



City of Sonora

"Queen of the Southern Mines"

94 North Washington Street
Sonora, California 95370

Area Code 209

Administrator 532-6115
Administration 532-4541
Finance 532-4541
Building/Planning . . 532-3508
Police 532-8143
Fire 532-7432
Public Works 532-2922
Cemetery 532-4492
Opera Hall 532-7725
Special Programs . . 532-7725
Redevelopment . . . 532-7725
www.sonoraca.com

FILED

SEP 10 2012

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

By:  Clerk

September 4, 2012

The Honorable Eric L. DuTemple
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
41 W. Yaney Street
Sonora, CA 95370

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report – Central Sierra Planning Council

Dear Judge DuTemple:

The following is offered in response to the 2011-12 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to the Central Sierra Planning Council.

R1- Financial Record Keeping Training

Response: This recommendation has not been implemented. However, as a member, the City can participate in financial training classes offered by the League of California Cities. In addition, the City will participate in any programs offered locally, by the County of Tuolumne. The City does not have the authority to dictate that other members of the JPA comply with this requirement.

R-2 – Financial Record Review

Response: The City maintains a standing "finance" committee that reviews City financial records. The City Finance Committee will further implement this recommendation by reviewing its JPA agreements for compliance with Government Code Section 6505.

R-3 – Annual Audits

Response: The City conducts an annual audit as required. The City will further implement this recommendation through its Finance Committee by "calendarizing" an annual review of the JPAs that it is a party to in order to ensure that the JPA is complying with the financial requirements set forth in Government Code Section 6505.

R-4 – JPA Agreement Contents, Sections 6505 and 6508.1 Government Code

Response: The City Attorney has been directed to review those JPAs which the City is a party to in order to determine if (appropriate) consideration was given to the matter of whether the member entities or the JPA, as a public entity, is responsible for the debts, liabilities and obligations referred to in Government Code Section 6508.1.

Grand Jury Report Response Letter
September 4, 2012
Page 2

R-5 -- PERS Participation Prohibition

Response: While the City believes that member entities should understand the financial implications of participation in PERS before any decision is made to join, the City does not believe it has the legal authority to prohibit PERS participation by member entities or require member entities to agree to fund unmet future obligations if the JPA fails.

R-6 -- Consideration of PERS Alternatives

Response: The City has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will give consideration to alternatives to PERS within the parameters of its collective bargaining agreements.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above recommendations of the Grand Jury. Please feel free to contact City Administrator Tim Miller should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Hank Russell, Mayor