifteen seasonal employees, depending on the anticipated workload. The 2002-2003 Grand Jury made five recommendations of which all were safety items.

FINDINGS:

The Grand Jury met with the District Manager and the Assistant Manager-Biologist in the Grand Jury Chambers. All of the recommendations made by the 2002-2003 Grand Jury have been adhered to except protecting the mosquito larvicide GB-111 tank sight gauge. The District Manager assured the Committee that all work would be completed no later than March 31, 2004.

There are numerous diseases that can be transmitted by the mosquito. Most of these diseases can be deadly. One of these that we have heard a lot about lately is West Nile Virus (WNV). This virus was not detected in the United States until 1999. In 2002, WNV was detected in Southern California and is expected to reach the San Joaquin Valley by as early as the summer of 2004.

The Committee was informed by the Assistant Manager-Biologist that to decrease exposure to mosquitoes and the infections they may carry, avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk. When outdoors, wear long pants, long sleeve shirts and other protective clothing. Apply insect repellent containing 'DEET' according to the instructions on the label. Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding. Contact your local mosquito control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the District Manager and the Assistant Manager-Biologist for an excellent presentation.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Water Districts
Laguna Irrigation Dist
5065 19 1/2 Ave
Riverdale CA 93656
(559) 923-4239**

**Stratford Irrigation Dist
P O Box 538
Stratford CA 93266
(559) 924-1246**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
November 3, 2003
Informational Tours
November 10, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

There are 18 irrigation and water districts serving Kings County. Irrigation districts exist mainly to appropriate, acquire and distribute water to agricultural land. Other powers include electrical distribution and flood control.

For the purpose of this report the Committee chose to study the Laguna and Stratford Irrigation Districts.

The basic programs of these districts are:

1. Distributing the water
2. Protecting, conserving and stabilizing the ground water
3. Negotiating and contracting for supplement water
4. Maintaining facilities for surface water distribution for irrigation and ground water replenishment, known as "recharge"
5. Preserving the existing surface water rights held by mutual water companies through a program of water stock acquisition and retention

FINDINGS:

Laguna Irrigation District

The Committee visited Laguna Irrigation District and discovered that the district had more of their acreage in Fresno County than in Kings County. This puts the Laguna Irrigation District under the Fresno County Grand Jury jurisdiction.

Stratford Irrigation District

The Committee met with the Secretary and Manager in the district offices. Stratford Irrigation District was formed on June 22, 1916 and currently consists of 9,727.96 acres. Annual assessments for the district are \$15.00 per acre and are collected by the district.

The district receives its water from Pine Flat Dam through the Kings River, and through its ownership of 6,850 shares of stock in Lemoore Canal & Irrigation Company.

The district has a five-man Board of Directors that meets monthly. Assessments are determined at the September meeting. Stratford Irrigation District is part of the Lemoore Canal & Irrigation Company.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

1. The Grand Jury thanks the Laguna Irrigation District for their time and information
2. The Grand Jury thanks the Stratford Irrigation District staff for the information provided in regards to the distribution of water in Kings County

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Tulare Lake Basin
Water Storage District
1001 Chase Ave
Corcoran CA 93212
(559) 992-4127**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
September 29, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District was formed in 1926, serving agriculture for over 70 years. It covers an area of 190,000 acres, of which 2,600 acres are in Tulare County. It receives water from the Kings, Tule, Kaweah and Kern Rivers.

It is a customer of the State Water Project (SWP) which provides water to areas of need throughout California. SWP, built and operated by the Department of Water Resources, is an important link in the long chain of water projects that began with the water projects of the Spanish missions. The largest state-built water development project in the United States, SWP's principal purpose is to store water and deliver it statewide. Other purposes are flood control, power generation and water quality improvement.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the General Manager of Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District in the Grand Jury Room. In 1963 the district started receiving water with 29 contractors for water rights from State aqueducts. This water district is the third largest contract in California and used for agriculture only.

While the state had signed contracts to deliver up to 4.2 million acre-feet of water, the facilities to provide and deliver this full amount during normal and drought periods have not been completed. Problems caused by drought-shriveled water supplies continue to be compounded by financial difficulties.

The district has a contract with the state to deliver 2.6 to 2.7 million acre feet of water a year. Any year the district receives less water, they are still obligated to pay five million dollars to the state.

The State has the authority to take local water supply from the Kings River. Future development for additional water storage at District Four and the Pine Flat Power

Plants has been put on hold. Over 200,000 acre feet of water yearly flows to the ocean from the Kings River. Additional storage could provide up to 750,000 acre feet.

If landowners within the district want to purchase water from other owners they only have to inform the District. At the present time the cost for water is \$63 per acre-foot. The Water District encourages farmers to turn off their pumps, to preserve the ground water level.

In the District, water is measured with flow meters at time of delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

1. Be cautious of water usage
2. California's prosperity is closely linked to its investments in providing a safe reliable water supply
3. "Food grows where water flows"

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Motor Pool
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2704**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour and
Interview
March 1, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Motor Pool is located within the Kings County Government Complex in Hanford, California. The motor pool is one of many branches of the Public Works Department for the County of Kings.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Fleet Service Attendant at the Motor Pool. This is a one-employee operation. All the vehicles that were not in use were parked in their assigned spaces and appeared to be neat and clean.

The motor pool fleet consists of fifty-six vehicles of which forty-three are sedans, nine are pickup trucks and the remaining four are seven passenger mini-vans. Thirty-nine of the fleet are powered by gasoline. Sixteen are powered by natural gas, and one hybrid Toyota is powered by electricity as well as gasoline. These vehicles are available to county employees upon request when the job requires travel. Fuel, with the exception of natural gas, is available at this location.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Fleet Service Attendant for the informative interview.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
December 29, 2003**

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 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 orientation 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 feet 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 percent of the profit made from selling the materials. KWRA has done a 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 \$53,982 to schools throughout Kings County’s JPA area. Currently all eligible schools in Kings County are participating in the School Bin Recycling Program.

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. 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 degrees Fahrenheit 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. Currently KWRA is at 48 percent diversion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Strong emphasis should be made on using clear plastic bags for all recyclable materials

COMMENTS:

1. Kings County has nine closed landfills that must be continuously monitored

2. Recycling reduces landfill dumping
3. The MRF is capable of recovering more materials with more wide spread use of CLEAR (see-through) plastic bags
4. The Grand Jury recognizes the progress being made through the use of recycling in Kings County.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour and
Interview
May 12, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

Kettleman Hills Facility (KHF) 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 20 years.

FINDINGS:

The Grand Jury met with the Director of Operations and the Executive Assistant of KHF and was given a presentation and tour of site operations.

The Director of Operations informed the Grand Jury that plans are under way to expand waste disposal activities for hazardous waste, designated waste and municipal solid waste at the Kettleman Hill Facility. This project involves continued disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes at KHF through development of three waste disposal units. The first is Unit B-17, 62 acres of

municipal solid waste with a capacity of 18.4 million cubic yards. The second is Unit B-20, 63 acres of hazardous waste with a capacity of 14.2 million cubic yards. The third is a vertical and lateral expansion of the existing hazardous waste disposal unit designated as Unit B-18, increasing the current acreage of this unit by 11 acres and 4.85 million cubic yards. The Director of Operations expects this expansion to result in increased capacity lasting at least an additional 20 years.

On tour, the Grand Jury 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 involved with any chemical substance, including the truckers bringing waste to the facility, are required to wear 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 laws protecting 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.

When landfill projects are completed, the units are restored to their natural appearance. Covered with local plants and grasses, supporting wildlife such as the endangered kit foxes and blunt nosed leopard lizards, the landfill will blend into the surrounding environment.

KFH 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 appreciates the outstanding presentation given in a manner that a layman could understand. Our thanks also go to our patient and pleasant driver, who was quick to point out the many public service projects undertaken by KFH and its employees in Kettleman City.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

County Safety Officer
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2518
tsmith@co.kings.ca.us

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Informational Interview
July 28, 2003

INTRODUCTION:

The County Safety Officer had no recent communication with the County Grand Jury. Therefore, the Committee had no information concerning this position.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the County Safety Officer in the Grand Jury Room. The County Safety Officer stated that he answers directly to the Board of Supervisors. He is responsible for providing the training to fulfill the requirements of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This training gives County employees the ability to recognize hazards they may encounter. Each County department has a safety coordinator who works with the Safety Officer to insure training for all employees of that department and provide status information for the County.

Ongoing safety training and safety awareness programs are provided to insure the safety of all County employees. The most prevalent types of accidents in 2001 were slip, trip, fall and repetitive motion injuries.

The highest rates of OSHA recordable incidents in 2002 were in the five departments where the type of work would most likely lead to more accidents: Fire, Sheriff, Human Services, Probation and Public Works.

The Safety Officer is not listed on the County Website.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Information concerning the Safety Officer should be included on the County Website

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Safety Officer for his informational presentation and his apparent dedication to promoting the safety of County employees

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Job Training Office
Kings County
124 N Irwin St
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-3532
www.kingsworkforce.org**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

County Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
December 1, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Job Training Office (JTO) maintains a list of jobs and potential employers. Qualified applicants are matched with available jobs. Training is provided as needed.

FINDINGS:

Training may be provided to individuals at no charge to the trainee. JTO will pay for the cost of training up to \$7,000 in certain cases. Occupational training ranging from three months to two years is available to eligible youth, adults and displaced workers to prepare them for today's job market. Scholarships are provided for tuition, books and tools. Those attending vocational training are provided childcare and transportation assistance.

Immediate response to business closures includes employee orientation covering one-stop services, financial management, job search and resume', workshops and connection with representatives from vocational training institutions. A 50 percent wage reimbursement is offered to employers to offset the cost of hiring and training new employees. Qualified young people between the age of 14 and 21 are sponsored for vocational training and are offered paid work experience in areas of their career interest. Work experience, job shadowing, on-the-job training and classroom training are available for long-term recipients of public assistance.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

Many thanks to the Job Training Office Director for his willingness to work with the Grand Jury.

SUMMARY

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The County Government Committee of the 2003-2004 Grand Jury consists of eight diversified members.

The County Government Committee met weekly: investigating, preparing and writing reports of many of the departments and agencies in the County of Kings to form the County Government portion of the Final Report. This consumed many hours and travel miles throughout Kings County.

The 2003-2004 Grand Jury visitation log indicates an Engineering Department in Public Works. The 2003-2004 Committee was informed there is no Engineering Department. All structural and architectural plans are sent to engineering firms in Fresno. Therefore, the Engineering designation was removed from the visitation log.

An Ad Hoc Committee prepared a report early concerning combining the Treasurer/Tax Collector and the Auditor/Controller into one Department of Finance. This was brought to the electorate on the March 2004 primary ballot. The voters of Kings County passed the initiative.

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.

Frank Peichoto, Chairman
Alex Maslowski, Assistant Chairman
Ethel Baker
Al Cotner
Norma McGuire
Tom Ross
Quinton Ross
Eldora Trigueiro

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Community Challenge Grant
Kings County Health Dept
330 Campus Dr
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2606**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
and Interview
August 19, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Community Challenge Grant (CCG) was started three years ago in Avenal as the Teen Smart Retention Program. As of May 2003 it has been moved to Corcoran and renamed Community Challenge Grant. This program promotes community development and outreach programs.

FINDINGS:

The Committee made an unscheduled visit to CCG. CCG has a budget of \$118,704 per year. They have two full time employees who are licensed Health Educators. Their main goal is teen pregnancy prevention. The program focuses on sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

We were told about their after school program at the Corcoran YMCA and that approximately 50 students participate in the program. The after school program also helps set career goals through field trips to various locations. Since the creation of CCG the number of teen pregnancies has dropped.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Notify affected county departments of the CCG the name change and any mission changes.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury commends the CCG for educating the county's youth on pregnancy prevention and helping to reduce the number of teen pregnancies in this county.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Tobacco Control Program
Kings County Health Dept
330 Campus Dr
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2606**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
and Interview
August 19, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Tobacco Control Program (TCP) is located in the Health Department building on Campus Drive. This program promotes the prevention of tobacco use through education.

FINDINGS:

The TCP has a budget of \$150,000 per year. These funds are generated through taxes and master settlement monies. There are two full time and one part time employees in this department. The two full time employees are licensed Health Educators.

Proposition 10 regulates smoking laws in the state of California. The State requires counties to look to the future to assess the need for tobacco free environments.

The Committee made an unscheduled visit to TCP and met with both Health Educators in the TCP office. The Committee was informed that tobacco is the leading cause of preventable deaths in this state. The Health Educators work with tobacco related issues for both adults and youth. They are trying to create a norm change, making sure people know that tobacco use can be detrimental to their health.

TCP has created an adult support coalition of 10 to 15 community volunteers. TCP designs Tobacco Free Zone signs for entry ways and distributes them to businesses throughout the county upon request. They also provide education materials to all government agencies and businesses in Kings County and create media messages, posters, signs and newspaper advertisements to inform the public of the dangers of tobacco use. In addition, they are available to give presentations in the county. TCP staffed an informational booth at the 2003 Kings County Fair. The

Committee was informed that TCP will be working to establish a Smoke Free Fair for 2004.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

1. The Grand Jury encourages the TCP to continue working for the support of other community agencies to help enforce the “No Smoking in Public Places” laws
2. The Grand Jury thanks the staff for a very informational interview. The staff was both enthusiastic and knowledgeable in providing Kings County citizens with information to create a tobacco free environment

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**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
February 10, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

This tour was in response to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report. Their recommendations were:

1. Replace back door
2. Finish painting the interior
3. Replace carpet at Mary Brock Hall
4. Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) should utilize all of Mary Brock Hall

FINDINGS:

The Committee toured the facility and found the back door was replaced, interior painted and carpet replaced.

The remainder of Mary Brock Hall is occupied by Child Protective Services; therefore, it cannot be used by KCCOA.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program has approximately 500 volunteers in Kings County. Five students from College of the Sequoias and California State University, Fresno currently volunteer with KCCOA. The students are working toward their Master's Degree.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Mental Health and Alcohol
and Other Drug Programs
Administration
Kings County
Administrative Office
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2382
msherman@co.kings.ca.us**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
July 29, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Kings County Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Programs Administration (AOD) has not been visited by the Grand Jury since 2001. This Committee requested a briefing from Kings County Mental Health Services that would provide us with an overall comprehension of the programs and services available to people needing assistance in the areas of mental health, alcohol or drug abuse.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Mental Health Director in the Grand Jury chambers to receive this overview July 29, 2003. The director informed us the total budget for Mental Health Services for fiscal year 2003-2004 is \$8,657,832. Of this, the total budget for AOD Prevention Services is \$1,627,460.

