

CITIES AND JOINT POWERS COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury has the responsibility to inquire and report upon the operations of the 11 incorporated cities within the County. The Committee's power to investigate and publicly report helps promote transparency of these cities. It directs attention to issues related to the public welfare and judicious use of taxes paid by the residents of the County. In addition, the Joint Powers Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding come under investigation of said Committee.

CITIES AND JOINT POWERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



Donald Napier, Chair
Patricia Duffel
Guy Porter

CITIES AND JOINT POWERS COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee has written and published the following reports:

- City of Arvin
- City of Bakersfield
- City of Bakersfield Solid Waste and Recycling Division
- California City
- City of Delano (See AD HOC)
- City of McFarland
- City of Ridgecrest
- City of Shafter
- City of Taft
- City of Tehachapi
- City of Wasco
- Shafter School Project

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee reviewed nine complaints.

The members of the Committee were also involved in numerous other committees and projects during the year.

Total investigative miles traveled by Committee: 610

BAKERSFIELD MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) visited the Bakersfield Municipal Airport (Airport) on April 22, 2013. Several other Jury Members accompanied the Committee. The Public Works Manager (PWM)/Airport Manager provided the tour. The PWM also oversees Fleet Services, Streets, General Services and Telecommunications. Each Division has a Division Manager (Superintendent) to oversee each respective Division. The Airport is located at 2000 South Union Avenue, Bakersfield, California. Members of the Grand Jury made the visit pursuant to California Penal Code §925a.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. Following World War II, a daughter of a Pioneer Kern County family and an avid pilot was instrumental in developing Bakersfield Air Park on South Union Avenue, Bakersfield, California. In 1947, the daughter trained a contingent of men and women (as young as 17) to be the first pilots of the soon to be Israeli Air Force. Another private owner, after the daughter, was the seller of record to the City of Bakersfield (see below). The Airport is now owned by the City of Bakersfield. The Airport was purchased in 1985, with a recent land acquisition made in 1997.
- B. The Airport is classified as a General Aviation Airport and a public use airport.
- C. The Airport's Location Identifier is L-45 as designated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- D. The Airport is home to the famous "Harmon Rocket" experimental aircraft.
- E. The Airport covers approximately 251 acres.
- F. The Airport has a number of private and City owned hangars on the property.
- G. The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) has a large hangar on the Northwest corner of the Airport.
- H. The EAA Hangar has room for ten aircraft and as of now the EAA Hangar houses eight to nine experimental airplanes.
- I. Entering the main gate the first thing seen is the control tower. The Airport is in an Uncontrolled Airport Status as the control tower has never been used.

- J. The Airport has a large painted Compass Rose on the tarmac contributed by the Women's 99's Flying Group. The Compass Rose can be used to help navigation as the Compass Rose has a magnetic North designation.
- K. The Airport has a Helicopter Pad on the South end of the property.
- L. The runway is 4,000 feet long and 75 feet wide.
- M. The Airport has approximately 100 aircraft based on the property.
- N. The Airport has a number of aircraft hangars known as Port-a-Ports. A Port-a-Port is a building similar to a mobile home. The hangar can be transported via a permanent trailer hitch and the sides can be folded in on some units and others can be taken apart and transported inside the Port-a-Port while moving. Most have been stable and not moved for years.
- O. The City of Bakersfield (City) uses a portion of the Southern end of the property to store new and old traffic signals and light poles used by the City. A win/win for the City as no rent is required.
- P. Many of the privately owned and/or commercial hangars are 20 years old or less.
- Q. One such commercial entity has a private flying school, charter rentals and has a contract to fly over pipelines to inspect for leaks. Also some repair of aircraft is done in the hangar.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Annual Operating Expense of the Airport is approximately \$230,000.
- F2. Annual Revenue – approximately \$240,000 plus a \$10,000 State Grant.
- F3. Existing Facilities:
 - FBO (Fixed Base Operator) – Office 120 square feet (sq. ft.) and Hangar approximately 2,400 sq. ft.
 - Hangar/Office 52 (all hangars have number designations) – Office 800 sq. ft. and Hangar approximately 3,000 sq. ft.
 - Shop – 3,500 sq. ft.
 - Restaurant – 6,400 sq. ft.
 - Office/Shop located at 419 Watts - 3,200 sq. ft.
 - Hexagonal Hangar – six planes.
 - T-Hangar – 20 planes at 1,000 sq. ft. each.
 - Community Hangar/EAA – nine planes.
 - Shade Structures.
 - Various Owner Hangars.
 - Various Land Leases for Owner Constructed Hangars.

- Above Ground 12,000 gallon Fueling Facility.
- A waste oil storage tank did not display applicable Department of Transportation (DOT) signage.

F4. Completed or Ongoing Projects:

- Southwest Hangar taxi lane expansion project - \$730,000 FAA Grant, completed November of 2010.
- Southwest Hangar sewer and water improvements - \$165,000 Redevelopment Funds.
- Airport Landscape Beautification Project, Phase 1 - \$250,000 Redevelopment Funds.
- The EAA Meeting Room - \$50,000 General Aviation (GA) Fund, completed June of 2011.
- Various Paving Projects, hangar floors, access roads, etc. - \$30,000 GA Fund.

F5. Upcoming Projects:

- Airport Landscape Beautification Project, Phase 2 – planting and irrigation along Union Avenue frontage, \$200,000, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) started in the Fall of 2011.
- Construct Southwest Access Road - \$285,000 FAA Grant.
- Paint Shade Ports - \$50,000 GA Fund.
- Replace Airport Beacon - \$25,000 FAA Grant.

F6. Hangar Fees Vary:

- A five dollar fee is charged for a fly-in over night outside tie down.
- The fee for protected tie down under the Shade-Port is \$75 a month.
- The fee for unprotected tie down (in the sun and rain) is \$40 a month.
- The most expensive fee is \$120 a month for an EAA inside hangar space.

COMMENTS:

The 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury and the Cities and Joint Powers Committee commends the Airport Manager for taking time from three other managerial positions to tour with the Committee and other Jurors. The information was very easy to understand and questions were answered with great knowledge. The Manager was very happy to be showing off the Airport and all the new and ongoing projects.

No visit to the Airport is complete without a stop at the on-site restaurant. All members of the tour went back to the office satisfied and happy to have made the tour.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. Address the lack of DOT signage on the waste oil tank.

NOTES:

The Bakersfield Municipal Airport should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1600 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
(661) 326-3724

RAUL M. ROJAS, DIRECTOR • CITY ENGINEER

June 10, 2013

The Honorable Judge Colette Humphrey
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Kern
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: Kern County Grand Jury Report for Bakersfield Municipal Airport

Dear Judge Humphrey:

On behalf of the City of Bakersfield, I am responding to the recommendation made by the Kern County Grand Jury in their final report concerning the City of Bakersfield's Bakersfield Municipal Airport.

