

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

SIMONA PADILLA-SCHOLTENS, CPA  
Auditor-Controller

PHYLLIS TAYNTON, CPA  
Assistant Auditor-Controller



SOLANO  
COUNTY

675 Texas Street, Suite 2800  
Fairfield, CA 94533-6338  
(707) 784-6280  
Fax (707) 784-3553

[www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)

July 10, 2018

The Honorable John B. Ellis  
Hall of Justice  
Department 306  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: 2017-18 Grand Jury Report Entitled: Property Tax Assessment & Payment Processing Review

Dear Honorable John B. Ellis:

Pursuant to Penal Code §933(c) and 933.05, I am responding to the findings and recommendations in the FY2017/18 Grand Jury Report received on May 21, 2018 on the Property Tax Assessment & Payment Processing Review which pertains to a matter under my control as the elected County Auditor-Controller.

**Finding 2 – Solano County Integrated Property System (SCIPS) Replacement Project -** SCIPS is an aging application using unsupported, outdated software with limited technical resources. Platform updates are expensive and disruptive. A multiyear replacement project has been authorized and a \$10 million reserve fund created. The vendor product currently recommended by the stakeholders is not fully in production in California. Delay in replacing the current system puts the County at operational and financial risk due to the dwindling viability of SCIPS.

**Recommendation 2 –** County project team in the SCIPS replacement program continue to monitor the installation in Southern California. Based on results of that installation, the County's options be revised if necessary. Upon final system selection, it is imperative for the Solano County stakeholders to work together closely to implement the installation, testing, security and training on a new integrated property system for end users.

**Response to Recommendation 2 –** The Solano County Auditor-Controller agrees with the recommendation: The County project team continues to meet and is monitoring the installation of a Southern California County. In addition, the three county departments/stakeholders which include the County Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk, County Assessor Recorder and the County Auditor-Controller continue to work together in the replacement of the property tax integrated system.

I thank the Grand Jury for their report on the Property Tax Assessment & Payment Processing Review.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Simona P. Scholtens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Simona Padilla-Scholtens, CPA  
Auditor-Controller