Mental Health provides a broad spectrum of services to the county residence. The responsibility of the Mental Health Director is to ensure that individuals in need of outpatient mental health services or inpatient psychiatric treatment have access to those services. Primary Prevention Services provides activities and services aimed at preventing drug and alcohol abuse to schools, youth groups, and other community associations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

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
February 17, 2004**

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 the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report recommendation:

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

FINDINGS:

The Committee went to the Avenal Elementary School and found that the leak in the hall roof near the Speech Therapy room had been repaired.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour and
Follow up
February 17, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

Avenal High School is one of eight schools in the Reef-Sunset Unified School District. Avenal High School was built in 1937. Twice in the last twenty-five years it has undergone a major restoration. This included remodeling and conversion of a bus barn into agriculture classrooms and a laboratory. A new gymnasium was funded in 2001.

A School Resource Officer (Kings County Deputy Sheriff) and a Kings County Probation Officer are on campus.

The school serves free breakfast and lunch to all students. The free meals are a federally funded program. Approximately 80 percent of the students eat these meals.

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury found that there was not enough seating for the students during the meal period. They 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.

Avenal High School officials told Committee members that Avenal voters had passed a bond in 2000 funding a new gymnasium.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury Committee toured the school on October 8, 2002 and made the following 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 litter 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 property and enhance the appearance of the school.
4. The hot water needs to be restored to the sink in the gymnasium locker room and this area cleaned up.

FINDINGS:

The Committee made a follow up tour on February 17, 2004. The Committee found no new additional seating for students during breakfast or lunch has been purchased or constructed. There is no maximum occupancy sign in the cafeteria. Kitchen staff serves approximately 390 to 410 students in no more than 17 minutes with 80 seats in the cafeteria. Prior Grand Juries have made recommendations for purchase or construction of additional seating for students during breakfast and lunch periods. The response from the school district that a facility plan is being developed is not a sufficient explanation. Immediate action should be taken by the Kings County Fire Marshal to see that fire and safety codes are being adhered to. Central air registers were full of litter including insulation, which could be a hazard to students eating nearby.

The Committee saw a trash compactor used by the cafeteria. It is in a non-secured area.

The grounds were clean and had plenty of garbage cans for litter.

The Committee was given a tour of the locker room and saw an example of the new locker that will be installed in three phases. The hot water has been restored to the sink in the gymnasium. One sink in the boy's locker room is not working. Two of the air blowers were out of order. The water fountain in the boys' locker room was not working.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The immediate purchase or construction of additional seating for the students during their breakfast and lunch periods seating in the cafeteria

2. The Kings County Fire Marshal inspect the cafeteria for all Health and Safety Code violations
3. Clean the central air registers in the cafeteria
4. Construct a fence around the trash compactor
5. Repair the sink, the air blowers and the water fountain in the boys' locker room.

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:

**Follow-up Tour
February 17, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

Tamarack Elementary School is a new kindergarten through fifth grade school, which opened at the start of the 2001-2002 school year. Tamarack is one of three elementary schools in the Reef Sunset School District.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury recommendations were as follows:

1. Complete the 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

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Principal, who gave the Committee a tour of the campus. We found that the problems have been resolved.

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1. The Library has added books to its collection, all processed by the Dewey Decimal System. The Computer Lab is complete with 23 computers and one printer.
2. A fence has been constructed between the buildings where a gap and ground elevation drop exists. Metal strips have been ordered to cover the spaces between classrooms. They will be installed when received.
3. The bottom of the slide has been securely anchored to the ground.

4. Sodding the ground is an ongoing process. Open ground was seeded in December 2003. The area to be used for outdoor sports has been leveled and will be ready for activities in the spring.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**John C. Fremont School
1900 Bell Ave
Corcoran CA 93212
(559) 992-5102**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
October 21, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

John C. Fremont School is one of six schools in the Corcoran Unified School District. The school was constructed in 1951.

Because of the large number of children enrolled in lower grades the school district uses its facilities in a unique way. Students in the lower grades are assigned to one facility that houses only one or two grade levels.

FINDINGS:

The Committee made an unscheduled visit to John C. Fremont School. The school has an enrollment of 482 students in the second and third grades. The school has 27 classrooms and 29 teachers.

The school has one special education class. There are also three English immersion classes. Each classroom has three computers with internet access. There are 20 students in a class on average. The school is very involved in teaching parents how to be teachers at home. Teachers meet with parents once a week or when a teacher thinks the student needs extra help.

The school is also on the USDA Free and Reduced-Price breakfast/lunch program, which serves 100 percent of the student body. All students may eat breakfast and lunch free. All meals are prepared on site.

The Committee toured the campus; it appeared to be clean. The staff was very informative and seemed to enjoy their jobs.

The Committee observed that there are no crosswalks or school zone signs and the curbs around the school are not painted red for no parking.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Explore ways to communicate with the City of Corcoran to get school zone signs, crosswalks and curbs painted to insure student safety while coming to and going from school.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury knows this is a problem for the City of Corcoran, but the safety of the students should be the concern of everyone.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Bret Harte School
1300 Letts Ave
Corcoran CA 93212
(559) 992-2188**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
October 21, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Bret Harte School was established in 1953. It is one of six schools in the Corcoran Unified School District. Students are drawn from the school age population of Corcoran and the surrounding area. Because of the large number of children enrolling in the lower grades, the school district uses its facilities in a unique way. Students in lower grades are assigned to one facility that houses only one or two grade levels.

FINDINGS:

The Committee made an unannounced visit and met with the school's secretary. We were informed that the school is for preschool and first graders.

The school currently has 520 students, of which fifty percent do not speak English as a first language. There is a migrant program on campus. All students may eat breakfast and lunch free.

A new fence installed in October is beneficial in keeping students from running into the busy street.

Also on this campus is the Healthy Start Program, a state funded program which serves the whole Corcoran Unified School District. The Committee met with the coordinator. We were informed it serves kindergarten through fifth grades. Some of the program's goals are to promote healthy families, to provide medical referrals, and to coordinate with school nurses to assist special education.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

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 Tour
October 2, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Corcoran Community Day School is administered by the Corcoran Unified School District. The school instructs both high school and elementary students that have been expelled from regular schools.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the principal and was shown the improvements made in response to the recommendations made by the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report. While it was recommended that a separate cafeteria be built, the present site will not accommodate one. It was also recommended that school facilities be established to keep food hot or cold. The school now has a hot cart to keep foods hot and a refrigerator to keep foods cold.

A recommendation was made that the school be assigned a part-time counselor. We were informed that while a counselor is present one day per week, the school is trying to attain grant money for a part time counselor to come more often. The Principal told us it would be very beneficial to have facilities to teach vocational classes. This is one of the things they hope to attain in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to seek funding for a part time counselor
2. Seek funding for facilities to accommodate vocational classes

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury commends the improvements that have been made and encourages continued efforts for future improvements.

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 Tour
October 2, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Mark Twain School is in the Corcoran Unified School District. Usually, fourth and fifth grades are taught here. This year third grade is also being taught to help handle an overflow from John C. Freemont School.

FINDINGS:

This tour was in response to recommendations made in the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report. It was recommended that the sinks in the boy's restroom in the H-wing be repaired. Also, the paper towel dispensers in all bathrooms should be sufficiently supplied.

The Committee found that the sinks in the boy's restroom in the H-wing were in proper working order. The paper towel dispensers were sufficiently supplied in the restrooms.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the school for its quick response to the recommendations of the prior year Grand Jury Final Report.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Kit Carson Union
School District
9895 7th Ave
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-2843**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Citizen Complaint
Informational Tour
November 4, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Kit Carson Union School was built in 1952 for kindergarten through eighth grades. Kit Carson and Mid Valley Alternative Charter schools are included in the Kit Carson School District and share a campus.

This visitation was the result of a citizen complaint to the 2003-2004 Grand Jury. The complaint stated that the Mid Valley Charter School area had been remodeled with monies designated for the charter school. Then the Kit Carson School District relocated the charter school to an area that does not have handicap access.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Superintendent-Principal on an unannounced visit. We were informed that the monies used to remodel the Mid Valley Charter School were received through a state grant for reconstruction purposes for the school district.

While speaking to Mid Valley staff the Committee learned that the building they now occupy is larger than the one they previously occupied. The Committee saw no handicap ramps or handrails for stairs. The Superintendent-Principal stated that these items were under construction.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bring Mid Valley Charter School into compliance with state regulations for handicap accessibility.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Delta View Joint Union
School District
1201 East Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3122**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
September 23, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Delta View Joint Union School District was established in 1912. The district has only one school (Delta View Elementary). Construction of the buildings at the current site was begun in 1950. Delta View Elementary consists of five permanent classrooms and one portable classroom that serves as the library. The school is a kindergarten through eighth grade school and has a student body of 93 with an ethnic composition of 60 percent Hispanic and 40 percent Caucasian.

The school staff includes the Superintendent/Principal, five teachers, four bi-lingual instructional aides, a volunteer librarian, a bus driver/maintenance man/grounds keeper and one full time administrative assistant/secretary. Each teacher is required to teach a consecutive grade combination class (i.e. first and second, third and fourth, etc.). Delta View also has the support services of a speech therapist, a resource teacher, a school nurse and a school psychologist furnished by the Kings County Office of Education. All the teachers have state teaching credentials. Delta View has been a Charter School since 1998.

FINDINGS:

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

years the school has won a \$5,000 Governor's Reading Award. This year they won the award, but no money was received.

In the computer lab each child is issued a password they must enter whenever they log in and out of the computer. The Superintendent/Principal informed the Committee that it was a great way to monitor each child's activity. Students are participating in a Renaissance Learning Program. Teachers have expressed the need for more books and quizzes to support the program.

The Committee was informed that the annual district's budget is approximately \$684,000. Delta View Joint Union School District extends into Tulare County and approximately one third of the student body comes from Tulare County. The term "Joint Union" refers to the fact that the District has attendance from two counties.

The Committee learned that 75 percent of the children are bussed to school each day. Accidents have occurred on Highway 198 that runs in front of the school. A recent fatality occurred a student attempted to cross the highway.

Approximately 75 percent of the children are receiving free/reduced breakfast and lunch programs. All meals are transported in from Kit Carson School Cafeteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

As soon as funds become available, acquire the Renaissance Learning Program books and quizzes.

COMMENTS:

Grand Jury was very impressed with the overall operation of the district and pleased with the students and teachers welcome.

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 Tours and
Informational Interview
January 27, 2004
February 3, 2004
March 2, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

Lakeside Elementary School was built in 1953 and reconstructed during the period of 1989-1991. The school enrollment is two hundred thirty six and fourth through eighth grades are taught.

The 2002-2003 Final Report made recommendations based on the 2001-2002 Final Report, which recommended the removal of old drinking fountains and capping the remaining plumbing.

FINDINGS:

This year's Committee made a follow-up tour of the school and found that the drinking fountains were in general disrepair and in unsanitary condition. Two of the drinking fountains did not work and all of the fountains we saw were unclean.

On February 3, 2004, the Committee met in chambers with the Interim Superintendent and the Assistant Principal of the Lakeside School District..

The condition of the fountains was discussed along with the fact this problem has been present since 2001 and has not been resolved by the school. One issue is that of cost. The school district could not afford to replace the fountains, only to repair them.

During the interview it was suggested that the malfunctioning fountains should be out of use until they are repaired. The Superintendent agreed that this was a good idea, and would be done.

The Superintendent said the deferred maintenance money, which is provided by the State and matched by the district, can be used to repair the fountains. We were assured that the problem would be fixed in a timely manner.

The Committee made a subsequent visit to the school to reassess the drinking fountains. We found that the fountains had been cleaned and repaired, and were all in working order.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury is relieved that after two years these repairs have finally been completed.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Office of Education
Kings County
1144 West Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 584-1441**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
January 20, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Office of Education (KCOE) is responsible for distributing federal, state and local funds to the 14 school districts in the county. Other responsibilities of KCOE include assisting teachers in obtaining and renewing their credentials and providing school districts with an updated monthly substitute list with approximately 340 active substitutes. KCOE provides workshops for substitutes and new teachers. The KCOE Superintendent of Schools is an elected official.

KCOE was founded in 1893 with the election of the first Superintendent, 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 7th and Irwin streets. One of the first actions of the board was to develop a teacher certification test for Kings County teachers.

FINDINGS:

The KCOE Administrative Assistant briefed the Committee on current programs in the county. We were informed that there are about 2,000 teachers working in Kings County schools. Most of the funds to operate our schools (70 percent to 80 percent) come from the state. Of the remainder, 7 percent comes from federal sources, 11 percent comes from property taxes and other local sources and 2 percent from the state lottery.

The county provides limited psychological and health services for districts that have fewer than 900 students. On seven school campuses the system offers 28 special education classes for students with various physical, mental and emotional handicaps. Services are provided for some of the students until age 22. At that age, those needing further services are referred to Kings Rehabilitation Center. All county schools are online. Computer availability and technological training are increasing at a steady, rapid rate. KCOE has launched the Digital California

Project (DCP), a wireless network which when completed, will include access to the internet, support of educational resources and emergency services 100 times faster than internet services currently provided to county schools. Even the school busses will be connected through this service by the end of the year.

When DCP is completed, there will be 23 sites in Kings County. Kings County is the first in the nation to have a network of this magnitude. Eventually, this system will connect all K-12 schools to the existing high-speed educational network of the University of California, California State University, and Community Colleges of California.

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 and
Informational Interview
December 9, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

This follow-up and interview was in response to the recommendations of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report. Recommendations of the Final Report were:

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

In their response the Hanford Joint Union High School District stated that the off street drive for loading and unloading buses has been completed. A flyer to parents informed them of the procedure for loading and unloading students.

Recommendations 1 and 2 were not addressed in the response from the School District.

Past Grand Juries made attempts to have crosswalks painted on Campus Drive near the schools. Contact with the City of Hanford, Hanford City Council, Kings County Board of Supervisors and the School District did not result in the problem being taken care of.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Hanford City Public Works Director and the Senior Traffic Engineer in the Grand Jury Chambers.

The Committee was informed that an analysis would be done on Campus Drive to determine if crosswalks are warranted. Included in the analysis will be a study of the number of cars, speed driven, number of pedestrians, the facility to be served and research of past accidents. After the analysis is completed the reports will be sent to the Parking and Traffic Commission for a final decision. The Commission's final recommendation is then turned over to the Public Works Director for implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

1. Final Reports of prior Grand Juries were not directed to Public Works Director for action
2. This Grand Jury looks forward to the analysis and results of the traffic survey on Campus Drive

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 Tour
March 3, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

A student who attended Lemoore Union High School suddenly and tragically died. The cause of death was uncertain but bacterial meningitis was suspected. The Public Health Department responded as if it were the cause of death as a precautionary measure and to ensure containment if an actual virus was detected.