The response to the specific recommendation included in the Grand Jury Final Report is as follows:

1. **Address the lack of DOT signage on the waste oil tank.**

The waste oil tank is a permanently fixed aboveground tank. The tank itself is not transported, therefore is not regulated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) nor requires DOT signage. The waste oil tank is regulated by the Bakersfield Fire Department Office of Prevention Services and must comply with the State of California Health & Safety Code. The tank has a "Hazardous Waste" sign affixed to it in compliance with these regulations. In addition, the contracted collector/transporter of the waste oil from the tank complies with DOT regulations.

We appreciate this opportunity to respond to the recommendations from the Grand Jury Report. I hope the information provided will sufficiently address the recommendation presented by the Cities and Joint Powers Committee. If there are further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


Raul M. Rojas
City of Bakersfield Public Works Director

Cc: ✓ Lynn Runyan, Foreman 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury
Honorable Mayor and City Council
Alan Tandy, City Manager
Stuart Patteson, Public Works Operations Manager/Airport Manager
Roberta Gafford, City Clerk

CALIFORNIA CITY

PURPOSE :

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited California City (City) on November 8, 2012, pursuant to the California Penal Code §925a. The Committee met with the City Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Finance Chief, Redevelopment Manager and other Staff Members.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

California City is bounded by unincorporated area to the North, East, South and West. The Desert Tortoise Preserve located along a portion of the City's Northeastern border outside the City's jurisdiction is administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The City is located approximately 60 miles East of Bakersfield, seven miles North of Mojave and about one mile from the Western border of Edwards Air Force Base.

In 1958, private land development activities began with a group of developers buying land in the Eastern portion of the City. On December 8, 1965, the City was incorporated with 617 persons with a City Manager Form of Government. The projected number of people in 2020 is expected to be 18,451 and equates to an annual growth rate of 1.8%.

- A. The City is the third largest City in the State in land mass and encompasses 203 square miles of City boundaries.
- B. The City has two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. There is also a private school run by a church group.
- C. The City receives fifty cents per day for each inmate in the California City Prison.
- D. The major employers in or in close proximity to the City are:
 - Correction Corporation of America
 - Edwards Air Force Base
 - NASA
 - Rio Tinto Mine (Formally U. S Borax)
 - Hyundai/Kia Automotive Test Facility
 - Silver Queen Mine
 - Mojave Air and Space Port
 - Wind and Solar Farms (Mojave/Tehachapi)
- E. The area in the City includes over 200 miles of roads and over 220 miles of waterline within the boundaries. Based on a five year average, the City annually

processes 290 million gallons of sewage and utilizes 160 million gallons of reclaimed tertiary water for irrigation.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Measure A Special Tax passed in March 2012; the funds generated will help fund the Police and Fire Departments for the next six years.
- F2. The Desert Incident Response Team (DIRT) Program now keeps a detailed ledger on all monies and expenditures. The State reviews how the accounting program is handled. The Off Road Vehicles Use stickers cost \$15.00 per calendar year from July to June.
- F3. The Airport recently signed a contract with Norville Aviation for a 30-year lease.
- F4. During the 2012 Thanksgiving weekend, approximately 100,000 people came to participate in recreation and camping in the California City area.
- F5. The minutes of the City Council Meetings were not up to date and had not been approved in several months at the time of the Committees visit.
- F6. The Dollar General Store has been issued a building permit and will soon become the City's largest retailer with a 20,000 square foot structure.

COMMENTS:

The Committee commends the City on the accountability of the DIRT funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. The minutes of the City Council Meeting should be prepared and ready for approval at the next Council Meeting and each one thereafter.

NOTES:

California City should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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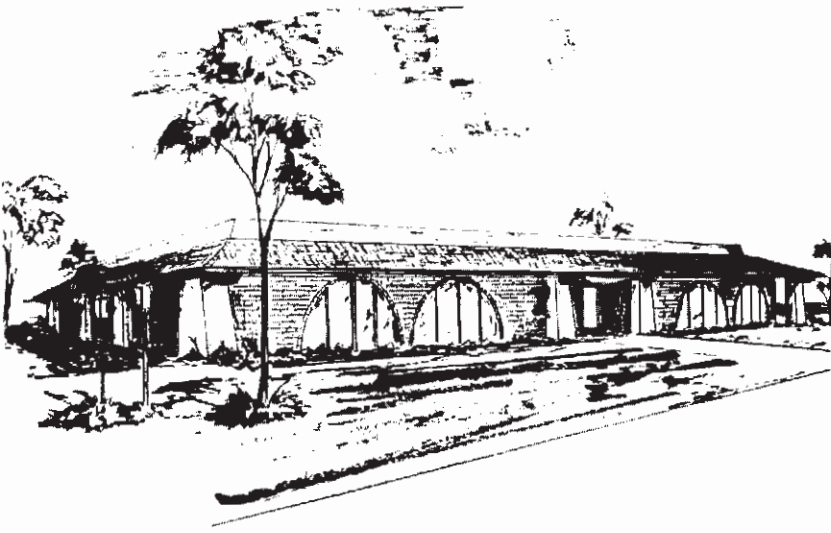
Incorporated 1965

City of California City

City Hall

PHONE (760) 373-8661

21000 HACIENDA BLVD. - CALIFORNIA CITY, CALIFORNIA 93505



March 4, 2013

Foreman
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Ave., Ste. 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Kern County Grand Jury Foreman,

The City and Joint Powers Committee visited California City on November 8, 2012 and noted in "Finding F5" that our minutes from previous Council meetings were not up-to-date. This anomaly was corrected the following month.

It should be noted that our City Clerk was taxed to support 23 public meetings, handle two elections, numerous public records request as well as provide documentation to the City Attorneys handling various lawsuits all within a 3 month period that compounded the issue of timely approval.

We would like to make a minor correction to Finding F3 so that it reflects "Norm Hill Aviation" and not "Norville Aviation".

As always we welcome the visits by the Committee as an opportunity to share our current successes along with the future goals for our community. Please contact me at 760-373-7170 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

William T. Weil Jr.
City Manager

CITY OF ARVIN

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the City of Arvin on October 15, 2012, to inquire into the operations and management of the City pursuant to the California Penal Code §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the City Manager, Mayor, Chief of Police, one City Council member and the Finance Director for the City of Arvin (City). The meeting was held at City Hall located at 200 Campus Park Drive, Arvin, CA 93203.

PREFACE:

The City of Arvin is located in Kern County, CA 15 miles southeast of Bakersfield at an elevation of 449 feet and encompasses 4.7 square miles. Property sales of lots in present day in Arvin began in 1907. The Arvin Post Office was established in 1914 and the community incorporated in 1960. The city named after Arvin Richardson, the son of one of the original settling families from San Bernardino.

Arvin has a large Hispanic cultural identity and many of the storefronts and signs are in Spanish. The residents expressed a strong emotional pull to Mexico and others to Central and South America. The descendants of Basques arriving from Spain as shepherds and vineyard workers made Arvin home. Arvin developed a reputation as a majority Hispanic community in the late 20th century as the result of high Mexican and Central American immigration farm migrant labor into a once” all-white” farming community.

The Arvin Migratory Labor Camp was the first federally operated farm labor camp opened by the Farm Security Administration in 1937. The camp was one of many New Deal programs created during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the Great Depression. This agricultural camp was considered a model, and was built by the Resettlement Administration.

