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July 25, 2023

Honorable Wendy Getty
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield CA 94533

REGARDING: County Board of Supervisors response to FY2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Report, "First 5 Solano"

Dear Honorable Judge Getty,

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, is responding to the following findings and recommendations contained in the FY2022/23 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled: "*First 5 Solano.*"

Civil Grand Jury Finding 1

Declining revenue from tobacco Tax funding presents both current and future monetary challenges for maintaining mandated First 5 Solano services.

Response to Finding 1

First 5 Solano Executive Director: The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (First 5 Solano), a Division within the County Administrator's Office, agrees with Finding 1.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the First 5 Solano Executive Director's response. Additionally, it should be noted that First 5 services are not technically mandated, and a reduction in funding could impact service levels – meaning there is no guarantee they will continue absent Prop 10 funding.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 1a

If the State Controller does not act according to Revenue and Taxation Code section 30130.54(b) and transfer appropriate funding; First 5 Solano can request offsets.

Response to Recommendation 1a

First 5 Solano Executive Director: The recommendation for First 5 Solano to request offsets from the State Controller will not be implemented at this time because it is not warranted. First 5 Solano, through its Long-Term Financial Plan, has anticipated this decrease in revenue and has planned for adjustments accordingly. The State Controller has been allocating the funding to First 5 Solano in a timely manner. Although the recommendation is that First 5 Solano can request offsets, it seems to only apply if the State Controller does not actually issue the funds. Further, under Cal. Rev. & Tax. Code § 30130.54 (e), "the transfers...shall be made by the Controller at

such times as the Controller determines necessary to further the intent of this section.” This language in the law seems to imply that it is within the Controller’s discretion as to the circumstances of the issuance of the funds. If the necessary amounts due under the Revenue and Taxation Code are not issued, it would be reasonable for First 5 Solano to then request that the offsets are given. But given that the Controller has been allocating the funding appropriately thus far; First 5 does not believe it is warranted to make a request at this time.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the First 5 Solano Executive Director’s response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 1b

Develop further sources of income, both public and private, to maintain and expand delivery of services.

Response to Recommendation 1b

First 5 Solano Executive Director: The recommendation has been implemented. First 5 Solano has been working to develop further sources of income, both public and private, to maintain and expand delivery of services since 2016, as stated in its 2022 Systems Change Implementation Plan Update. Further; First 5 Solano reports out successes in fund development in its Annual Report.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the First 5 Solano Executive Director’s response.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 2

First 5 Solano currently operates a Family Learning Center [a.k.a. First 5 Center] in the City of Vallejo only. Residents of other cities in Solano County could benefit from similar programs.

Response to Finding 2

First 5 Solano Executive Director: First 5 Solano, a Division within the County Administrator’s Office, agrees with Finding 2.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the First 5 Solano Executive Director’s response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 2

Establish additional First 5 Solano Family Learning Centers in each city within Solano County.

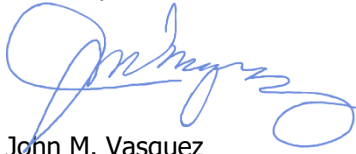
Response to Recommendation 2

First 5 Solano Executive Director: The recommendation to establish additional First 5 Centers in each city within Solano County will be partially implemented. Each First 5 Center has an operational budget of \$720,000. First 5 Solano has enough resources to operate two (2) First 5 Centers in Solano County, one operating in Vallejo and one opening in Fairfield in early 2025. The recommendation to establish additional First 5 Centers in each city within Solano County will not be fully implemented due to financial constraints. Should additional funding be secured, the Commission could consider directing the funding to the five other cities within Solano County to operate a First 5 Center.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the First 5 Solano Executive Director’s response.

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, we would like to thank the Solano County Civil Grand Jury for their time and attention to County processes and operations. Thank you for the opportunity to address your findings and recommendations – and for your work and contributions to the overall success of Solano County in services to our residents.

Sincerely,



John M. Vasquez
District 4 Supervisor and Chair of the Board

cc: Solano County Civil Grand Jury Office (CDClower@Solano.Courts.Ca.Gov)