In this country meningococcal disease uncommonly causes secondary cases. Most cases of disease occur in young people, but even in the school setting secondary cases are not common. The persons at most risk are the close, intimate associates of the source case such as household contacts or close personal friends. Even these close contacts are at low risk of developing disease. With the cooperation of the family and school, the Health Department must identify these close contacts so that they can receive preventive treatment. The risk to other students and members of the school community is very remote. As an added precaution the members of the school community would be advised to seek immediate medical attention should they develop an illness associated with a fever of 101 degrees or more for the ensuing week.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Principal and was given a complete briefing of the known elements surrounding the events that transpired prior to the student becoming ill. We were told the student had been on a FFA field trip and had returned on Sunday along with other students and teachers. The Principal was notified of the student's illness approximately two days later and he immediately contacted the other students who participated in the field trip. He then attempted to contact the Kings County Health Department to no avail. He attempted calling the local emergency numbers but discovered the emergency service is not staffed during non-business hours and there was no forwarding information, nor was there any way to leave a voice message.

The Principal informed us he was able to make contact after 8:00 am and once notified the Health Department went into full action. He told us he was very pleased with their handling of the situation and the only problem he experienced was making the initial contact.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

1. The Grand Jury thanks the Lemoore High School Principal for his diligence in handling such a tragic loss and commends him for remaining calm and providing comfort to the students of his school at a critical time.
2. The Principal was unaware that if he had dialed 911, county dispatch would have contacted the Health Department.
3. The Grand Jury contacted the Health Department and informed them of the problem with the after hours-emergency contact phone number. As a result the Health Department immediately corrected the problem.

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 Tour
September 30, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Lee Richmond School is one of 10 schools in the Hanford Elementary School District. It consists of Kindergarten through Sixth grade. This follow-up tour was a result of recommendations made in the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report. The recommendations were as follows:

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

FINDINGS:

The Committee visited the site and found that the water meter box and surrounding area had been repaired to alleviate any hazard for entrants.

We also observed that the non-skid material has been removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Health and Education

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
March 2, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Hanford Elementary School District Central Kitchen prepares and delivers breakfast and lunch to eight Hanford elementary schools and two junior high schools in the district, also Shelley Baird School, Western Christian School, Kings County Cysis Program and the Kings County Community Day School. They also make after school snacks for the Recreation Enrichment Academics Devoted to Youth (READY) Program.

The Food Service staff consists of the program manager, one supervisor, two full-time cooks, one half-time cook, three part-time utility workers, two bookkeepers and two custodians. Two trucks go out to deliver food to the sites.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Food Service Program Manager, who told us that the central kitchen prepares 1,500 breakfasts daily, as well as 3,700 lunches and 800 snacks for the READY program. Food cooked at the central kitchen is put into hot food carts, which maintain warm foods at 140 degrees Fahrenheit to ensure safety. The facility is inspected by the Kings County Health Department to ensure compliance with federal health standards.

Each school site that receives food from the central kitchen has two food service workers and one clerk to unload the food carts, serve the food and receive payment for meals. Students pay for meals with electronic tickets. Each student keeps his or her number from kindergarten through eighth grade.

When asked what the program needs, the Program Manager replied that the freezer currently in use is not large enough. Plans are underway to install a larger walk-in freezer. The old freezer will be converted to a walk-in refrigerator.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: The Central Kitchen staff does an excellent job.

SUMMARY

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The 2003-2004 Health and Education Committee was comprised of nine members. The Committee made 19 visitations and in-chambers interviews, which resulted in 19 reports being written. One of the visitations was a result of a Citizen's Complaint.

One of our reports addressed concerns aroused by the death of a Lemoore High School student. Initially, our investigation focused on the school's effectiveness in dealing with a potential health emergency. We found that the principal had handled the situation admirably in spite of a breakdown in communications with the Health Department. The Health Department emergency service was not staffed during non-business hours and there was no forwarding information or way to leave a voice message. The Grand Jury contacted the Health Department and informed them of the problem. As a result, the Health Department corrected the problem.

Each member of the Health and Education Committee brought with them their own areas of expertise. Each benefited substantially in learning about the variety of health and education programs available to the residents of Kings County.

We are proud of our time and effort spent in learning about the Kings County health and education facilities. We appreciate the warmth and cordiality we received on our visits.

Wesley Harvick, Chairman
Ethel Baker, Assistant Chairman
Vincent Banales
Janet Bloyd
Richard Martinez
Norma McGuire
Frank Peichoto
Carol Scott
Eldora Trigueiro

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
Informational Interview
October 9, 2003
January 29, 2004**

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 program areas including: Operations, Support Services, Records and Communication, Traffic Enforcement, School Resource Officer, Narcotic Task Force, Gang Task Force and Problem Oriented Policing Team. HPD recently had a change of command.

FINDINGS: (Informational Tour)

The Committee met with the Watch Commander and was given a complete tour of the police station's facilities. The Watch Commander provided the Committee with a tour of HPD areas by departments and their functions. HPD presently has 49 sworn officer full-time positions. Currently there are two positions frozen due to budget cuts.

Four record clerks and volunteers enter police reports into the computer system. However, due to the volume of calls and written reports, this department has a backlog of three months.

Dispatch Control Mobile Path Terminal (MPT) has 10 full-time dispatchers. There are two dispatchers and one supervisor assigned to each shift 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Dispatch receives 200-300 calls per day, over and above 911 calls.

The Watch Commander oversees operations by radio and computer. This allows the Watch Commander to monitor all activities of the patrol division. The booking area consists of two holding cells, a small interview room and the Indentix

fingerprinting system. The Indentix fingerprinting system is utilized for fingerprinting of various community volunteers and mandated positions requiring fingerprinting by the State of California.

Investigations Division actively investigates open cases. The work area is small with minimal privacy. Investigators do have access to a private interview room for the purpose of interviewing a witness or suspect. Overall, the area is neatly organized and well maintained.

Personnel are provided areas such as a break room, female day room, male locker room, weight room and a briefing room. Staff is given a number of optional ways to continue training. The briefing room is utilized as a training room.

The parking compound is very small and overcrowded. Areas of concern include inadequate parking for police and private vehicles. The Committee toured the parking compound and was informed that the City of Hanford owns a number of adjoining buildings. Long term plans and goals are to expand and enclose the parking compound. This would provide a secured area for vehicles. It is the department's plan to relocate some of their offices to a building located east of the HPD.

The need for expansion is extreme. The current HPD building and parking facilities were built in 1979 and have long since run out of space.

RECOMMENDATIONS: (Informational Tour)

1. Fill officer vacancies as soon as practical
2. Acquire additional office space to accommodate the growth of the HPD

The Committee met with the new Chief of Police. He has 30 years of law enforcement experience. He shared a number of his goals and visions for the City of Hanford and its citizens. His first priority is to obtain a new sign for the City of Hanford Police Department. His explanation was the community should know where their Police Department is located. While building on the philosophy "build relationships with people and businesses in our community", he strongly believes this is a people business. You need to know your community in order for a department to work well. He also would like a flagpole in front of HPD. The Chief of Police plans to ask veteran's organizations for donations. A plaque would be installed to commemorate the gift. He wants his department and officers to build a rapport with the citizens of Hanford.

The Police Chief expressed short-term goals and long-term goals he would like to see achieved with his department and personnel. One of his long-term goals is a study for constructing a new police department building. He would also like to incorporate a police and fire administration building in the future.

His short-term goal is to initiate cost savings. He is presently looking to relocate the Investigations Division into the city owned building located east of the HPD. It would be named Hanford Police Department Annex. This would provide adequate workspace, approximately 300 square feet per officer. This building will meet a number of the department's required needs.

He proposes to close the alley, install electric gates and obtain adjoining parking lots. The resurfacing and expanding of the parking lot is expected to cost \$125,000. This project is expected to take three to five years for completion.

The Police Chief is in the process of developing a paint scheme for police vehicles with a motto in keeping with the City's historical values. His motto is "We're in the people business".

The Police Chief intends to implement area teams consisting of four officers. They will be assigned for at least four months to a specific area of the city. This type of program is often known as Community Oriented Policing and Problems (COPP) program. By identifying problematic areas, the officers can take pride in their jobs and will know their community. These changes will result in better rapport within the community. The Police Chief emphasized his philosophy of "Stepping back into the future".

RECOMMENDATIONS: (Informational Interview)

Continue the development of the COPP program.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Hanford Police Chief for taking the time to meet with the Committee. It was very informative, as well as encouraging, to hear about the plans and the commitment of service the HPD has for the future.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Hanford Fire Department
Station #1
350 W Grangeville Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-2545**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour
November 20, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Hanford Fire Station #1 is one of two fire stations located in the City of Hanford. The station houses one fire truck, one fire engine, and a squad truck. Firefighters are trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). In addition to fire calls, they also respond to vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, hazardous material spills and medical emergencies including crime related medical emergencies.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report recommended the Hanford Fire Department place instructional articles in local and regional newspapers to advise citizens of the inception of the Opticom system. The intent is to make the public aware of changes in traffic control for emergency vehicles.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Fire Chief and was given a tour of the station and a demonstration of a truck with a specialized extending ladder. The ladder can rotate and is equipped with a water nozzle at the top, which dispenses copious amounts of water from an elevated position.

The Committee was informed Opticom, a state of the art on-board computer system that allows city emergency fire and medical vehicles to control traffic signals to clear intersections has been installed and is currently operational. A local television station has aired a report about the Opticom system. Additionally, the Hanford Sentinel has published articles about the Opticom system.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury commends the Hanford Fire Department for its commitment to service and safety.

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 Interview and
Follow-up
March 11, 2004**

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 Kindergarten through Fourth 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-I Defibrillator (EMT ID) level, 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.

The follow-up recommendations of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury's Final Report were:

1. Lift hiring freeze and fill the four vacant positions
2. Review and increase pay schedules for firefighters to be comparable and equitable with neighboring counties
3. Install electrical power and water service at the training grounds
4. Evaluate and refurbish the 1978 pumper at the Stratford Fire Station when funds become available.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Kings County Fire Chief and the Training Officer in the Grand Jury Chambers to discuss the 2002-2003 Grand Jury's Final Report recommendations and the responses are as follows:

1. The hiring freeze has not been officially lifted, however, exceptions have been made and the four vacant positions have been filled. Due to transfers and promotions other positions have been vacated and every effort is being made to fill those as well.
2. The Kings County Fire Department has made arrangements to increase staff pay by four percent and discussions with the Fire Fighters Union are on going.
3. Plans are underway to extend water and power service to the training area.
4. The Committee was informed efforts to refurbish the 1978 pumper would be pursued once funds are available.

In addition to discussing last year's recommendations, the Committee was informed of the intensive training required of volunteer firemen. All volunteer firemen must be trained in the following state and federally mandated courses before they are allowed to respond to an emergency incident:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) | 6-hours |
| 2. | First Aid | 6-hours |

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 3. | Breathing Apparatus Fit-Testing | 1-hour |
| 4. | Hazardous Materials-First Responder | 8-hours |
| 5. | Confined Space Awareness | 4-hours |

Each volunteer must also complete levels of expertise designated into three categories; Volunteer Certification Level I, II, and III.

The Committee was informed a new volunteer committee has been formed to ensure mandated training to all of Kings County satellite stations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury commends the Fire Chief and staff for their diligence and dedication towards providing professional fire suppression services.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Armona Fire Station #5
Kings County Fire Dept
11235 14th Ave
Armona CA 93202
(559) 584-5206**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Visit
November 20, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this visit was to follow-up on the recommendations from the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report as follows:

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 14th Avenue
4. Install a sign with address identifying the fire station on 14th Avenue

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Fire Captain of the Armona Fire Station #5 on November 20, 2003. Two of the recommendations of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report were addressed. The leaking shower has been repaired, and the sign on Hood Avenue has been replaced. The remaining recommendations have not been completed due to lack of budgetary funds. This Committee joins last year's Committee with the recommendation to install an Opticom unit on Engine #5 and complete a sign for public view on 14th Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. When the budget permits, install the Opticom unit on Engine #5
2. Construct a sign identifying the fire station on 14th Avenue

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Captain for his time and information.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Burriss Park Fire Station #1
Kings County Fire Department
6575 Clinton Ave
Kingsburg CA 93631
(559) 582-2733**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour
September 18, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The 2002-2003 Law and Public Safety Committee toured the Burriss Park Fire Station #1 on April 24, 2003 and recommended that the Kings Fire Department purchase a set of “Jaws of Life” for Station #1.

FINDINGS:

The 2003-2004 Law and Public Safety Committee toured the Burriss Park Fire Station #1 on September 18, 2003, and found that the recommendations from the 2002-2003 Grand Jury had not been met due to budget limitations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Purchase a set of “Jaws of Life” for Fire Station #1.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury understands the budgetary crisis our government is experiencing. However, given the strategic location of this fire station and the area of response it covers, we believe Kings County Board of Supervisors should make the “Jaws of Life” a priority for Fire Station #1.

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
February 26, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1921 with 15 volunteer firemen. It has been operated totally by volunteers ever since. There are currently 35 volunteer firemen with a total of 4 rotating crews. The majority of calls are medical emergencies with approximately 25 percent of the calls for fires.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Fire Chief and the Secretary and discussed the recommendation of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report, which was to purchase a new pumper to replace the out of service and out-dated trucks. We were informed that a Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) grant was applied for in 2003, but was not received. Therefore, the department was not able to purchase a new pumper.

While talking with the Secretary, we learned that a part-time assistant secretary position had recently been vacated and due to budget cuts will not be filled. As a result of this, the Secretary now has to take on all of the tasks that were formerly performed by the assistant as well as all of her own responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Purchase a new pumper to replace the out-dated truck as soon as the budget allows
2. Fill the vacant assistant secretary position as soon as funds are available

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Chief and Secretary for a very informative tour.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour
December 18, 2003**

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. The 2002-2003 Grand Jury made a recommendation that the City of Lemoore should review the salary of the sworn personnel and make it competitive with the surrounding agencies.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief and the City Manager and discussed last year's recommendation. Due to budget problems and a hiring freeze, the department is unable to comply with the recommendation at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

When the budget is in better shape, re-evaluate and make the necessary changes to the salaries of the department.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Police Chief and the City Manager for their time and information.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Corcoran Sheriff Substation
Kings County
Sheriff's Office
1001 Chittenden Ave
Corcoran CA 93212
(559) 992-4141**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
November 6, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Corcoran Substation is staffed by members of the Kings County Sheriff's Office. Deputies at this substation provide law enforcement services for the unincorporated area surrounding Corcoran.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Corcoran Substation sergeant and was told the substation is currently staffed with one sergeant and four deputies. There are two vacant deputy positions. Currently recruits are being trained to staff those positions. Deputies work twelve-hour shifts with little overtime. The substation is staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Most of the calls the deputies respond to are within the unincorporated areas of Corcoran with an average response time of 12-13 minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Kings County Narcotics
Task Force
PO Box 53
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-2805**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
October 16, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Narcotic Task Force (KCNTF) initially started in 1978 under a federal grant program. Following the termination of the federal grant, KCNTF continued to operate by a formal agreement between the Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore Police departments, Kings County Sheriff's Department and the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. In May of 1985, the California Highway Patrol (Hanford Office) joined KCNTF. In 1987, the Kings County Probation Department went to a full contributorship with the assignment of a Deputy Probation Officer. Additionally, KCNTF combines staffing and/or resources from the Kings County District Attorney's Office, Naval Criminal Investigative Services and the NAS Lemoore Security Department. In October 1990, through a federal grant, a canine unit and handler were assigned to KCNTF on a full-time basis.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the supervisor of KCNTF in chambers and discussed the mission, goals and objectives of this specialized unit. We were informed a Special Agent Supervisor from the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Fresno Regional Office, supervises KCNTF. The KCNTF staff is comprised of one investigator from the Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore Police departments, California Highway Patrol, Kings County Sheriff's Department and the Kings County Probation Department. Additionally, the Kings County Sheriff's Department provides a secretary. When at full staffing the KCNTF would total six investigators. However, the Committee was informed the Lemoore Police Department has not been able to provide an investigator due to an internal agency issues. These assignments are considered temporary and the average term is two years. Once the term is completed the individual returns to their original assignment with their respective agency.