The City of Arvin has had two major disasters in recent history. On July 21, 1952, the White Wolf Fault ruptured with a 7.3 magnitude earthquake causing much damage and a shift in the valley floor of approximately three feet... On December 20, 1977, a massive dust storm engulfed the City and surrounding areas leaving large piles of dirt, tumbleweeds, destruction and dust. The dust storm and fierce winds caused dust clouds to go miles into the sky and turning day into night. Images were shown over much of the world.

FACTS:

In 2010, the United States Census reported that Arvin had a population of 19,304.

- A. The economy of Arvin is primarily based on agriculture, and the employment statistics show seasonal variation. Approximately 42 percent of Arvin's residents were out of work in March 2011, the highest percentage in any city in Kern County.
- B. The Mayor's term ends this year and the Mayor is not running for another term.
- C. The Police Chief was recently appointed to a six month interim position being recruited through the California Police Chief's Association.
- D. The City of Arvin services include; Animal Control, Police Department, Building/Planning, Finance Department, Public Works, Recycling/Refuse, Waste Water/ Treatment Plant and Transit.
- E. The City of Arvin does not have a mission statement.
- F. The City has 42 full-time positions and two part- time positions.
- G. The City of Arvin is served by the Arvin Union School District and the Kern High School District. Other nearby districts includes Di Giorgio School District, Vineland School District and the Lamont School District.
- H. The Arvin Union School District consists of Sierra Vista Elementary, Bear Mountain Elementary, El Camino Real Elementary, Haven Drive Middle School and Arvin State Preschool. The Arvin Union School District also serves the community with the Arvin Family Resource Center and Grimmway Charter Academy.
- I. The crime statistics in the City of Arvin during 2010 were:
 - Violet crimes: 190
 - Murder and non negligent manslaughter: 0
 - Forcible rape: 1
 - Robbery: 19
 - Aggravated assault: 170
 - Property crimes: 496
 - Burglary: 187
 - Larceny: 231
 - Motor vehicle theft: 78
 - Arson: 8

- J. Arvin Transit and Dial A Ride does not work on Thanksgiving or the day after, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Martin Luther King Day, Cesar Chavez Day, Forth of July, Veteran's Day, Presidents Day and Memorial Day.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Public Safety employees are eligible to retire with 2% of pay, for each year of service at 55 years of age.
- F2. The City has 24 police officers/ dispatchers including the Animal Control Officer.
- F3. Animal Control works with the Kern County Animal Control Shelter located on Mt. Vernon Avenue in Bakersfield CA.
- F4. All the police dispatchers speak Spanish with the exception of one with limited Spanish skills.
- F5. The City of Arvin received a \$500,000 Grant from Homeland Security to conduct drunk driving check points and build a new server room for computer and communication equipment. The new server room should be completed and operational in 2013.
- F6. The Committee noted the police evidence room appeared disorganized and the gun lockers were unlocked. The Committee was assured a computerized back up system and 3x5 cards were also used to inventory the evidence. The gun lockers were promptly locked and secured in the Committee's presence.
- F7. The City budget for the fiscal year July 2011 to July 2012 was \$4.9 million. The general fund pays transportation, wastewater and police.
- F8. Fire protection in Arvin is provided by the Kern County Fire Department.

COMMENTS:

The Committee feels the City is making huge steps in continuing to meet the needs of the large Hispanic population. The Committee commends the City of Arvin for the information and expertise provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Establish a Mission Statement for the City of Arvin.
- R2. All Police Dispatchers need to be fluent in Spanish.
- R3. The Police Department needs to re-organize and have an updated system to inventory the evidence room so all entering can find the item needed quickly.

R4. In the evidence room all guns and ammunition must be secure at all times.

R5. All drug evidence must be properly stored.

NOTES:

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**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



CITY OF ARVIN

MAYOR
Jose Flores

MAYOR PRO TEM
Antionette Pichardo

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Steven Ojeda
Jose Gurrola, Jr.
Lupe Vasquez

June 4, 2013

Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxton Avenue, 2nd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Presiding Judge,

We received the Kern County Grand Jury Report for 2012-13, and we thank you for your efforts in this regard.

Our response to the Grand Jury recommendations are as follows:

- R.1. Establish a Mission Statement for the City of Arvin. Concur. The City will be establishing a Mission Statement in FY 2013/14.
- R.2. All police dispatchers need to be fluent in Spanish. Generally Concur. Due to the high percentage of Spanish speaking residents in Arvin, it is preferable that the police dispatchers be fluent in Spanish. In fact, the job description provides that bilingual skills are "highly preferred." As such, the bilingual skill is a factor that is taken into account in the hiring decision. It should be noted that the City utilizes a Spanish translation service on incoming 911 calls that is used by dispatchers who are non-bilingual. This system allows the dispatcher to immediately connect with a Spanish speaking 911 dispatcher through our translation services.
- R.3. The police department needs to re-organize and have an updated system to inventory the evidence rooms (so) all entering can find the item needed quickly. Concur on need to have inventory system. The Arvin Police Department has one of the most advanced property systems available to law enforcement today. It consists of computerized log and a bar coding system which tracks anything placed into property and evidence and entered into the computer. Only authorized personnel (the Lieutenant, the Administrative Sergeant and the person assigned to work in the property and evidence room) can enter the Property/Evidence Room. Authorized persons can quickly locate evidence or property by looking it up in the property management computer system. We are able to accommodate the Grand Jury with a review of the system at their convenience.

Phone (661) 854-3134
Fax (661) 854-0817

200 Campus Drive
P.O. Box 548
Arvin, California 93203
www.arvin.org

- R.4. All guns and ammunition need to be secure in the evidence room at all times. Concur. The incident identified by the Grand Jury (gun lockers unlocked) was an anomaly. On the day of the Grand Jury visit the property room was locked but the firearms locker was found to be unsecured. The cabinets in which weapons are stored had not been locked by the CSO who also has other responsibilities. He was called into the field abruptly while he was processing and storing property and evidence or preparing it to go to court. He locked the room as he left but he did not take time to immediately secure the gun locker and the narcotics locker by locking them. Corrective action was taken and staff was counseled on properly securing the gun locker.
- R.5. All drug evidence must be properly stored and secured. Concur. As in the response to R.4., above, the staff person was processing also processing drug evidence and did not secure the narcotics locker. Corrective action and counseling was taken with the employee.

We appreciate the professionalism of the Grand Jury members that visited the city of Arvin. We look forward to future visits.

Sincerely,



Tim Chapa
City Manager

cc Foreman
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxton Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the City of Bakersfield (City) on September 24, 2012, to inquire into the operations and management of the City pursuant to the California Penal Code §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met at the City managers Office located at 1600 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301. Present were the City Manager and Administrative Analyst III.