The KCNTF operates under the direction of a Board of Directors, which is responsible for setting investigative priorities, policy decisions and the general operating procedures of the unit. The Board of Directors is comprised of the Chief Administrator from each of the participating agencies, as well as the District Attorney of Kings County and the Special Agent in Charge from the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Fresno Regional Office. The Board of Directors meets on a regular basis to evaluate KCNTF activities and to develop and approve programs, policies and procedures.

KCNTF averages about 250-300 arrests per year. It works closely with the Kings County Gang Task Force and relies on support from the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) for additional staff and/or aerial support, as needed. Investigators are used for undercover operations but there are times KCNTF relies on outside sources, contingent on the nature of the operation.

The Committee was informed the number one problem facing KCNTF is the production of Methamphetamine. KCNTF estimate approximately 72 percent of its arrests are Methamphetamine related crimes. Approximately 52 percent of the assets from the arrests are returned to the KCNTF fund. The remainder of the assets is divided amongst other contributing governmental agencies. The assets not only consist of cash but include seized vehicles as well. The vehicles are sold at auction in Modesto, California and the appropriate proceeds are returned to Kings County.

KCNTF utilizes office space in a downtown location and the Committee was informed the facility is in poor condition and in desperate need of a complete renovation and/or replacement. Members of the Grand agree with the assessment of the KCNTF supervisor regarding the condition of the building.

The regular work hours of the staff assigned to the KCNTF are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday. However, these work hours and workdays fluctuate and the assignments usually dictate the actual hours worked. This results in a varied work schedule and the staff is expected to be flexible concerning their assignments. Every investigator completes a two-week Basic Investigator School training course, which includes a Courtroom Testimony component. All investigators are considered subject matter experts in the area of narcotics and are utilized by the District Attorney's Office, as needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Obtain an investigator/agent from the Lemoore Police Department as soon as practical.

2. Arrange an understanding with the participating agencies to modify the current two-year term for an investigator/agent to a minimum of four to five years. (1999-2000 Grand Jury Final Report states, "Arrange a three-year rotation of investigators with participating agencies")
3. Procure a new facility for the KCNTF to conduct their operation

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the KCNTF Supervisor for his time and applauds the efforts of this task force for the perilous job they do and for their assiduous efforts at securing a safe community for the residents of Kings County.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Animal Control Kings
County Sheriff's Office
10909 Bonnie View Ln
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 584-9214**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
August 7, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Animal Control is a division of the Kings County Sheriff's Department and serves as a location that accepts stray animals. They are responsible for licensing and registering canines.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Field Supervisor who provided us with a tour of the facility. We were informed Animal Control consists of three Animal Control Officers and one Supervisor. Additionally, they have one support staff member, one clerical position, one receptionist, occasional volunteers and two trustees from the Kings County Jail. The staff is on call 24 hours and as a result, they have take-home vehicles. The Field Supervisor informed us Animal Control averages approximately 60-80 hours of overtime per month and would like to reduce this overtime by establishing another officer position and acquiring an additional vehicle.

The Committee was informed Animal Control receives approximately 5,000 calls for service annually, of which about 15 percent are reports of vicious animals. Vicious animals are quarantined in a separate enclosed facility. The Committee was informed Animal Control has a capacity to accommodate 120 canines and 40 cats. The Committee was informed the cages where the cats are kept are about 20-30 years old and noted they appeared to be worn-out and obsolete.

The Committee was informed calls received involving non-domestic animals are primarily handled by the California Department of Fish and Game. We were informed stray animals are kept for four days, however there are times when exceptions are made. There are three non-profit organizations that assist in placing stray animals, Find-a-Friend, S.P.C.A. and P.R.O.U.D. The Field Supervisor told us they have not purchased food, for the animals, in about five years, because the Hanford Wal-Mart Store has donated all the food they need. Despite all the efforts

of both Animal Control and the non-profit organizations, there remains a need to euthanize approximately 350 cats and dogs per month.

The Committee was informed Animal Control does not have user access to the Kings County Government computer network.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. When funds are available create a minimum of one additional staff member to assist with the reduction and/or elimination of overtime
2. Replace old, worn out cat cages
3. Establish a link from the Kings County computer network to the Animal
4. Control computer system when money is available

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the staff of Animal Control for an informative tour. It is apparent these staff members share a genuine concern for the care and well being of the unfortunate animals they are required to handle on a daily basis.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Operations Division
Kings County Sheriff's Office
1444 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2886**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
February 12, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Sheriff's Department is responsible for approximately twenty-two departments.

The Operations Division is commanded by an Assistant Sheriff. Reporting to him are the three commanders for Headquarters Patrol, Support Services, and the Sub-stations. Within the Operations Division 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 and Tactics, Agricultural Crimes and the K-9 force.

Kings County is a rural, primarily agricultural, mid-state county with a population of approximately 112,000 and encompasses 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 State Prison, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, and Avenal State Prison. Small non-incorporated communities include Armona, Stratford and Kettleman City. Nearly 27 miles of California's Interstate Highway 5 runs through the western portion of the County.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Assistant Sheriff and the Commander of Operations in the Grand Jury Chambers. We were informed the Operations Commander is responsible for the Patrol Units, Detectives, Coroner's Office, Rural Crime Division, Court Bailiffs, Gang Task Force, Narcotics Task Force and the Sub-stations. Retired deputies can serve as bailiffs and are often called upon to serve as savings to the County.

Each patrol has a minimum of one sergeant, one senior deputy and four deputies assigned. Most patrols work 12-hour shifts with the exception of Avenal who work 10-hour shifts. The deputies are assigned take home vehicles, however, the

bailiffs are not. Since the inception of the take-home vehicle program, the County has benefited by experiencing fewer maintenance problems and overall cost effectiveness.

The Detectives Unit is supervised by a Commander and has a total of 10 permanent staff assigned. Some of the positions are funded through various grants and have specific areas of responsibility. The County, like the State of California, is experiencing financial difficulties, and we were informed we may lose some of our grant funds. If this were to happen it may effect staffing.

The Committee was informed the local Indian Rancheria averages approximately 1,600 calls for service per year. The Commander is in the process of assigning regular patrol units to this area to serve a two-year tenure. The incentive is for the officers to get acquainted with the local community and earn their trust and in doing so lower the overall crime rates. We were told the County receives \$900,000.00 annually paid directly to them to help offset the cost of providing police, fire and road maintenance services to the Rancheria. Additionally, there is a separate fund set up through the State. All gaming tribes are required to pay into this fund. The funds are later dispersed throughout the Counties.

The Assistant Sheriff informed us the Sheriff's Office considers Worker's Compensation to be a serious concern. The insurance rates are very high and continuously on the increase. Everyone is at a loss and there appears to be no resolution in sight.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
September 11, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Sheriff's Office 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:

The Branch Jail is staffed with 23 Sheriff's personnel and 14 civilians. The Committee learned that the Branch Jail has a present population of 143. 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 8 dorms, a multi-purpose room, kitchen-cafeteria, laundry, administrative offices and a monitoring control room.

One of the dorms, the violent offender unit, has a capacity of 22 inmates. Another dorm houses a total of 32 females. The remaining 6 dorms are for the less violent male offenders.

The violent offender unit is presently on lock down status and has been for approximately 2 years. Inmates are confined to their cells for 23 out of every 24 hours. They receive an hour of day room privileges or an hour of outside yard area daily.

The inmates receive 3 hot meals a day. The meals are delivered to the cells through a food port in the cell door.

The former cafeteria is currently used for contact visitations. Visitations are from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Saturday or Sunday. Admittance is limited to one adult and three children or two adults and two children.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury found a very well maintained Branch Jail. Keep up the good work.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Branch Jail Kitchen
Kings County
Sheriff's Office
690 East Dr
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 4102**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational
Interview
October 20, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Branch Jail kitchen is located within the Kings County Branch Jail. There has been no recent tour of the kitchen; therefore, the Committee had no information concerning the jail kitchen.

FINDINGS:

The County of Kings employs four cooks and one Senior Cook. The Senior Cook has worked in the kitchen of the Branch Jail since 1984. The staff works three shifts per day beginning at 3:00 A.M. and ending at 6:00 P.M. In addition to the paid staff, the Senior Cook supervises 16 minimum-security inmates who assist with cooking and clean up in each of the two kitchen facilities. All of the food is cooked at the Branch Jail kitchen and then transported to the Main Jail kitchen for serving.

The jail inmates receive three hot meals a day. Title 15, implemented by the Board of Corrections, dictates that dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables must be included in the daily menu. The menu rotates every 28 days. Kings County has the lowest food cost in the state: \$.77 per meal per inmate. The state average is \$1.25.

The Senior Cook is responsible for competitive bidding on food, placing the food orders, accounting, budgeting and projecting. According to the Senior Cook, the majority of the problems in the kitchen are as a direct result of the inconsistent inmate help. Inmates revolve in and out frequently. He also stated that sometimes, there is a lack of adequate staffing and not enough eligible inmates to assist in the kitchen. The Senior Cook estimates that it takes three inmates to do the job of one full time staff person.

The Senior Cook cited a second problem for the kitchen: the lack of freezer storage. Additional freezer storage would allow the Senior Cook to continue to purchase and store the most cost-effective food for the inmates.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Provide for additional staff when the budget allows
2. Provide the kitchen with an adequate freezer

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Senior Cook for his informational presentation and his dedication to cutting costs where possible.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up and
Informational Tour
December 4, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) is responsible for approximately 22 departments, one of which is the Kings County Main Jail. The Main Jail was built in 1964 with an originally capacity of 290 inmates, but due to litigation the capacity has been reduced to 150 inmates. Both male and female inmates are housed in the Main Jail facility. Because of litigation, the Sheriff has authority to grant early releases due to overcrowding conditions, and a multitude of inmates with less serious crimes have been granted early releases.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report recommended a new and modernized jail be constructed to appropriately meet the needs of Kings County.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with one of the facility deputies and was given a most informative tour. We were informed the KCSO has contracted with a new medical provider and can now provide for most of the general medical needs of its population, 24-hours a day, without having to incur costly transportation and outside medical consultation fees.

The Committee was informed the Main Jail has 20 visiting stations and three semi-private rooms for attorney and confidential visits; five administrative segregation cells; four cells used for medical reasons; and a 24-bed dorm used for Main Jail workers (we were informed isolating the workers from the general population helps to reduce the trafficking of contraband).

The Committee viewed the recently upgraded Live Scan finger and palm-printing machine. It has the ability to instantaneously link multiple agencies and search multiple databases for criminal history.

We toured the recreation yard and were informed staff utilizes a paint ball gun to disperse pepper spray to quell disturbances on the yard. We viewed the holding cell area, control room, cell used for suicide watch and the sobriety cell. The Committee was informed food ports had been installed in critical areas of the jail within the last six months.

While touring the facilities of the Main Jail, the Committee took notice of the deteriorating and degenerating conditions of the structure, electrical systems, lighting, and floor and wall surfaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up and
Informational Tour
January 22, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Communications Division of the Kings County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) has two sections: Radio Communications, 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.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report noted the Communications Division had been required to cut 15 percent of their budget and feared if further cuts were required it could effect staffing. The 2003-2004 Grand Jury elected to follow-up and inquire regarding the effects of budget instability on this division.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with a Central Dispatch Supervisor and took a follow-up tour of the Communications Division regarding the effects of a reduced budget. The supervisor informed us they absorbed the reduction in funds by cutting back on the purchase of equipment and not filling vacant staff positions. We were told the reduction in personnel was achieved through attrition and no one lost their job. The Committee was assured critical positions were staffed and the citizens of Kings County did not lose the quality of service provided by Central Dispatch.

The Committee was informed a new Dictaphone system had been installed and was operational. The system has the ability to record all conversations during a call for emergency services. The advantages of the system are two-fold. It allows for the recording of all emergency calls and it did not cost Kings County any out-of-pocket expense.

We were informed “911” calls initiated by cell phones are still being dispatched through the California Highway Patrol office located in Fresno, California. The state is in the process of providing a system in which all calls placed via “911” are handled locally, thus allowing for efficient emergency response.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

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

INTRODUCTION:

The Corcoran Police Department is located between City Hall and the Corcoran City 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.

The Committee reviewed the findings of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report, specifically regarding the Corcoran Police Department emergency response time and decided to conduct a follow-up and informational tour of the department.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with one of the Corcoran Police Department's staff members, since the Chief of Police was away from the station on official police business. We were given an informative tour of the newly remodeled police station. The dispatch area has been relocated and the records department appears to have plenty of room for storage. The Committee questioned the organization of the evidence room and was assured everything was in order. The staff member responsible for the evidence room was not available, and the Committee was satisfied with the assurance that all was in order.

The Committee received a letter dated November 7, 2003, authored by the Chief of Police. The Chief informed the Committee the emergency response time questioned in last year's Grand Jury Final Report had been significantly improved

and included photographs depicting the condition of the evidence room. The photographs revealed the evidence room to be exceptionally well organized.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Chief of Police and the staff of the Corcoran Police Department for an informative tour and a timely written response to our concerns. It is apparent to the Grand Jury that the Chief has made a positive impact on this department and has the full support of his staff.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Avenal Sub-Station Kings
County Sheriff's Office
501 E Kings
Avenal CA 93204
(559) 386-5361**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law & Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
August 26, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Avenal Sub-Station located in the City of Avenal, is one of six Sub-Stations located throughout Kings County. This station is manned by members of the Kings County Sheriff's Office in fulfilling a contract with the City of Avenal. The contract is for one year and must be renewed each year to be able to accommodate for any pay raises or other cost adjustments. The purpose of this Sub-Station is to provide police services for the City of Avenal. Deputies patrol 22 square miles, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Avenal's population is 15,329, which includes 6,109 inmates located at Avenal State Prison.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Sub-Station Commander. We were informed there are 12 employees, consisting of the commander, office assistant, 2 sergeants and 8 deputies, 13 take home vehicles and 1 unmarked vehicle. Kings County Sheriff Commander is the City of Avenal Police Chief. The Sheriff Sub-Station provides mutual aid to surrounding governmental agencies. He stated that he has a very good rapport with the City Council and the community.

The Commander described departmental programs. One of which is the Junior Service Officer assigned to Reef-Sunset Middle School and Avenal High School. The primary function is to assist students with various problems and conflicts, which would normally otherwise spill over into the community. This has been a very positive program. It is an essential resource of the schools, as well as the community.

The city has a zero tolerance for gang activities. They have a strict enforcement of city ordinances.

Avenal State Prison inmates, provide various community services.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Kings County Avenal Sub-Station Commander and staff for their time and tour of their station. Job well done.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Kettleman City Sub-Station
Kings County Sheriff Office
909 Brown
Kettleman City CA 93239
(559) 386-5351**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
August 21, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kettleman City Sub-Station is one of the Sub-Stations staffed by the Kings County Sheriff's Department. It is designed to provide police service in this remote area of Kings County. The Kettleman City Sub-Station is located off of Highway 41, near California Interstate 5.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the sergeant and was informed that the Sub-Station is staffed with a total of five Sheriff Deputies. They consist of four Deputies and one Sergeant. The Kettleman City Sub-Station falls under the supervision of the Avenal Sub-Station Commander. The Sub-Station is staffed on a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week.

The Deputy Sheriffs patrol about 800 square miles of Kings County, which translates to about one half of the total area of the county. In addition to the aforementioned patrol areas, this Sub-Station provides police service to the 1500-1600 residents of Kettleman City. The Sub-Station averages about one to two calls per day, per shift. The Committee was informed, at times, the residents of Kettleman City will walk to the Sub-Station to request assistance instead of calling.

The Committee was informed this Sub-Station has experienced some gang problems and has received some calls as a result of agriculture related crimes. We were told the gang situation is minimal and not a major concern and agricultural related crimes are primarily referred to the Rural Crimes Task Force. Additionally, we were told this sub-station receives and responds as mutual aide to the Avenal sub-station, California Highway Patrol, other police agencies and fire departments. The Committee was informed the most problematic time of year is during the Thanksgiving Holiday. This is due to the heavy flow of traffic and as a result extra patrol units are used to keep matters orderly.

While touring the Sub-Station facility we noted the Sheriff's Office shares the building with the Kings County Fire Station #9. The building is in very good condition and appears to meet the needs of the Sub-Station.

The Committee was informed the Deputies use a sedan to conduct the necessary patrols. We were told there are times, especially during inclement weather, that an off-road type vehicle would greatly enhance their ability to access rural, undeveloped and unpaved areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Procure an off-road vehicle to enhance the Deputies' ability to conduct patrols under poor road conditions in rural undeveloped areas, as soon as money is available.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**County Counsel
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2445**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
July 31, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The County Counsel represents all Kings County Departments, some Special Districts and the Board of Supervisors. It also provides outside services for school districts, as requested. The Board of Supervisors contracts the County Counsel for a four-year term. The County Counsel does not receive any special funding; it is funded, in part, by the Kings County general fund. The County Counsel charges for outside services and monies received are deposited/returned to the general fund.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Assistant County Counsel in the counsel chambers. The Committee was informed that the County Counsel serves as the lawyer for Kings County and provides civil legal services. The County Counsel also provides outside legal services for some school districts and Waste Management at a rate of \$81 per hour.

The County Counsel's responsibilities include complying with the Federal Registration Voting Act, Section 5. Kings County is one of five counties in California that are affected by this Act. The Voting Act addresses language barriers, changes in redistricting and/or changes in polling places. Compliance is monitored by the Department of Justice.

The Committee was informed by the Assistant County Counsel that it provides legal assistance and advises all county departments including Child Protective Services, Personnel, Public Works, Planning Department, Public Guardian and Cemetery Districts.

The Committee was informed by the Assistant County Counsel that it is staffed with five attorneys, two full-time and one part-time support staff members. We were informed there was a reduction in staffing last year, which resulted in the loss of one attorney and one support staff position.

While touring the County Counsel office the Committee noticed there appeared to be a lack of private work areas and storage space. Some of the personnel are

required to work on sensitive/confidential documents in an open area with limited privacy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Research the feasibility and create a method of hiring a minimum of one attorney and one full-time support staff member
2. Develop a manner to ensure the privacy of the staff's work area in the large open area of the office. The partitions currently in use do not provide the necessary privacy
3. Procure additional storage space to secure case files, records, documents, etc

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the County Counsel staff for an informative tour on short notice.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
January 8, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Probation Victim Witness Assistance Program was established to provide direct comprehensive services to crime victims and their families. The Victim Witness Center is committed to ensure that services and support are made available to crime victims and witnesses.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met in chambers with the Supervising Probation Officer and a Witness Advocate who explained the operations of the Victim Witness Assistance Program. Included in the services which may be available to victims and witnesses are the following: information services, counseling services, emergency assistance, claims assistance, justice system information assistance, notification of family and employer assistance and eligibility information.

Victims are referred to the program by law enforcement, schools, medical community and Mental Health Department. Domestic violence cases are processed by the District Attorney's Office.

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 receives 20 to 40 referrals each week and opened 636 cases in 2003. The majority of the caseload involves domestic violence and child molestation cases.

The program assists with counseling through Kings View Mental Health Services on an emergency basis only.

The program benefits are: funeral and burial assistance up to \$7,500, relocation for domestic violence and sexual assault up to \$2,000 and assistance for physical trauma figured on an individual case basis. Funding for the program is provided

through funds from a restitution fund, which receives its funds primarily from fines and penalties paid by convicted criminals.

The program consists of four staff; one supervisor, two advocates and one receptionist. Two other positions are allocated but remain vacant due to a hiring freeze brought on by budget constraints.

October is National Victim Awareness Month. Victim Rights Week is observed in April each year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fill vacant positions as soon as possible.

COMMENTS:

The Victim Witness Assistance Program is an important asset for the people of Kings County. The Grand Jury thanks the Kings County Probation Department for the presentation and other information supplied.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational and
Follow-up Tour
March 18, 2004**

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.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury's Final Report noted the following recommendation and this year's Committee, in addition to conducting an informational tour, conducted a follow-up tour regarding the recommendation:

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

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Chief Probation Officer and various staff members. We were informed of the department's efforts to improve its level of psychiatric care and were told the new medical provider fully meets their needs. There is clinical staff available when needed, and most of the associated transportation costs experienced in the past are no longer a concern.

While touring the Probation Department's facilities the Committee noted the chairs in the main lobby area are stained and need to be replaced or reconditioned. The Chief Probation Officer informed us this has been an on going concern and would like to replace the chairs as soon as funds permit. In the interim, we were told, they would attempt to keep the seat areas of the chairs as clean as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Replace chairs in main lobby area of Probation Department.

COMMENTS:

1. The Grand Jury was impressed with the overall operation of the Kings County Probation Department.
2. The staff was courteous and the Chief Probation Officer was informative.

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 30, 2003**

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 and was originally known as Kings County State Prison. On February 22, 1988 it was officially named Avenal State Prison.

ASP is a Level II institution and is designated as a low-medium security institution to provide housing for general population inmates. 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 7,052 beds in general population housing. ASP was originally designed to house approximately 3,400 to 3,500 inmates. ASP has a total staffing level of 1,522. The institution has six separate, semi-autonomous facilities, which consist of a combined total of 17 open dorm buildings, six 200-bed open dorm E-bed (Emergency bed) buildings, six converted gymnasiums, a 100-cell administrative segregation unit, and a 10-bed firehouse. ASP also houses 70 inmates in a portion of its facilities that has been modified for easy wheelchair access.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Warden, Chief Deputy Warden and the Warden's Administrative Assistant. We were informed that ASP is the largest dorm setting in the world and we were given an overview of the prison's operation. We were told that as a result of the State of California's budget problems, ASP was forced to eliminate the Community Crews program. These crews were used to maintain the cleanliness of our roads, highways and freeways. They also assisted in local community projects. The loss of these inmate work crews is significant.

During the course of our tour we visited the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) furniture factory, infirmary, a general population facility and were driven inside the perimeter of the institution. This allowed the Committee to view the entire vastness of ASP.

The Committee discovered that ASP provides various programs to employ the inmate population. These programs are in-depth with many of them having several satellite structures. The programs are divided into four individual areas.

Prison Industry Authority:

1. General fabrication (office panel system)
2. Poultry processing
3. Egg production
4. Regional institutional laundry
5. Warehouse (shipping and receiving)
6. Wood product factory and maintenance

Vocational:

1. Auto body and fender
2. Auto mechanics
3. Carpentry
4. Computer-related technology
5. Dry cleaning
6. Electronics
7. Graphic arts and printing
8. Landscaping
9. Machine shop

10. Mechanical drawing
11. Mill and cabinet
12. Office machine repair
13. Office services
14. Plumbing
15. Refrigeration
16. Small engine repair
17. Upholstery
18. Welding

Academic:

1. Adult basic education
2. High School/GED
3. Reentry program
4. English as a second language
5. Literacy program
6. CALM (Conflict Anger Lifelong Management)
7. IYOP (Inmate Youth Offender Program)

Other:

1. Youth diversion
2. Religious
3. Arts in Corrections
4. Victim Awareness

5. Drug treatment/diversion
6. DPP (Disabled Placement Program)

The Committee visited some of these programs and obtained information on those not visited. The 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. The 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 million annually.

In the agriculture product area of the 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:

The Committee strongly recommends, once the state's financial situation is remedied, the inmate work crews should be amongst the first to be reinstated.

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 and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
October 28, 2003**

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.

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 mill-amperes, 70 mill-amperes are enough to kill.

CSP-Corcoran is a complex, multi-mission institution comprised of the following facilities: Levels I, III, IV, Security Housing Unit, Protective Housing Unit, Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU), Prison Industry Authority and a fully licensed Acute Care Hospital.

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 are the Protective Housing Unit, which opened in June 1992 and the Enhanced Outpatient Program, which began operating in January 1995.

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 Warden's Administrative Assistant (AA) 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 AA, the Committee met with the prison's new Warden and received additional information regarding the overall operation of the prison.

CSP-Corcoran presently employs approximately 1,700 people. Of these, approximately 1,000 are custody staff and the remainder is support staff. The annual budget is \$167 million. The projected budget for 2003-2004 is approximately \$172 million. The Warden attributes the rising cost of operating a prison to the medical needs of inmates dictated by litigation, Worker's Compensation, transportation of inmates for court and medical needs, staff sick leave and various unfunded mandates.

In 2003, CSP-Corcoran opened a new ASU. When an inmate's presence in an institution's inmate general population presents an immediate threat to the safety of the inmate or others, endangers institution security or jeopardizes the integrity of an investigation of an alleged serious misconduct or criminal activity, the inmate is immediately removed from general population and placed in ASU.

The grounds were well maintained and the acute-care facility was very impressive.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
October 2, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The mission of California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, 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.

Activation of CSATF took place August 4, 1997. It was the 33rd 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.

FINDINGS:

CSATF is the largest substance abuse treatment facility in the world. Inmates are confined to three levels of security, levels two, three and four. The facility currently holds approximately 6,800 inmates and has a staff of about 1,730 employees.

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 Committee was informed the prison's operation budget is approximately 150 million dollars. Some of the budget is driven by uncontrolled fluctuating factors, which cause deficits. Some of the factors consist of mental health needs, medical costs such as dialysis, wheelchairs and inmates with special needs. The prison has established a wheelchair repair program to help offset some of the cost. Additionally, the prison is mandated to comply with various court orders

establishing the level of mental care and disability issues. These mandates contribute to the overall deficit problem.

CSATF has recently completed the construction of a new Administrative Segregation Unit. It has a 40-bed Correctional Treatment Center with 20 designated beds for mental health and 20 designated as crisis beds. The general population units consist of dorms and cell settings consistent with the level of security for the unit.

CSATF provides vocational training to the general population inmates in the following areas: Mechanics, Auto Repair, Small Engine Repair, Air Conditioning, Upholstery, Furniture Upholstery and Bicycle Repair. Wal-Mart, police departments and citizens donate old bikes and parts. The refurbished bikes are donated to underprivileged children in the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Warden and his staff for an interesting tour.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**District Attorney's Office
Criminal Investigations Division
1400 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 Ext 4576
www.countyofkings.com**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
May 6, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County District Attorney's Office's (DAO) primary mission 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 DAO 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 (CID) 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 CID is dedicated to providing fair and effective prosecution. The CID 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 CID assists in investigating crimes 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 criminal related cases the DAO also plays a vital role in civil related matters. The DAO assists with the prosecution of environmentally related cases and is responsible for addressing Citizen's complaints. The DAO 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 now download forms and contact the DAO via e-mail.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Supervising Prosecuting District Attorney, the Chief District Attorney Investigator for Kings County and was given a tour of the DAO's facilities. We were informed of the diverse functions of the office and the financing of the different programs operated by the District Attorney. The DAO 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 DAO is comprised of 16 attorneys who are responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases. We were told prosecuting gang related cases is high priority and that two of the DAO's best prosecutors are responsible for gang violence related matters. Approximately 144 cases were referred by the Gang Task Force.

The Investigations Unit consists of a supervisor, nine investigators, one investigator assistant and one full-time clerk. This unit handles approximately 550-650 cases per year, which averages to about 64 cases for each investigator. We were informed almost all of the cases are classified as felonies and can vary from homicide to fraud to violent crimes.

Approximately \$1.3 million of the DAO budget comes from the county funds. The remainder is obtained from the Federal and State Government, via grant money.

The DAO files approximately 7,000-8,000 cases per year and has a successful prosecution rate of approximately 85 percent. 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 DAO works in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies to recover restitution on behalf of victims.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks all of the dedicated staff of the District Attorney's Office and the Criminal Investigations Division.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Detentions Division
Kings County Sheriff's Office
1444 W Lacey Blvd
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext 2796**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Law and Public Safety

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
February 5, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Kings County Sheriff's Department is responsible for approximately 22 departments. The Detentions Division includes the Kings County Main and Branch Jails. 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 release due to overcrowding conditions, and a multitude of inmates has been granted early release. The early release is expected to continue until the completion of the new jail facility, which is expected to be completed by December of 2005. In the interim, 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 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 needs of juvenile offenders. It is planned that when the new jail is built the Branch Jail will become the Kings County Juvenile Center.

Kings County is a rural, primarily agricultural, mid-state county with a population of approximately 112,000 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 State Prison, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, and Avenal State Prison. Small non-incorporated communities include Armona, Stratford and Kettleman City. Nearly 27 miles of California's sole Interstate Highway 5 runs through the western portion of the County.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Assistant Sheriff and Detention Commanders of both the Main and Branch Jails, in the Grand Jury Chambers. We were informed the Assistant Sheriff is responsible for the Detention, Records, Civil, Internal Affairs, Training and Personnel Divisions.