PREFACE:

Bakersfield was settled in 1858 by a handful of families traveling northward through the El Tejon Pass seeking home sites rather than gold. An early settler, Colonel Thomas Baker, named the town and invited travelers through the valley to rest overnight. The travelers would plan to meet and rest in Colonel Baker's "field." Baker formally started the town in 1869 and within two years the City had a telegraph office, two stores, a newspaper, two boarding houses, one doctor, a wagon shop, one attorney, a saloon and a schoolhouse.

The City of Bakersfield was first incorporated in 1873 and in the same year the County seat moved from Havilah to Bakersfield. Three years later the town decided to disincorporate. In 1898 the community reincorporated. In 1910 the City of Kern, formerly the Town of Sumner (East Bakersfield), annexed to the City of Bakersfield.

In 1915 the citizens of the City adopted a Charter calling for the City to operate under the council-manager form of government. Bakersfield was one of the first cities in the United States to adopt the council-manager form of government providing for the City Council to adopt ordinances, appoint members of various committees, boards and commissions and establish general policy for the City.

FACTS:

Bakersfield is one of two Charter Cities in Kern County. The current City Manager has been with the City for 20 years. The City Council consists of seven elected members.

- A. The population of the City of Bakersfield is approximately 354,000.
- B. The City has 462 full time employees and some seasonal workers working a maximum of six months out of the year.

- C. The City has nine different departments within the City. The nine departments include City Manager’s Office, City Attorneys Office, Recreation and Parks, Finance, Public Works, Police, Fire, Water Resources and Community Development.
- D. The Mayor is an elected official. The current mayor is serving a fourth term.
- E. The City establishes annual goals and gives directives on how to meet the goals. Goals set by the City affect diverse areas of City Government.
- F. The City does not have a Mission Statement.
- G. The City officially completed the purchase of City Hall North in December 2006.
- H. In 1990 the City received the National Civic League’s stamp of approval of an “All American City” for proactively dealing with the needs of the citizens.
- I. The following City Department budgets are as follows:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| • Police | \$71,676,072 |
| • Fire | \$33,417,838 |
| • Public Works | \$108,688,506 |
| • Recreation and Parks | \$17,359,700 |
| • Convention and Visitors Bureau | \$648,425 |
| • Development Services | \$7,081,602 |
| • Mayors Office | \$152,645 |
| • City Council | \$278,443 |
| • City Attorney | \$3,268,523 |
| • Financial Services | \$3,608,375 |
| • Water Resources | \$22,667,020 |
- J. The annual budget for the City is approximately \$535,410,000.
- K. Contracts for the construction of the Thomas Road Improvement Program (TRIP) are awarded by a bid process. Prevailing wages will be paid during construction on all TRIP projects. The TRIP program brought approximately \$722,000,000 into the area for transportation projects.
- L. Bakersfield City offers a wide variety of amenities to the residents and visitors:
- Bakersfield City School District is one of the largest school districts in the state.
 - Bakersfield Community College, one of the oldest Community Colleges in the nation, was founded in 1913.
 - California State University at Bakersfield was founded in 1965 and opened in 1970 on 375 acres. Three other College affiliates are in the City.

- Rabobank Arena/Theater is the largest convention center complex in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.
 - The City maintains 59 parks for a total of 573 acres and offers year round recreation with boating, white water rafting, fishing, hiking, golf, camping, water skiing and skydiving.
 - For those looking to travel to and from Bakersfield, several options are offered such as Meadows Field (airport), AMTRAK (train) and the Greyhound (bus).
 - The City has four movie theaters and seven public golf courses.
- M. Other major cities and attractions nearby to Bakersfield are: Las Vegas (286 miles), Sacramento (281 miles), San Diego (235 miles), San Francisco (286 miles), Santa Barbara (151 miles), Sequoia National Park (129 miles) and Yosemite National Park (190 miles).
- N. The Mesa Marin Sports Complex is located on 15 acres and includes four lighted softball fields, a 1,040 square foot prefabricated restroom and concession building, spectator bleacher seating with shade structure, landscaping, and a parking lot off of Highway 178. The City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks operates the softball facility and Connors Concession operates the onsite concession.
- O. State Farm Sports Village Soccer Complex is located at 9001 Ashe Road. The planned complex will eventually include football, baseball, softball and passive areas. The Complex is unique as tertiary water will be used to irrigate the fields directly from the water treatment plant to the north of the sports complex-purple pipe system. The City has entered into a license agreement with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 73 to operate and manage the first eight fields. Phase II is under construction and will include eight additional fields.
- P. Bakersfield has numerous medical facilities in the City including Kern Medical Center located in Kern County (County) jurisdiction.
- Kern Medical Center (KMC) is designated by the Kern County Emergency Medical Services Department and the American College of Surgeons as Kern County's only trauma center in Kern County. Designation as a Level II trauma center guarantees the hospital has adequate resources to deal with severely injured patients at all times. Kern Medical Center provides care for over 16,000 inpatients annually while the clinics provide care for over 100,000 patients and the emergency room experiences about 43,000 visits per year. The hospital is located within the County area and serves the entire City of Bakersfield.
- Q. The Bakersfield area offers many recreational opportunities located in the County such as Sam Lynn Ballpark, Hart Park and Lake Ming.

- Sam Lynn Ballpark is over 70 years old and is a charter member of the California League. The Bakersfield franchise is rich in baseball tradition. Known as the “Blaze” currently, and affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds. Bakersfield has also been the home of the “Badgers,” “Indians,” “Boosters,” “Bears,” “Outlaws,” “Mariners,” and “Dodgers” over the last half century.
- A question often heard around Sam Lynn Ballpark is “Who is Sam Lynn?” Sam Lynn was the owner of the Coca-Cola Bottling plant in Bakersfield during the 1930’s. By sponsoring and backing the Bakersfield Coca-Cola’s semi pro baseball team along with other youth leagues, helped bring baseball popularity back to the San Joaquin Valley.
- Hart Memorial Park is located eight miles Northeast of Bakersfield on Alfred Harrell Highway. The Park has two lakes for fishing, wildlife habitat, individual and group picnic spots, restrooms, and children’s playgrounds.
- Lake Ming is a manmade lake formed by the Kern River County Park Dam, a tributary of the Kern River in 1959. The lake can be used for boating and fishing with picnic areas, restrooms and playground equipment.

FINDINGS:

The City of Bakersfield received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the current fiscal period. The Government Finance Officers Association presented the award. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

- F1. The City awards employees for the quality of work, high levels of productivity, notable customer service and/or an old-fashioned “Thank You.” Approximately 332 “High Five” awards were given in 2011.
- F2. The City employs individuals that think outside the box. If employees see something that needs to be achieved or improved the employees are encouraged to submit a Bright Idea. There were five “Bright Ideas.” submitted by the employees in 2011.
- F3. The City gives awards to employees exemplifying traits of excellent customer service, leadership by example, willingness to solve problems and consistently high performance. Fourteen employees received the award in 2011.
- F4. The Rabobank Arena/Theater and Convention Center, as well as the Centennial Plaza Community Park, are located on part of Colonel Baker’s original land.

COMMENTS:

The meeting with the Committee was helpful and informative. All evidence points to how the City Manager and others are proud of what the City has to offer.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. The City of Bakersfield should have an overall Mission Statement to coincide with City Council Goals.