There is a mandatory six-week core academy, which includes PC 832 and firearms training for all detention officers. There are 60 non-sworn detention officers and 21 civilian workers. The civilian workers are assigned primarily for support in positions as clerks, cooks, etc. Detention officers also conduct a majority of the transports for court and medical needs. In order to become a sworn officer the candidate must complete a certified Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) Academy in addition to the aforementioned requirements.

We were informed there are currently seven vacant positions in the Detention Division and recruiting is an on going priority. The recruiting efforts are going well despite the current economy. Recently 125 applications were received to fill five vacant Detention Officer positions. A list of the qualified applicants will be established and the vacancies will be filled from the list, which last for a six-month duration. A thorough background check of each final applicant is conducted by in house staff. We were told the same hiring process is observed to fill Deputy Sheriff positions.

There were a total of 7,583 bookings for 2003 and 373 early inmate releases due to overcrowding. Of the 373 inmates that have been released early, 32 have returned prior to their projected release date. The Detention Division averaged a daily inmate population of 282. The Main Jail average was 145 and the Branch Jail average was 138. There were some improvements to security and upgrades in maintenance completed to ensure safety of our community and the integrity of the jail structure.

The Records Division workload consisted of 3,264 processed cases; 16,471 bookings and releases; 1,801 processed citations; 5,040 processed warrants; and approximately 10,000 processed teletypes.

The Internal Affairs Division of the Sheriff's Department conducts administrative reviews of alleged staff misconduct, citizens' complaints and other sensitive inquiries. The Civil aspect of this division served 457 Summons; 850 Earning Withholding Orders; 157 Bank Levies; 363 Evictions; 19 Bench Warrants; and completed several other civil related matters.

A lot of work has been completed this year in the planning and construction of the new Kings County Jail. Ground breaking for the new facility is scheduled for June of 2004. We were informed the facility, once operational, will be very functional and will not only meet the County's immediate needs but will continue to meet our needs into the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

SUMMARY

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Law and Public Safety Committee was formed with nine Committee members and was fortunate to maintain all nine active members throughout the year. The Committee began the year by visiting the Kings County Counsel Office and concluded the year by touring the Kings County District Attorney's Office. We completed 27 total tours of which 9 were follow-up tours.

The Committee toured the Hanford, Corcoran and Lemoore Police Departments. We were pleased and impressed with the newly appointed Hanford City Chief of Police and the overall 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 Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran and Avenal State Prison.

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, Chairman
Jolene Jameson, Assistant Chairman
Carol Scott, Secretary
Mary Johnston
Louise Collins
Alex Maslowski
Quinton Ross
Vincent Banales
Jack Palermo

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Hidden Valley Park
11th Ave and Cortner St
Hanford CA 93230**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour
July 25, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Hanford Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all city parks. The 2002-2003 Grand Jury made recommendations to correct grounds maintenance and safety concerns at Hidden Valley Park. This prompted the 2003-2004 Committee to take a follow up tour of the park.

FINDINGS:

The Committee took a walking tour of the entire park. While the park is very attractive, the grounds are marred by numerous large rodent holes. An inattentive child or adult could easily catch a foot in one of these holes and break an ankle. A parks and recreation worker at the site told us that there is a problem with using most explosive devices that eradicate ground squirrels and gophers at this location. Sensitive equipment attached to city wells nearby would be affected by these devices, so they cannot be used.

Attention needs to be given to the pump station and other pump elements at the park. The fence around the pump station at the Emma Lee Lane entrance to the park needs to be repaired. There is no grating on pump station number 38 overflow. These areas might attract unattended small children, who could easily get hurt or do damage to the mechanisms.

Similarly, the irrigation control valve cover west of the picnic pavilion on Cortner Street is broken. It should be replaced.

There is a "No Swimming" sign in the duck pond, but the lettering is so small that it can hardly be read. There is no sign at all in the slough, where we observed children playing in the water. We also saw dead fish and broken glass nearby.

We were concerned that the back area of the park, being unlit at night, could constitute a hideout area for possible illicit activities. The entire slough area is overgrown. We saw several dead trees and a great deal of litter.

We noted standing water in several areas of the park grounds when we arrived around 10 a.m. We acknowledge that it is difficult to water both trees and grass at the same time. However, we think this watering schedule needs to be reconsidered.

Hidden Valley Park has a flagpole installed many years ago. Unfortunately, it cannot be used because of the trees around it. We think the simple solution is to move the flagpole to a new location.

Located on the south side of the park is a residence with a pool visible over and through the fence bordering the park. We are concerned about this very short fence (5-feet tall). We feel that the City should check out its legal liabilities in this instance.

On the day we toured, we met a worker clearing away earth in order to drain the area under the bridge. He told us that work would soon begin to reinforce the bridge.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Eradicate squirrels and gophers and fill the holes
2. Repair the fence at the Emma Lee Lane pump station
3. Install a grating at well 38
4. Replace the control valve cover
5. Replace the “No Swimming” sign in the duck pond with a legible one and install a similar sign in the slough
6. Install additional lights at the back of the park
7. Remove bushy undergrowth, dead or fallen trees, all trash and clean the slough
8. Control watering time to avoid standing water
9. Relocate the flagpole

The Grand Jury strongly recommends that items number 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 be attended to immediately, as they pose a safety hazard to the public using the park. The potential for liability against the city for personal damages may exist.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Citizen's Complaint
Hidden Valley Park
11th Ave and Cortner St
Hanford CA 93230**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Citizen Complaint and
Follow-up Tour
July 25, 2003
Interview
August 8, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The 2003-2004 Grand Jury received a Citizen's Complaint on July 8, 2003 citing a large hole near the top center of the triple slide located in the children's playground area at Hidden Valley Park as a safety hazard. The writer sent a photograph along with the complaint to verify the problem.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury had also received a complaint and photograph of damage to the same slide. Its Final Report expressed concern about the slide and made a recommendation to replace it.

Based on this information and the possibility of injury to a child and consequent liability to the City of Hanford, the Committee felt we should follow up on the complaint and inspect the slide immediately.

FINDINGS:

The Committee inspected the triple slide in the children's playground area at Hidden Valley Park July 25, 2003. The hole in the slide appeared to have gotten larger, and the plastic webbing that apparently had been put up to stop children from using the slide was pushed aside. It certainly did appear to be a safety hazard.

On August 8, 2003, the Committee met with the Hanford City Manager to follow up on our concerns about the slide and the Citizen's Complaints. He explained that the damage to the slide was caused by vandalism, which was not covered by the manufacturer's guarantee. It could not be repaired or retrofitted without losing the city's liability insurance. The City Manager said that because of the vandalism, the original vendor would not agree to repair or replace the slide, even when shown photographic evidence of the damage.

City Manager stated that in the Spring of 2003 a contract was signed with a different vendor who was willing to accept partial liability for replacing the \$5,000 slide. The city paid for about \$2,000 of the cost. The Committee learned that a brand new slide was now in place at Hidden Valley Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury felt that it would have been safer if the entire unit had been removed, rather than leaving it to allow children to play on other parts of it.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**City of Avenal
919 Skyline Blvd
Avenal CA 93204
(559) 386-5766**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up and
Informational
Tour
August 15, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The City of Avenal, located 37 miles southwest of Hanford in the Kettleman Hills, was incorporated in 1979. The city has a population of 15,329 of which 6,109 are inmates at Avenal State Prison.

The 2001–2002 and the 2002–2003 Grand Juries Final Reports recommended installing handicapped parking areas and signs at the City Hall parking lot.

FINDINGS:

The Committee toured the city hall parking lot and found that the recommendations had been met regarding the designated handicapped parking spaces.

City of Avenal staff consists of 28 full time employees and 1 part time employee. The City Manager told the Committee that the proposed budget for 2003-2004 is approximately \$15,000,000. The City Manager reported that the community is self-reliant.

Avenal received, in 2002, a 3.5 million dollar building expansion grant. Avenal installed sidewalks, curbs, gutters and streetlights and refurbished the downtown business district including the city owned historic Movie Theater. The first phase of a 700-acre Industrial Park project, 150 acres, is in development stages.

Avenal Recreation Department is responsible for the city owned Sand Drags facility. According to the City Manager, multiple events each year yield a profit for the city.

The City Manager said that in 1979 the waste landfill of some 30 acres became a liability for the city. Nine years and three million dollars later, the landfill is now

compliant with state regulations. The landfill received an expansion permit in 1999, increasing the location to 87 acres. Currently the city contracts with Waste Connections from Madera for collection of garbage and operating the landfill. The contractor has turned the landfill into a profitable business by opening access to other towns in the San Joaquin Valley. The lower tipping (dumping) fees are passing on savings to city residents.

The City Manager mentioned some day the oil rich hills, that contain a 60% reserve, may be redeveloped.

Floyd D. Rice Park houses two play areas. Each area is fenced, age specific and separated from each other by a large lawn area. Located at the park is the Avenal Community Center, which on the day the Committee visited, was a hub of activity for local youth. The Committee observed three safety concerns; a loose bottom step, a storage room that was unlocked and rusty jagged partitions in the women's restroom.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair or replace step at the Community Center
2. Secure the community center's storage room
3. Replace the partitions in the ladies restroom to match the men's restroom partitions

COMMENTS:

1. The Grand Jury thanks the city staff for following through and completing the recommendations of the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 Grand Juries
2. The Grand Jury was very impressed with the visionary planning techniques used by city. Staff has maintained a self-reliant attitude, "when times get tough the tough get going," that has proven to be both profitable and beneficial to the city of Avenal
3. The city used a commendable approach when planning the playground areas of Floyd D. Rice Park

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Lemoore Parks and
Recreation Department
119 Fox St
Lemoore CA 93245
(559) 924-6767**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
September 5, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

Lemoore is a small city eight miles west of Hanford along State Route 198. The population is approximately 22,000.

Lemoore has six parks: Heritage Park located on Hanford-Armona Road east of Lemoore Avenue; Lions Park (Westfield Park), bounded by Fox Drive, Fallen Leaf Drive and Hanover Avenue; Rotary Skate Park, located at Fox and E streets; D Street Plaza, located on D Street between Fox and Heinlen Streets; City Park, bounded by Bush, B, Fox, and Heinlen streets; and Vierra Field, located at 19th Avenue and Highway 198.

FINDINGS:

The Grand Jury interviewed the Parks and Recreation Director. This Department is responsible for the care and maintenance of all city owned buildings and grounds within the City of Lemoore. This Department consists of a supervisor and eleven other personnel: four are assigned to parks, four to building maintenance, and three to recreation. The Department budget totals \$982,600, down \$70,000 from last year. The city has the cooperation of the local Rotary and Lions Clubs. The organizations donate many work hours toward the maintenance and care of these parks. Like most public places these parks have a graffiti problem. The city is fortunate to have a local volunteer who has been able to work with this problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The City of Lemoore accomplishes a great deal through a willing and able volunteer labor force. Keep up the good work.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Lemoore Golf Course
250 W Iona Ave
Lemoore CA 93245
(559) 924-9658**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour
September 5, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury toured the Lemoore Golf Course on April 11, 2003 and recommended that the cart barn and carts be cleaned, the trash from the barn area be removed and larger trash containers be installed.

FINDINGS:

The 2003-2004 Grand Jury toured the Lemoore Golf Course on September 5, 2003 and found that by in large the recommendations have been followed. The golf carts were clean, and the barn tidy, but no trash containers were visible.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**City Clerk
City of Hanford
319 N Douty St
Hanford CA 93230**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Interview
September 12, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The 2003-2004 Grand Jury had no knowledge of prior visit to this Department.

FINDINGS:

The City Clerk has been employed by the City of Hanford for 26 years. She has been City Clerk since 1992. She serves as secretary to the City Manager, as well as secretary to the City Council, the Redevelopment Agency and State Fair Political Practices Committee.

She is responsible for compiling the Council agenda packets as well as any other information to be dealt with at the Council meetings and keeps the minutes of all meetings. She also distributes the agenda packets to all department heads and interested parties.

She is responsible for records management, the City web page and handling election material for a potential city council member. Other duties in the area of records management include care of the city seal and being the city's Notary. She processes all documents prior to being stored. Storage is on site, some in the attic and some in the safe. The City is in the process of looking into maintaining records on an optical disc system due to a lack of space.

No one is currently assigned to assume the duties of City Clerk in her absence.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Explore ways to speed up the process of updating and condensing stored records
2. Provide trained personnel to assume the duties of the City Clerk position

COMMENTS:

The City Clerk handles a multitude of duties and is very knowledgeable in her duties.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Public Works Department
City of Hanford
900 S 10th Ave
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-2550**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
September 26, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Public Works Department is one of six departments in the City of Hanford. Public Works includes six divisions, which are Engineering, Parks, Utilities, Fleet/Building Maintenance, Streets and Waste Management. All divisions are under the control of the Director of Public Works.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Director of Public Works at the corporation yard. We were told that the Public Works Department currently has 100 employees.

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 fueling after hours. 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.

The Engineering Division has an Assistant City Engineer who is a licensed civil engineer and reports to the Director of Public Works. This Division 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 new development and improvements are, site design, street right of ways, sewer and storm drains, traffic signal design and installation for proper traffic flow. All work done by outside contractors must have approval of the City Engineering Division, which checks the vendor's competency to complete the job and be financially responsible. The City Engineering Division takes an active roll in assisting the city in its five and ten year plans for the infrastructure of the city.

The Parks Division is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all city parks.

The Utilities Division has 14 employees. This division is divided into water distribution and sewer/storm collection. All of the employees are Environmental Protection Agency certified by the state. Personnel that work in sewer/storm water collection section are cross-trained to work in the water distribution system. 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 are added to the distribution system. Hanford's water has an arsenic problem. That is naturally occurring and steps are being taken to keep the arsenic level under control. Hanford uses a combination of water meters and flat rate charges. Water meters are installed on all buildings that require a new building permit.

The Fleet/Building Maintenance Division is responsible for the repairs and maintenance of most of the city vehicles and the city-owned buildings. The Fleet/Building Manager purchases parts, materials and new vehicles. The City Council must approve any purchase over \$5,000. This Division uses its own state-regulated driver's training program to allow employees to become class "A" and "B" license drivers. Smog checks are required on all gasoline-operated vehicles. Qualified local merchants perform vehicle smog checks. This Division uses County inmate labor. The inmates are trained by staff to rebuild street sweeper brushes.

The Street Maintenance Division is responsible primarily for maintenance of local streets and city parking lots, as well as general maintenance, such as supervision of painting activities and maintenance of traffic signals and streetlights. Reports of holes in the pavement are usually fixed within five to seven days. If serious, they are repaired with patch immediately. Contractors do centerline striping. The City crews maintain crosswalk striping and buttons on the centerlines.