NOTES:

- The City of Bakersfield should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
-
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.
-
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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



Alan Tandy • City Manager

January 28, 2013

The Honorable Colette Humphrey
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue, 2nd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: Response to Recommendation of the City of Bakersfield 2012-13 Grand Jury Report

Dear Presiding Judge Humphrey,

Members of the 2012-13 Grand Jury Cities and Joint Powers Committee visited our office on September 24, 2012. Subsequently, a report released on January 8, 2013 included one recommendation as it relates to the City of Bakersfield:

R1. The City of Bakersfield should have an overall Mission Statement to coincide with City Council Goals.

The City of Bakersfield currently utilizes the City Council Goals and Guiding Principles format to guide decision making, prioritize City resources and direct the various branches of City government. As the 9th largest city in the state of California, the City of Bakersfield provides a wide variety of services and infrastructure to its approximately 354,000 residents, numerous visitors and many residents of unincorporated metropolitan Bakersfield. The City Council Goals and Guiding Principles format provides the City Council the flexibility to redirect or reprioritize staff time and resources through an annual update process. As such, the City does not currently utilize a broad, all-encompassing mission statement. The City Council Goals and Guiding Principles format has proven to be very successful in assisting the City Council and staff in providing services, programs and infrastructure to its citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the many activities and projects the City of Bakersfield currently has in progress. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Alan Tandy
City Manager

cc: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
Foreman: Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

City of Bakersfield • City Manager's Office • 1600 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield • California • 93301
(661) 326-3751 • Fax (661) 324-1850

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING DIVISION

PURPOSE:

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury investigated the Solid Waste Division Green Waste Recycling Facility pursuant to California Penal Code §925a. The Green Waste Facility is located at 2601 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93307, 1.5 miles south of Highway 58.

BACKGROUND

The investigation resulted from a citizen complaint regarding the Aerated Static Pile Project (ASP) which was conducted at the Green Waste Facility (Facility) in spring of 2010. The Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) members researched the City of Bakersfield Public Works website, reviewed financial data, interviewed the Director of Solid Waste and toured the Facility.

FACTS:

- A. The Facility first opened in 1990 when located on roughly five acres and was operated by two City of Bakersfield employees. The Facility was opened in an effort to divert recyclable yard and wood materials from the landfills.
- B. Presently the Facility is located on 97 acres and employs 35 City of Bakersfield employees working two ten-hour, four-day shifts.
- C. Green waste material received at the Facility is turned into useable material such as compost and mulch. The Facility receives approximately 200,000 tons of recyclable organic material per year.
- D. The Facility rents out space to the Metropolitan Recycling Corporation, a construction and demolition operation employing approximately 15 people.
- E. The Facility accepts yard trimmings, grass, brush, clean wood shingles, leaves, wood pallets, manure and non-laminate particle board.
- F. The Facility does not accept trash, dirt, tires, oil, tumbleweeds, metal, formica, painted or treated wood.
- G. The Facility is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week, and is only closed on New Year's, Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Facility must comply with California air pollution control requirements.
- F2. In 2010 the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (APCD) was considering a regulation that would require a 53% emission control level from compost piles.
- F3. As a pro-active measure a research project consisting of an Aerated Static Pile Composting System was initiated at the Facility in the spring of 2010.
- The money for the project was obtained from a San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District grant.
 - A Capital Improvement Program Project Worksheet was prepared in March of 2010 and funds were disbursed through the City of Bakersfield Refuse Collection Fund.
 - The ASP project budgeted \$200,000 and approximately \$42,000 was spent.
- F4. In 2011 the APCD finalized a regulation requiring a 19% (rather than 53%) emission control level from compost piles.
- The APCD decided to terminate the ASP project in 2011.
 - Upon termination of the ASP project the remaining funds from the grant were returned to the Refuse Enterprise Fund.
 - The cement blocks purchased for the ASP project are currently being used as road barriers at the Facility.
- F5. Fifty 1,000 foot-long rows have been created to convert the recycled green waste into compost.
- F6. Clients from the Bakersfield Homeless Center (Center) work at the Facility. The Division of Waste Management pays the Center a fee. In some cases clients from the Center are hired as temporary and permanent employees.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Solid Waste Director for providing information and documents and conducting the tour of the Facility. The Committee commends the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Division of the City of Bakersfield for efforts made in the area of solid waste recycling.

RECOMMENDATION:

NONE

NOTES:

- The City of Bakersfield Solid Waste and Recycling Division should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

CITY OF RIDGECREST

PURPOSE:

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the City of Ridgecrest (City) on March 19, 2013. The visit was held at City Hall with the Interim Manager, City Clerk, Public Services Director, Finance Director and assistant, Police Chief and one of the Officers and the former Redevelopment Director working as a consultant for the City. The visit was conducted pursuant to California Penal Code §925a.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

Ridgecrest is located in the Southern portion of the Indian Wells Valley Northeast corner of Kern County surrounded by mountain ranges; Sierra Nevada on the West of the Cosos on the North the Argus Range on the East, El Paso Mountains on the South.

- A. Ridgecrest is within two hours of the highest and the lowest elevations in California.
- B. China Lake Naval Weapons Center (NWC) is now the China Lake Weapons Station (NAWS) home to the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division which continues to be a major source of employment for the City residents.
- C. Although extreme weather conditions can exist during the summer months the climate is characterized by hot days and cool nights. The annual mean temperature is 65 degrees Fahrenheit resulting from the temperature fluctuation between 118 degrees maximum to 0 degrees minimum.
- D. The City employs 95 full time employees and approximately six part time positions for summer maintenance.
- E. The City Police Department consists of a Chief, Captain, six Sergeants with a Police Force of 31. The Police Department applied for, received Post 911 Grant, and hired two Officers.
- F. The City is Home to Cerro Coso Community College established in 1973. The College serves the communities of Ridgecrest, China Lake, Inyokern and Trona.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Interim City Manager assumed the position on August 16, 2012. The Interim City Manager previously worked with the Public Works Department. The posting for the position closed on March 21, 2013. The position was listed in the Bakersfield Californian, Job's Available and Yahoo Jobs.

F2. Measure L was presented to the taxpayers as a $\frac{3}{4}$ -cent tax increase for five years as a way to fund the Fire and Police Departments and Roads Department. Measure L Oversight Committee is in place consisting of residents nominated by Council Members.

F3. The City has discontinued the annual Balloon Festival in October and has been replaced with a Motocross Race.

F4. On the First weekend of November 2013 the City will celebrate a Fifty Year Anniversary.

F5. There are verbal Mutual Aid Agreements between Ridgecrest, San Bernardino County and Trona for law enforcement services. There is a written Mutual Aid Agreement with China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

COMMENTS:

The Committee congratulates the City on the Fifty Year Anniversary. The Committee thanks the City for the time and effort in putting the report together.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. Establish a written Mutual Aid Agreement for San Bernardino County and Trona with the City.

R2. The City should have regularly scheduled meetings with the Measure L Oversight Committee.