In the event of a disaster, the City of Hanford and Kings County has a plan to coordinate personnel and equipment as needed. Labor and equipment is also available on demand from the Boot Camp and contractors.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

COMMENTS: None.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**City of Corcoran
1033 Chittenden Ave
Corcoran CA 93212
(559) 992-2151**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
October 30, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The City of Corcoran is located west of the junction of State Route 43 and Whitley Avenue in the eastern part of Kings County.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met at the city offices with the Mayor, City Manager, Chief of Police, City Clerk, Finance Director, Director of Public Works, and the Director of Community Development.

The City Officers presented a positive and confident outlook for the city's future growth with aims for improving the downtown area, seeking to bring new business to the city, and increasing affordable new homes in the city.

Two state prisons are located within the city limits; one is a maximum security prison and the other is the largest substance abuse treatment facility in the world. The City of Corcoran was incorporated in 1914. The City population is 21,131 of which 11,439 are prisoners, and 9,692 are city residents.

There are 3,000 jobs at the prison and 1,000 jobs in the city. The city has a staff of 65 plus 5 part time positions. The area has an unemployment rate between 13 and 18 percent.

The City has a work in process Web site (www.cityofcorcoran.com) and is in the process of securing a grant to open a new learning center. The current city budget is \$15.7 million.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the City Officials for their informative presentation regarding the positive approach for the future growth of the City of Corcoran.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Finance Department
City of Hanford
315 Douty St
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-2500**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
and Follow-up
November 14, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Finance Department is composed of two areas, Accounting and Utility Billing. Accounting has responsibility for cash management, financial management services, payroll, accounts receivable, business license administration and insurance services. Utility Billing is responsible for customer services for the refuse, sewer and water operations.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report recommended that all city departments handling financial transactions be audited annually by an outside auditing firm.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Finance Director/Treasurer for the City of Hanford. Utility Billing services has approximately 13,000 accounts with a 30-day delinquency rate of seven percent. Of the delinquent accounts three-tenths of one percent is not collected. The department employs three account clerks and one part-time employee.

Accounting Department employs seven accountants. In addition to the responsibilities listed above, the department is also responsible for the annual reports and internal audits.

The city has contracted with Brown Armstrong, a CPA firm from Bakersfield. This firm audited all the city departments last year. Each year the audit consists of questionnaires, interviews, sampling and testing. The audit for this year should be completed by mid-December.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Earl F. Johnson Park
Harris and Grangeville
Hanford CA 93230**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

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

INTRODUCTION:

The Hanford Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of city parks. The 2002-2003 Grand Jury inspected Earl F. Johnson Park on August 23, 2002. Recommendations were made as follows:

1. Remove dead trees
2. Replace restrooms
3. Add sand to children's play area, especially under the drop-off of the slides
4. Eliminate standing water
5. Cover exposed tree roots

FINDINGS:

On the tour of Earl F. Johnson Park the Committee found:

1. The appearance of the lawn and play area was neat and clean. The dead trees had been removed. The limbs were being ground and hauled away while we were on site
2. Nothing has been done to improve the condition of the restrooms. Major repairs are still needed
3. Sand levels in the children's play area appeared to be appropriate
4. The electric wiring and electronic control valves in the sprinkler system have been replaced. These repairs are expected to correct the over-watering and standing water

5. The written commitment to cover or remove exposed tree roots no later than November 1, 2003 has not been started or completed

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair or replace restroom
2. Cover or remove exposed tree roots

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
November 21, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

For a number of years Kettleman City has had a problem with benzene in its drinking water. Kettleman City obtained a federal grant and a Farmer's Home Administration loan to pay for a treatment facility that could remove the benzene from the town's drinking water and drilled an additional well to allow for city growth.

According to our records, the Committee had not visited the treatment facility since it was built in 1997, so we decided to visit the completed facility and see how the community was faring with its improved water supply.

FINDINGS:

Kettleman City Community Services District provides a population under 1,500 with water and waste services. Garbage services are contracted out. This population has been fairly stable since 1985.

The district is served by two ground water wells. The Maud Street well is 550 feet deep; the Becky Pease well is 630 feet deep. (The school is served by its own 410-foot-deep well.) The district received a \$400,000 grant for a third ground water well to be located on Grant Street, but the district soon reconsidered drilling an additional well when it found it needed to construct a filtration station at each well to remove the benzene. Studies showed that both the currently operating wells and the proposed well would draw water from the same aquifer. Thus all would be equally contaminated with benzene.

Then in 2003 Maud Street well failed and required a new casing. Once this was done, water production improved from 100 gallons per minute to 300 gallons per minute. Members of the district board began to think that a better solution for the benzene problem would be to obtain permission to get surface water from the aqueduct in case of an emergency, such as failure of the aquifer-fed wells. The

board is currently trying to get permission to apply the grant and loan obtained earlier to the new project to obtain access to the aqueduct in case of emergency. A comment regarding the source and possible elimination of the benzene contaminating Kettleman City's wells ought to be made at this point. A Community Services District representative told us that the benzene level in the ground water remained the same over the years. Until some means of diverting or cleaning up the benzene is found, the chemical remains a problem for Kettleman City.

At the moment, growth is frozen in Kettleman City due to lack of drinking water. Two housing projects are on hold: the Housing Authority intends to build 30 to 35 new units and Self Help has proposed another 20 to 30 homes when the district gets a new water source. Far worse for the economy of the area is the effect the water shortage has on commercial building. The district has a moratorium on new commercial accounts since 2001. If a company can't get water for a new business, it is not likely to open a business.

Currently, the district has a total storage capacity of 760,000 gallons of water. The district keeps its four storage tanks full, especially at holidays, when traffic is busy.

The committee took a brief tour of the filtration station, which is quite compact. It operates with very little noise or vibration.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Kettleman City staff for an informative tour.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Stratford Public
Utility District
19681 Railroad St
Stratford CA 93266
(559) 947-3037**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
November 21, 2003**

INTRODUCTION:

The Stratford Public Utility District has a five-member board that meets monthly. The district has a full-time manager and one part-time office employee. The district consists of three hundred acres. There are two water wells; the main well is electrically powered and the back up well is powered by natural gas.

FINDINGS:

The district has a budget of \$297,500. Services provided to residents and businesses include sewer, streetlights, garbage collection and water. All water is metered, and garbage is collected once a week. Western Waste is the provider for garbage service at a price of \$17.20 a month per household. The manager reported that the sewage treatment plant is adequate in size for the time being. The treated wastewater is collected in six evaporation ponds, which total seven and one half acres in size.

The county provided a surplus street sweeper that now needs to be replaced. The county maintains the park.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Replace street sweeper when possible.

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Lemoore Cemetery
District
Grangeville Cemetery
1441 N Lemoore Ave
Lemoore CA 93245
(559) 924-3439**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour
January 9, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Grangeville Cemetery was established in 1868 and came under the authority of Lemoore Cemetery District in 1934. The Lemoore Cemetery District includes Lemoore Cemetery and Grangeville Cemetery.

FINDINGS:

The Committee visited the Grangeville Cemetery for a brief inspection and had a discussion with the District Manager. We found the grounds to be clean and well maintained. The damaged pavement needs repairing and sealing.

The Cemetery District owns 52 additional acres of land. This acreage is available for future development. The land is clear of debt and is rented to local farmers as an income to the District.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Repair and seal the damaged pavement.

COMMENTS:

The District Manager and all employees of the Cemetery District are doing a great job. Past Boards have shown foresight in making land purchases for future development.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

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

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour
January 9, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Armona Community Services District (ACSD) 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.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury recommended that a secure drop box be installed and a Service District Manager be hired.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Office Manager who explained some of the responsibilities of the daily office operations and customer contacts. The Office Manager is assisted by a part-time clerk.

Reports are made directly to the Board of Directors during monthly board meetings. All office records and billings are computerized and the system is updated annually.

During the follow-up visit the Committee was informed of the recent changes made as the result of the recommendations of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury. A secure drop box was installed for the use of drop off payments. The remodeling of the office was completed to provide a customer area, while providing a more private workspace for the employees. The Board of Directors elected to contract out the position of Services District Manager.

ACSD services approximately 1,000 customers. It oversees water, garbage and sewer service.

All customers are on water meters. The office also accepts payments for Southern

California Edison and cable. All payments received are deposited daily and funds not deposited are placed in a locked office safe. A second location is available for payments at Frank's Market. The Office Manager is responsible for picking up daily payments and accounting of the receipts. Delinquent payments are assessed a 10 percent penalty on the next billing cycle.

New activities within the community by private developers are:

1. 50-lot subdivision (48 homes with 2 drainage basins)
2. New sewer line located at Hanford-Armona Road and Oak Street
3. New towing company
4. New mini storage facility

ACSD has no plans to incorporate.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Armona Community Services District staff for their time, the tour of the office, and information about services provided to their community. Job well done.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Hanford Cemetery
District
PO Box 1028
10500 S 10th Ave
Hanford CA 93232
(559) 589-9494**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
January 23, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

Because it has been three years since the Grand Jury visited the Hanford Cemetery District, we invited the District Manager to bring us up to date on the operation of Hanford's cemeteries. The District Manager came to the Grand Jury chambers for that purpose.

FINDINGS:

Hanford Cemetery District is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees chosen by the County Board of Supervisors. Each member serves a term of four years. The Board of Trustees meets monthly.

The district has a staff of ten (seven full time employees and three part-time). All employees receive safety training. Those handling pesticides are appropriately trained and certified.

The district budget is \$716,000 per year. General revenues are \$425,000 down 35 percent to 40 percent from last year. Other revenues include about \$140,000 from taxes. The district now pays overtime.

Cost is often a question when it comes to burial arrangements. According to the Cemetery Manager, a crematory niche is \$540. On the other end of the scale is the mausoleum, which costs \$25,000 per crypt. All crypts are now sold. At one time the district considered building a new mausoleum, but there was little interest. The regulations governing mausoleums have changed so that now a new mausoleum would have to be connected to the old one in some way. This would be difficult considering the space limitations of the site. Thus the Manager does not think the district will have a new mausoleum in the future. The district sells single graves for \$700, dual graves for \$1,100. Additional costs of burial include a concrete

liner, \$445. The Manager estimates the cost of burial today to be about \$2,000 to \$2,200.

Two hundred fifty people were interred in the Hanford Cemetery District in 2003. In 2002 only 223 people were interred there. Normally only three to four babies are buried each year; in 2003 fifteen babies were buried.

The district has four cemeteries located in Hanford. Old Hanford Cemetery is on the west of South 10th Avenue; East Hanford Cemetery is directly across the street. There is enough room here to serve the community for ten years. South of these cemeteries are two historic graveyards. Potters Field was once owned by the Odd Fellows. Here, traditionally, the poor could be buried for free. Next to it is the Sam Yup Cemetery where the Chinese were buried. These cemeteries became overgrown fire hazards, so local people formed a committee to restore both cemeteries. Potters Field now receives the respectful care it deserves. A memorial has been established at Sam Yup Cemetery, and the remains of the Chinese have been returned to China or San Francisco for burial. These two cemeteries as well as Calvary Cemetery have had automatic watering systems installed. They are watered at night.

Two cemeteries under its care are now closed. According to the District Manager, Kings River Cemetery, which consists of six acres with only one acre developed, is the oldest cemetery in the district. Many years ago, a flood washed away most of the cemetery. Today a few markers have been replaced but most markers and some remains have been lost. The Cemetery Board voted to discontinue burials in the cemetery. Lakeside Cemetery on 10th Avenue is also closed. The District Manager said that there have only been three burials at Lakeside Cemetery since he has worked in the district. The records are so poor at this cemetery, he said, that to find where someone is buried, a visitor has to know who is buried to the right and left of the deceased person. The Manager said that there is no revenue from these cemeteries to provide for their upkeep.

In 1948 the Catholic Church turned Calvary Cemetery over to the Hanford Cemetery District. The Hanford Cemetery District purchased additional acreage later, so that there is sufficient land for future development. Thirteen acres are leased to a local farmer. Currently at Calvary there are 512 graves, 288 niches for cremated remains, and an Angels' Rest for babies only. A new well and drainage system has recently been installed in the developed area.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the District Manager for a fascinating explanation of the cemetery district and its history.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**(SPUD) Stratford Public
Utility District
19681 Railroad St
Stratford CA 93266
(559) 947-3037**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Citizen Complaint
January 27, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Grand Jury met in chambers with the District Manager and one of the five members of the Board of Trustees of the Stratford Public Utility District (SPUD) on February 13, 2004. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a complaint received which stated the district's domestic water supply had failed a water purity test. The complaint stated state tests showed fecal matter in one of the three water samples taken on January 20, 2004. The complaint further stated that members of the public using water from this system were not notified of the problem until January 26, 2004. This timing did not meet state requirements for notification.

Three water samples were taken from the SPUD water system on January 20, 2004. The District Manager took these samples from three separate locations. They were packaged and shipped to Fruit Growers Laboratory in Santa Barbara for testing. UPS picked up the samples on January 21, 2004 for delivery to the laboratory. This test can take up to 48 hours to complete. If this test fails, the state and the district are notified immediately.

The testing laboratory attempted to notify SPUD of the problem on January 24, 2004, which happened to be a Saturday. The SPUD office had closed for the weekend on Friday, January 23, 2004 at 12 noon. Notification to the district through the manager's emergency pager number was never attempted.

A **BOIL WARNING**, which states water must be boiled before being consumed, was issued by the state on Monday, January 26, 2004. This was when the District Manager first knew there was a problem.

On January 26, 2004, after being informed that the district had water quality problems, the manager contacted the Kings County Health Department to establish some quick lines for future tests. Informational sheets explaining the situation were printed. Additional water samples were collected and sent to the County Health Department for testing.

On January 27, 2004 the printed warnings "boil your water before using" were hand delivered to each business and residence served by SPUD. The manager collected more samples and again submitted them to the Kings County Health Department for additional testing.

On January 29, 2004 tests conducted by the Kings County Health Department indicated the domestic water supply in the community of Stratford to be safe for consumption. As of this date, the exact source of the contamination has not been determined.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Take water samples on Monday, which would allow adequate time during the regular work week if additional emergency contacts become necessary.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury feels that the district handled the situation adequately once they received notification of the contamination, and that the action of the district met the time line requirements established by the state.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Hanford Municipal
Airport
954 E Hanford-Armona
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-2589**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Follow-up Tour and
Informational Interview
February 12, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

Hanford Municipal Airport is located on 302 acres of land southeast of town. Of these 302 acres, 51 acres are leased to agricultural farmers, and a leased vineyard covers 120 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 is 5,180 feet long with a runway light system. The entire airport is fenced to keep stray animals, trespassers and unauthorized vehicles away from the runway and the 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. As of March 1, 2004, hangar rentals are between \$430 and \$670 per year; monthly rental for shelters is \$60, generating \$42,000 per year. Lessees must have \$1 million liability insurance. The airport operates as an Enterprise Zone and is largely self-supporting.