NOTES:

The City of Ridgecrest should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



CITY OF RIDGECREST

100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555
Telephone 760 499-5062
FAX 760 499-1500

July 15, 2013

Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior court
1415 Truxtun Avenue, 2nd floor
Bakersfield, California 93301

Subject: Response to the Findings and Recommendations of the City of Ridgecrest 2012-13 Grand Jury Report

Honorable Presiding Judge:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the referenced sections of the subject report. After reviewing the report, the City generally agrees with the findings. However, with respect to the recommendations, the City offers the following comments:

Recommendation #1: Establish a written Mutual Aid Agreement for San Bernardino County and Trona with the City.

Response #1: After careful review and consideration, we find that establishing a Mutual Aid Agreement with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office is unnecessary. The Ridgecrest Police Department has a good working relationship with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Office and the deputies assigned to the Trona substation. Since August of 2001, the Ridgecrest Police Department has responded to assist deputies in the San Bernardino County area adjacent to the city of Ridgecrest and Trona approximately 88 times – on average approximately 7.3 times per year. Over the last quarter century, mutual aid between our agencies has not been a burden or presented any significant issues. The Ridgecrest Police Department has an internal policy that requires supervisor approval for mutual aid requests. There have been some occasions when the nature of the request (non-emergency or life threatening), accompanied by low staffing, did not allow for us to respond and assist. The law enforcement agencies in Kern County, and our neighboring counties, have had a long tradition of working well together. The need for mutual aid agreements for day-to-day assistance between the agencies, to date, has not been necessary.

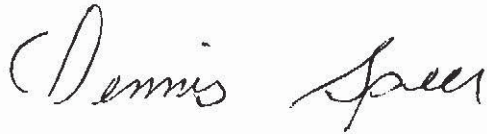
Recommendation #2: The City should have regularly scheduled meetings with the Measure L Oversight Committee.

Response #2: The purpose of the Measure L Committee is to oversee expenditures of the revenues received by the City from the sales and use taxes collected pursuant to the Temporary Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance. The committee was established to act independently in performing its duties. The committee's responsibilities include reviewing all Measure L revenues; reviewing the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; and issuing an annual report of its findings. The committee meets twice each month. The meetings are attended by City staff members who provide requested information to the committee. The first annual report of the committee is expected to be published in February of 2014.

The City Council is open to meet with the committee when invited. However, the City Council recognizes the independent nature of the committee and does not intend to interfere with the committee in the performance of its duties. Conducting regularly scheduled joint meetings may be perceived as an attempt to unduly influence the committee. The City Council wishes to avoid this perception. Therefore, the City Council believes that scheduling meetings on a 'need and request' basis is the best policy at this time.

The City extends its appreciation to the Grand Jury for the opportunity to respond to the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Speer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Dennis Speer
City Manager

C: Foreman
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, California 93301

CITY OF SHAFTER

PURPOSE :

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the City of Shafter (City) on December 13, 2012, to inquire into the operation and management of the City pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The City of Shafter began as a loading dock along the Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way. The City was named after General William Rufus Shafter, Commander of US Forces in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Property sales began in 1914 and the City was incorporated in 1938.

The City is approximately 17.98 square miles and is located 18 miles Northwest of Bakersfield. Elevation is 348 feet above Sea Level.

- A. Much of Shafter's economy is based on agriculture and related industry. Local crops include:
- Cotton
 - Almonds
 - Pistachios
 - Alfalfa
 - Carrots
 - Potatoes
- B. Aside from agriculture Shafter has a variety of different industries and businesses.
- Elk Corporation Roofing has a manufacturing plant in Shafter.
 - Target maintains a distribution center in Shafter.
 - International Trade and Transportation Center built to facilitate easier Central Valley access to ports in Long Beach and Los Angeles via the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.
- C. Shafter is home to the Richland School District overseeing the operation of five schools:
- Golden Oak Elementary School (K-6)
 - Redwood Elementary School (K-6)
 - Sequoia Elementary School (K-6)
 - Maple Elementary School (K-8)
 - Richland Junior High School
- D. Shafter has one High School which is a member of the Kern High School District.

- E. Shafter has four Museums in the City:
- Minter Field Air Museum built in 1941
 - Shafter Depot Museum
 - The Green Hotel established in 1913
 - Insect Lore Museum (Bugseum)
- F. Shafter statistics compared to California State (State) average:
- Median household income below State average
 - Median house value significantly below State average
 - Unemployment percentage significantly above State average
 - Median age significantly below State average
 - Number of rooms per house below State average
 - House age below State average
 - Institutionalized population percentage above State average
 - Percentage of population with a Bachelor's Degree or higher significantly below State average
- G. The Shafter Centennial Festival will take place October 17th to 20th, 2013, and will include:
- Gaslight Melodrama Theatre production on the history of Shafter
 - Downtown Parade
 - Tractor Pull
 - Fireman's Muster
 - Community Concert at Mannel Park
 - Time Capsule Ceremony
 - Fireworks Finale
- H. Notable residents from Shafter include:
- Anna Jelmini- Track and Field athlete
 - Larsen Jensen- Olympic medalist- Swimming
 - Dean Florez- CA State Senator, candidate Lieutenant Governor
 - Gary Bellamy- American actor and singer

FINDINGS:

- F1. In the fall of 2012 the City funded "Schools Project" opened a K-8 Tutoring Center and a High School Tutoring Center.
- The "Schools Project," with the help of local businesses, teachers and community groups, has distributed more than 30,000 books to students in Shafter.
 - In the summer of 2012, the "Schools Project" paid for the school library to remain open for an hour after summer school allowing families to check out 2,952 books over a five week period.
 - At the start of the 2012-2013 school year 40% of students entering second grade participated either in the summer or after school reading programs.

- About 60 K-8 students spend two hours per week with tutors. At Shafter High School, more than 100 students come for a least an hour each week.
- The “Schools Project” began offering English classes for parents in the fall of 2012. Two hour classes are offered twice a day and approximately 50 parents attend class each day.

F2. Shafter’s Police Department retirement is under the California Public Employees Retirement System (Cal PERS) and is 3% at 55 years of age. The general employees Cal PERS plan is 2% at 55 years of age.

F3. The City of Shafter does not receive revenue from any of the four Museums.

F4. Half of the City’s water customers have meters and half pay a flat rate.

F5. The City Manager has been with the City for over 30 years.

COMMENTS:

The Committee commends the City on the effort to further educate the entire community of Shafter with the “Schools Project.” The results the City has seen with the program should be an example for every School District in the country to follow.

The Committee commends the City of Shafter for a well-managed City including finances the result of political wisdom on the part of the Elected Officials, outstanding management and foresight of the Staff.

The City of Shafter should continue with the “Schools Project” and look to become a model for other cities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The City of Shafter should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

CITY OF TEHACHAPI

PURPOSE :

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the City of Tehachapi (City) on January 24, 2013, pursuant to California Penal Code §925a. The visit included the City Manager and numerous department heads.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The City of Tehachapi is located 35 miles East/Southeast of Bakersfield and West of Mojave. Tehachapi has an elevation of 3,970 feet. The name of Tehachapi originated from the Kawaiisu language. The name derived from Hard Climb or Tehachapia. The settlement was formally known as Tehachapau, Tehachapa, Tehachapi and Summit Station.