This follow-up is a result of the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report recommendation that a person be trained as a qualified back-up for the Airport Manager.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Airport Manager in his office at the airport. Currently, no commercial flights are using the airport and no crop dusting-spraying activity is permitted. There are no charges for taking off or landing. General aviation use is encouraged. Aviation gasoline (100 octane) and lubricating oil are available, but due to lack of sufficient demand, no jet fuel is available. Aircraft services are provided by the Fixed Base Operator (FBO), a private commercial activity known as Hanford Flight Center. The FBO offers charter flights, tours, aircraft inspection, repair and routine maintenance services. In

addition, flight training is available for pilot certification: single or multi-engine and instrument ratings.

The ASOS (Automated Surface Observing System) is now located at the end of approach runway 32. The RTR (Remote Transmitter Receiver) 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 \$80,000 per year plus federal and state grants. Hanford Public Works and city employees provide major maintenance and repair of the airport facilities.

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 Committee was informed that there are now two qualified persons trained as back-up for the Airport Manager.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Airport Manager for his informative interview.

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Community Development
Department
City of Hanford
319 N Douty St
Hanford CA 93230
(559) 585-2584**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Interview
February 28, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Committee visited the Community Development Department. This department was not listed on the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Visitation Log. The Committee had no previous information about this department.

FINDINGS:

Community Development Department

The Committee interviewed the Director of the Community Development Department in his office. The Community Development Department has 13 positions, 12 full-time and 1 part-time. The Director explained that he oversees the Building Division, Planning Commission, Redevelopment and Housing/Rehab Divisions.

Building Division

The Building Division oversees all city building permits. Six employees work in this division: a chief building official, four building inspectors and one building secretary.

Planning Commission Division

The members of the Planning Commission are appointed to their positions by the City Council. There are seven commissioners, each serving a four-year term. The Planning Division oversees zoning ordinances and regulates uses. Employees include an Associate Planner, Assistant Planner and one part-time Planning Secretary.

Redevelopment Division

The Redevelopment Division provides affordable housing opportunities in Hanford. To preserve the existing neighborhoods in the community, the City of Hanford provides many programs to accomplish this goal. The Economic Development Manager oversees this division.

Housing/Rehab Division

The Housing/Rehab Division also comes under the direction of the Redevelopment Division.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COMMENTS: None

AREA OF INQUIRY:

**Old Courthouse Square
City of Hanford
114 W 8th St
Hanford CA 93230**

REPORTING COMMITTEE:

Local Government

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

**Informational Tour and
Interview
March 5, 2004**

INTRODUCTION:

The Old Kings Courthouse and Jail were built in 1876. 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. They were used as the main courthouse and jail until 1978, when the Kings County Government Center was completed. The new government center has court facilities, jail and other county departments.

The County of Kings leased the Old Kings Courthouse and Jail to the City of Hanford in 1979, and the city then subleased it to a private enterprise the same year.

The 2002-2003 Grand Jury noted the following areas of concern:

1. The overall appearance reflected serious neglect
2. The exterior awnings were in disrepair
3. An open electrical panel near the carousel posed a hazard to the public
4. Faulty rain downspouts on the west side of the building that caused flooding
5. Areas of rust on the metal roof need maintenance
6. There are questions about the operability of the sprinkler system
7. There is no fire alarm system

8. There are no records of rents, expenditures, and maintenance details available on site as required by the master lease

The Committee concluded that the city should take control of the buildings and grounds and cancel the lease.

FINDINGS:

The Committee met with the Assistant City Manager at the Old Courthouse Square. He stated the City of Hanford is the major leaseholder on the property, which is owned by the County of Kings. We were informed that there have been four lease amendments to the original lease. The current sublessee secured the lease from the bank when the previous leaseholder defaulted on his lease. The City of Hanford terminated the current lease on February 17, 2004, after years of attempting to get the current sublessee to fulfill his lease obligations. The sublessee refused to accept the termination, forcing the issue into arbitration. The arbitration could take from six months to one year. During the arbitration, the responsibility for the property remains with the sublessee. The city requested the sublessee return all courthouse keys to the City of Hanford.

The Committee expressed concern about public fire safety of the buildings and grounds. According to the Assistant City Manager, "Under the current California Building Code, the Courthouse is not required to have a sprinkler system. The Historical Building Code would allow an outside (uncovered) fire escape."

The faulty drain spouts have not been repaired. According to the Assistant City Manager, this degrades the physical integrity of the building.

Regarding the rusty roof; According to the Assistant City Manager, "the elements have affected the look of the roof, but there are no reported leaks." The roof will need rust removal and repainting.

Some refurbishing has already been completed. The lead glass window at the north entryway has been repaired. The awning has been replaced.

The city has not received lease payments for November or December, 2003. Because of the unavailability of records from the sublessee there is no way for the city to know what is due to the city from gross rentals. The sublessee has not provided the city with copies of the leases from the current tenants.

The city has not received payment of \$3,000 for the maintenance and upkeep of the carousel.

The sublessee is responsible for the upkeep of the grounds. Attention needs to be given to weeds, debris and overgrowth.

The City Council, on March 2, 2004, voted to begin the process of creating a redevelopment area for the downtown. This will allow the City to apply for redevelopment grants, which could help with refurbishing the Old Courthouse. The Assistant City Manager assured us that the city is working diligently to resolve the issues surrounding the Old Courthouse.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The City Fire Department research and enforce all fire codes relating to Historical Buildings to insure that no less than all minimum requirements are met.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury is pleased to see that the city is taking positive steps to improve the situation of the Old Courthouse Square.

SUMMARY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Local Government Committee, after a review of the previous Grand Jury visitation log, decided to concentrate on multiple aspects of the departments within the cities of Hanford, Corcoran and Lemoore. We also visited Avenal, the Community Services District of Armona, and the Hanford and Lemoore Cemetery Districts.

The Committee was an 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 visited on site. The 2002-2003 Grand Jury visitation log lists two departments Building and Redevelopment within the City of Hanford. This Committee found that the departments of Building and Redevelopment have been incorporated into the Community Development Department.

Every department head reflected a sincere dedication to the job and was 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. This allowed us to provide all the citizens of Kings County an insight into how each governing department functions, its responsibilities and overall effectiveness.

Mary Johnston, Chairman
Tom Ross, Assistant Chairman
Wesley Harvick
Louise Collins
Janet Bloyd
Julia Jameson
Al Cotner
Jack Palermo

2003-2004 GRAND JURY

County Government Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Board of Supervisors				
County Administrative Officer		X		
Human Resources - Employment		X		
County Safety Officer				32
Risk Management				6
Agriculture	*	X		
Commissioner/Sealer		X	XX	
Agriculture Extension Services				
Alcohol and Drug Programs	*			
Cornerstone	*			
Kings View Outpatient Community Services				
Assessor/Clerk/Recorder			XX	
Assessor/Clerk			XX	
Recorder			XX	
Elections	*		XX	
Chemical Waste Management				30
Human Services			XX	
Administration				
Job Opportunities and Benefits Services (JOBS)				
Social Service Program			XX	
Child Protective Services				
Special Investigation Division	*			
Information Services (IT)			XX	
Administration				
Computer Room				
Central Microfilm/Records Storage				
HELP DESK	*	X		
Kings Waste and Recycling Authority			XX	27
Kings County Law Library				
Kings County Library				4
Administration	*			
Armona	*			
Avenal	*			
Corcoran	*			
Hanford		X		
Kettleman City	*			
Lemoore		X		
Stratford		X		
Kings County Housing Authority				

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County Government Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Planning Department		X		18
Public Works	*	X	XX	
Government Center/Parks Shop				14
Building Maintenance				
Engineering		X		
County Shop			XX	16
Kings Area Rural Transit Agency (KART)				1
Motor Pool		X	XX	26
Shop/Road Department				
Parks			XX	
Superintendent of Parks	*	X	XX	
Burris Park and Museum	*	X		
Hickey Park	*	X		
Kingston Park				
Special Purpose and Assessing or Taxing District				
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)	*	X	XX	
Kings County Water (Hanford)	*			
Lakeside Irrigation (Hanford)				
Lovlace 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				24

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Health and Education Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Kings County Office of Education & Schools				
Administration				56
Cyesis Program		X	XX	
Kings County Community School	*	X		
Kings County Regional Occupational Program		X		
Special Education - Shelly Baird		X		
Kings River-Hardwick District & School		X		
Kit Carson Union School District & School		X	XX	51
Armona Union School District				
Armona Elementary School		X	XX	
Parkview School		X	XX	
Lakeside District				
Lakeside School		X	XX	54
Gardenside School		X		
Central Union Scholl District				
Central Union School		X		
Neutra School		X		
Stratford School		X		
Corcoran Joint Unified School District				
Administration		X		
Bret Harte School	*			48
John C. Fremont School	*			46
Mark Twain School		X	XX	50
John Muir School		X		
Corcoran High School	*	X		
Corcoran Community Day School		X	XX	
Kings Lake Education Center		X	XX	49
Delta View Joint Union District & School		X		52
Hanford Elementary School District				
Administration	*			
Jefferson Elementary School		X	XX	
James Monroe Elementary	*	X	XX	
Joe Simas Elementary	*	X	XX	
Lee Richmond Elementary School		X	XX	62
Lincoln Elementary	*	X		
Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School		X	XX	
Roosevelt Elementary School	*	X		
Washington Elementary School		X		
John F. Kennedy Junior High School		X	XX	
Woodrow Wilson Junior High School		X	XX	

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Health and Education Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
District Central Kitchen		X		63
Hanford Joint Union High School District				
Hanford High School	*	X	XX	
Hanford West High School	*	X	XX	58
E.F Johnson Continuation High School			XX	
Hanford Adult School			XX	
Island Union District & School		X	XX	
Lemoore Union Elementary School District				
Cinnamon Elementary School			XX	
PW Engvall School			XX	
Lemoore Elementary School		X	XX	
Meadow Lane School		X	XX	
Liberty Middle School	*		XX	
Lemoore Union High School	*		XX	60
Donald C. Jamison Continuation High School			XX	
Lemoore Adult School				
Pioneer Union School District				
Pioneer Primary School		X		
Pioneer Middle School		X		
Reef - Sunset Unified School District				
Avenal Elementary School		X	XX	40
Avenal High School		X	XX	41
Kettleman City Elementary School	*			
Reef-Sunset Middle School	*			
Adelante (Continuation) High School (Avenal)	*		XX	
Sunrise (Continuation) High School (Kettleman City)	*		XX	
Tamarack Elementary School			XX	44
Reef-Sunset Primary/Secondary Community Day School				

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Law and Public Safety Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
California State Prisons				
California State Prison - Avenal	*	X	XX	105
California State Prison - Corcoran	*	X	XX	109
California Substance Abuse and Treatment Facility - Corcoran		X	XX	111
City Fire Departments				
Hanford				
Station #1			XX	69
Station #2			XX	
Lemoore Volunteer Fire Station		X	XX	75
County Counsel				99
Kings County Fire Department				
Department Office			XX	70
Training Center			XX	
Burriss Fire Station #1		X	XX	74
Hardwick Fire station #2			XX	
Kit Carson Fire Station #3 (closure pending)	*		XX	
Armona Fire Station #5	*		XX	73
Island fire Station #6			XX	
South Lemoore Fire Station #7			XX	
Guernsey Fire Station #8 (closure pending)			XX	
Kettleman City Fire Station #9			XX	
Stratford Fire Station #10			XX	
Corcoran Fire Station #11	*		XX	
Avenal Fire Station #12		X	XX	
District Attorney				
Administration			XX	
Investigations				113
Prosecuting Attorneys				
Minor's Advocate		X		
Police Departments				
Corcoran Police Department	*		XX	93
Hanford Police Department	*		XX	66
Lemoore Police Department	*		XX	76
Probation Department				
Administration	*		XX	103
Boot Camp	*		XX	
Female Treatment Center	*		XX	
Gang Task Force			XX	
Juvenile Center/Inmate Health	*		XX	

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Local Government Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Avenal				
City Clerk		X		125
City Manager		X	XX	125
Finance Director		X		125
City Council	*	X		
Planning Department	*	X		125
Public Works	*	X		125
Building Maintenance		X		125
Road Department		X		125
Solid Waste		X		
Shop Facilities		X		125
Water Department		X		
Recreation & Parks Department		X		
Floyd Rice Park		X		125
Cemetery Districts				
Corcoran		X		
Hanford				
Hanford Cemetery	*			143
Calvary Cemetery	*			
Kings River Cemetery	*			
Lakeside Cemetery	*			
Lemoore				
Lemoore Cemetery	*			140
Grangeville Cemetery	*			140
Community Service Districts				
Armona				
Office		X	XX	141
Parks & Recreation				
Waste Water Treatment Plant		X		
Home Garden				
Office		X	XX	
Parks & Recreation				
Kettleman City				
Office		X		
Parks & Recreation		X		
Community Services District		X		137
Stratford				
Office		X		
Parks & Recreation				
Stratford Public Utility District		X		139/146

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Local Government Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Stratford (Continued)				
Corcoran				
Building Department		X		133
City Clerk		X		133
Mayor & City Council		X		133
City Manager	*	X		133
Finance Manager		X		133
Planning Department		X		133
Public Works Department		X		133
Parks & Recreation		X	XX	133
Burnham Smith Park	*	X		
Cesar Chavez Park	*	X	XX	
Christmas Tree Park	*	X		
John Maroot Park	*	X		
Father Wyatt Park	*	X		
Road Department		X		
Sewage Department		X		
Water Department		X		
Hanford				
City Clerk				129
City Council				
City Manager			XX	123
Old Courthouse Square			XX	152
Finance Manager			XX	134
Municipal Airport/Park	*	X	XX	148
Parks & Recreation Department		X		
Centennial Park	*	X	XX	
Civic Center Park	*	X		
Coe Park	*	X	XX	
Earl F. Johnson Park	*	X	XX	135
Hanford Community Garden		X		
Hidden Valley Park`	*	X	XX	120 123
Lacey Park	*	X	XX	
Longfield Center		X		
Municipal Swimming Pool		X		
South Harris Softball Park		X		
Skateboard Park		X		
Youth Athletic Complex		X		
Planning Department	*			

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Local Government Committee Record of Visits

Facility	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Community Development Department			XX	150
Public Works				131
Engineering Department			XX	
Fleet/Building Maintenance			XX	
Refuse Waste Department			XX	
Street Maintenance Department			XX	
Shop Facilities				
Waste Water Treatment Plant			XX	
Water Department			XX	
Corporation Yard			XX	
Field Utilities			XX	
Lemoore				
Building Maintenance		X		
City Clerk		X		127
City Council		X		
City Manager		X	XX	127
Finance Director		X		127
Planning Department	*	X		127
Public Works Department	*	X	XX	
Refuse Department		X		
Road Department		X		
Sewage Department	*	X		
Shop Facilities	*	X		
Water Department	*	X		
Parks & Recreation Department				127
19 th 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			XX	128