The first permanent white settlers were John Moore and Amanda Brite arriving in the Tehachapi Valley in the fall of 1854 from Texas and three years later moved to Brite Valley. In 1909 the Tehachapi settlement was incorporated and the City of Tehachapi was legally established. An act of the State Legislature changed the City's official name to Tehachapi in 1946.

The City previously known as Old Towne was established during the 1860s. The City is registered as California Historical Landmark #643 and is the oldest settlement in the Tehachapi Valley.

The most recent population numbers are broken down approximately: 9,000 in the City, 4,000 at California Correctional Institution and 35,000 overall including outlying areas such as Golden Hills, Sand Canyon, Bear Valley Springs, Stallion Springs, Alpine Forest and other small communities near the City.

A. Tehachapi and nearby points of interest:

- Tehachapi Museum
- Tehachapi Loop (Loop) is considered one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th Century. The viewing area is a popular destination in the region. The Loop was a solution to the problems of sending a train through the Tehachapi Mountains. By creating a unique track system, engineers were able to tackle the difficult terrain.
- Tehachapi Railroad Depot
- Woodward West Action Sports Camp
- Wind Farms
- Indian point Ostrich Ranch
- Tomo-Kahni State Park

- B. Tehachapi Bus Schedule includes Dial a Ride and the East Kern Express Services.
- Dial a Ride is provided Monday through Friday to the communities of Tehachapi, Old Towne and Golden Hills. Passengers may transfer to the East Kern Express in Old Towne and Tehachapi.
 - The East Kern Express Service is provided Monday through Saturday. Services provide intercity service between the communities of Bakersfield, Keene, Mojave, Rosamond and Lancaster. Passengers may transfer to other regional carriers in Bakersfield, Mojave and Lancaster.
- C. The City received a \$20,000 donation from Lehigh Southwest Cement on October 17, 2012, to assist in the construction of Freedom Plaza. The donation will help the City construct a new pedestrian plaza celebrating the five main branches of the United States Military as well as a newly improved public parking area. The new Plaza and downtown parking will be built on the Southwest corner of the intersection of Curry Street and Tehachapi Boulevard with a planned start date in late spring 2013.
- D. Main Street Tehachapi hosts many events during the year:
- The Harvest Moon and Beer Walk
 - Hotdog Festival
 - Oktoberfest
 - Star Light Ball
 - Super Stocking Give Away
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Valentine Wine and Chocolate Walk
 - Chili Cook-off and Red Hot Classic Car show
 - Farmers Market
 - Mountain Festival and Rodeo
- E. Community Orchestra and Theatre-Tehachapi Community Orchestra now called Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1997 and incorporated in 1998. Most of the Tehachapi Pops Orchestra was founded in 2006 and most of the five or six concerts each year are free to the public. The Halloween Concert at the Bekay Theatre along with the Tehachapi Community Theatre does charge a small fee to attend.
- F. Tehachapi is called the Land of Four Seasons and the climate accommodates the name quite well. The changing of the leaves in the fall is beautiful and the apple crops thrive.
- G. The construction of Highway 58 and Highway 14 place Tehachapi within a one-hour commute of Bakersfield, Lancaster and Edwards Air Force Base.
- H. The July 21, 1952, earthquake was the largest earthquake in Southern California during the 20th century. The 7.5 earthquake was felt as far as away as Reno

Nevada. Twelve people died in the quake and severe damage was done to buildings and rail lines in the area.

- Downtown Tehachapi is 15 miles from the White Wolf Fault, six miles from the Garlock Fault and 30 miles from the San Andreas Fault. The Garlock Fault last ruptured 500 years ago. In 1857, the Fort Tejon earthquake and the San Andreas Fault let loose with a 7.9 earthquake but no records have been found of the local effect on the City.
- I. In 1932 the first State Women's Prison was built in Cummings Valley. The 7.5 earthquake in 1952 caused major damage to the City and the Prison. The inmates were moved to Frontera. After repairing the facility in 1953 the State made the Prison a branch of the California Institution for Men at Chino. In the mid 1960's a new Medium Security Facility was built in Tehachapi. In the mid 1980s two Maximum Security Prisons were constructed. In 1998 the Prison now known as the California Correctional Institution (CCI) was annexed into the City. The prison is currently the largest employer in the region with almost 1,700 persons on the payroll.
- J. The City's Wastewater Treatment upgrade was high on the infrastructure priority list. The upgrade includes \$4.5 million dollars of new investment to improve the treatment process and increase capacity.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The dissolution of the Redevelopment Agencies by the State of California affected the City but the City is recovering well and continues to move forward.
- F2. The City has a Five-year Budget with a positive variance of \$1.2 million dollars in funds this year. Last year there was \$3.88 million in the general fund.
- F3. The new Hospital Facility will break ground in early 2013.
- F4. The Police Department is planning to build a new facility utilizing an existing structure and retrofitting the structure to the new Police Station. The City believes the new facility should be sufficient for approximately the next 20 years.
- F5. In April 2012 the City adopted the new General Plan now available online if the public wants to view the Plan.
- F6. Wal-Mart construction is moving forward. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was challenged. The City expects a new EIR addressing the three items brought up in court concerning noise, traffic and infrastructure to be completed during the summer of 2013.

- F7. The City completed a Bicycle Master Plan in parallel courses with the County of Kern. New plans will help the community develop a more effective bicycle network for both travel and recreation.
- F8. Improvements continued throughout Downtown Tehachapi in 2012 with the addition of landscaping, lighting and accessibility enhancements at multiple intersections on South Green Street additionally on Tehachapi Boulevard from Robinson Street to Hayes Street. The projects totaled nearly two million dollars in investment in downtown and were funded with grants.
- F9. Tehachapi Airport experienced record fuel sales in 2012 and saw continued enhancements with grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration.
- F10. The Airport in Tehachapi is owned and operated by the City. The Airport is located on 260 acres. The Airport receives \$160,000 a year from the City to operate the Airport and do the maintenance on all signs in the City. The Airport employs two people full time.
- F11. Tehachapi Unified School District's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a 6th through 12th grade Curriculum for Safe and Inclusive Schools.

COMMENTS:

The benefit of living in a smaller community like Tehachapi is immeasurable. Everyone seems to know the neighbors and everyone quickly become friends. Tehachapi appears to be a safe and peaceful community where people enjoy bringing up children and enhancing life along the way.

RECOMMENDATION:

None

NOTES:

The City of Tehachapi should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

CITY OF WASCO

PURPOSE:

The Cities and Joint powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the City of Wasco (City) on December 13, 2012, pursuant to California Penal Code §925a.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Mission of the City of Wasco is: *to provide high-quality, cost-effective, values-driven services to our citizens and in partnership with other community agencies to foster safety, unity, stability, quality of life, economic and educational opportunities and community pride.*

The town of Wasco was originally named “Dewey” and then “Deweyville”. When William Bonham, a settler from Wasco County in Oregon, determined there was a town already named “Deweyville” William Bonham proposed the area be renamed “Wasco” and in 1900 the Post Office recorded the name of Wasco.

Wasco is located approximately 25 miles Northwest of Bakersfield, 130 miles North of Los Angeles and 250 miles South of San Francisco. Wasco’s central location within California provides excellent accessibility to all major markets within California and is convenient for interstate commerce as well.

In 1904 two schools united using the name “Delta-Shamrock School.” The Delta building served a multi-purpose function as the school and an educational/civic center for settlers who arrived in 1907. The school was eventually named Wasco and in 1919 the school district combined with the Elmo District and became the Wasco School District.

The City of Wasco has a Council-Manager form of government where voters elect a five member City Council to four year overlapping terms. The City Council selects one of the members to serve as Mayor and appoints a City Manager to conduct the day-to-day business of the City.

A. The ethnic breakdown in Wasco as of 2010 US Census Bureau:

- Hispanic - 19,585
- White - 3,689
- Black - 1,951
- Asian - 162
- Two or more races - 125
- American Indian - 125
- Other race alone - 70
- Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders - 7

B. Wasco compared to the California State average:

- Median Household Income is below the State average.
- Median house value is significantly below the State average.
- Unemployed percentage is significantly above State average.
- Hispanic race population percentage is significantly above the State average.
- Median age is below the State average.

C. Universally known as the “Rose Capitol of the Nation” the eight major commercial rose companies located in the area growing over 50 million rose plants and 60% of the rose plants nationwide. The prime bloom time is March through December. Every year visitors come to see 100 or 200-acre plots in full bloom.

D. The City is nine square miles.

FINDINGS:

F1. Jackson-Perkins Rose Company has relocated back to the Wasco area after being gone for several years.

F2. Agendas are posted at Wasco City Hall at 746 8th Street and on the website the Friday before each regularly scheduled meeting.

F3. Graffiti is not as prevalent as it once was.

F4. The City celebrates a Christmas Parade, Quarterly Business Appreciation Breakfast and an annual Rose Festival.

F5. The City Council has four overlapping terms for Council Officers. A new Council Member was voted in for the 2013 term. No term limits are in place.

F6. The Mercer Group is still working with the City on Preparation for a Long Term Vision and Strategic Plan for the City. The Plan should be completed by January 15, 2013, for the goals meeting with the City.

COMMENTS:

The Cities and Joint Powers Committee thanks the City of Wasco for the time spent with the Committee during the interview. The City is working very hard in making the City better for the citizens daily.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

SHAFTER SCHOOL PROJECT

“TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?”

PURPOSE:

As a result of the Cities and Joint Powers Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Jury) meeting with the City of Shafter (City) and City Manager (Manager) and Staff the Committee learned about a project known as the Shafter School Project (Project). The Committee felt the City had developed a win/win program that should be brought to the attention of the public and other Cities. Consequently, the Committee has undertaken to issue a report on the Project in an effort to make the Project known throughout the County.

PROCESS:

In accordance with California Penal Code §925a the Committee began the process by teleconferencing with representatives of both the Richland and Kern High School Districts (Districts). Insofar as the Districts are concerned, the Committee either met or teleconferenced with representatives of both the Richland and Kern High School Districts including Board Members. The Committee also reviewed the Project with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS). The KCSOS believes such an undertaking would or could be beneficial to both students and the community. Additionally, the Committee discussed the Project with teachers from Districts, parents and citizens of Shafter.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Shafter School Project was to develop a workforce of educated citizens living in Shafter able to fill jobs being created in the City. The Project would also provide a population of Shafter citizens, able to provide over the long term, the leadership necessary to help the City meet projected growth in a logical and sustainable manner. Accordingly, the Committee has undertaken to issue a report on the Project.

Subsequent to the Committee's initial meeting with the City Staff, the Committee met with the Manager and the School Project Director (Director) to better understand exactly what the Project entails.

- What has been the cost thus far to the City?
- Has the City had to forego or delay any other projects in order to fund the Project?
- Have the City and Schools seen any positive results?
- What has been the relationship between the City and the School Districts involved?
- Have the relationships remained static, worsened or improved?

FACTS:

- A. The City has not postponed or eliminated any projects because of funds being used for the Project.
- B. The City has thus far spent \$1 million on the Project and has budgeted \$2.5 million from available funds to build a learning center.
- C. The City, teachers, district administrators, parents and members of the community all feel that significant progress has and continues to be made and in the case of one teacher the Project is “too good to be true.”
- D. The relationships between the City and the education community have significantly improved and both sides are working together for the best interests of the children and the community.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Committee discussed the Project at length with two Spanish-speaking parents of children deeply involved with the Project. Both parents are learning English in the tutoring program and the children are enrolled. The parents stated that the Project has been a great benefit to the family and understand how important it is to be fluent in English. The families felt the Project should be continued and that City resources should be used to fund it. Additionally, both parents encouraged friends and neighbors to participate in the Project. When asked to grade the Project from one to ten with ten being the best, one graded the Project nine and the other ten. One parent felt the Project could be improved by making the Project available year round to accommodate migratory worker parents.
- F2. The Committee spoke to three teachers: two high school teachers and a first grade teacher. One high school teacher is also a school coach. The three teachers are all enthusiastic about the Project and the elementary teacher had nothing but praise for the Director and the way the Project has been presented to the teachers. The Director has presented the Project as work in progress, i.e.; “if something is not working, delete it, change it, add to it and make the change now.”
- F3. One teacher felt able to express a point of view and together, on an ongoing basis, make whatever changes deemed necessary. In other words, the Project is very flexible with necessary changes to improve the Project being done in a timely manner in agreement with all parties.
- F4. The Committee spoke to two local pastors both being enthusiastic about the Project. One of the pastors provides the church’s assembly room on Wednesday nights for the use of the Project’s English Tutoring Program. The pastor stated approximately 40 people attend the evening Program. Both pastors felt the Project should continue to be funded by the City.

F5. In addition to the reading and ESL (English as a Second Language) programs for both students and parents, the City also began a reading program placing books in homes of students. Thus far, approximately 30,000 books have been placed. About 25,000 of the books were placed with families by an organization known as First Books at a cost of forty-five cents per book. For the most part, the City absorbed the costs with some help from donations. Additionally, 5,000 books have been donated by individuals and local organizations.

COMMENTS:

In the era of severe cutbacks in funding for education it appears the City has developed a strategy to help cope with the problem without involving the City in education policy which is the province of School Districts.

For many reasons the City has been able to accomplish the funding, the two most important are:

- The City's financial strength.
- The City's ability to work cooperatively with the Districts for the best interests of the children and parents and not to attempt to dictate to the educational community.

The Committee believes other Cities within Kern County, or for that matter anywhere, could benefit from the City's experience and as more funds become available could replicate the City's Project and/or develop similar Projects.

The Committee on behalf of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury commends the City of Shafter and leaders for a job well done.

In answer to the heading's rhetorical question "**Too Good to Be True?**" the answer is a resounding **NO!**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The City of Shafter should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED