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June 15, 2016

The Honorable Robert C. Fracchia
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: Response to the 2015/16 Grand Jury Report, "Let's Sort This Out, on the Registrar of Voters;

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge Fracchia:

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, I am responding to the findings and recommendations in the FY2015/16 Grand Jury Report, "Let's Sort This Out", received on May 23, 2016 on the Registrar of Voters that pertain to matters under my control as the Chief Information Officer and Registrar of Voters.

Finding 1

The purchase of the Elevate sorting machine is timely in light of upcoming changes to the California election process.

Response to Finding 1

The Registrar of Voters agrees with the finding. The Elevate sorter was purchased for, and has been successfully employed in the processing of ballots for the 2016 Presidential Primary Election.

Recommendation 1

The Registrar of Voters (ROV) continue to address equipment needs in anticipation of new voting regulations and legislation, or when current equipment becomes outdated.

Response to Recommendation 1

This recommendation has been implemented. The ROV participates in state-wide associations that monitor voting regulations and legislation as well as voting system certifications. ROV will continue to use that information to anticipate potential new laws and processing requirements and make corresponding investments in new technology as may be appropriate.

Finding 2

The recommendation by the ROV to purchase the Elevate sorting machine was a fiscally responsible use of both general fund and grant monies.

Response to Finding 2

The Registrar of Voters agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 2

Continue to use grants to defray the cost of purchasing capital equipment.

Response to Recommendation 2

This recommendation has been implemented. Since passage of the Help America Vote Act in 2002, Solano County has received \$ 4,429,611 to defray the cost of over \$5,890,035 in capital equipment to help the county administer elections.

Finding 3

The Elevate Ballot Sorter is a key part of long-term planning to keep Solano County in compliance with expected state-wide technological advances in voting.

Response to Finding 3

The Registrar of Voters agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 3

The ROV continue its efforts in long-term planning on behalf of Solano County voters.

Response to Recommendation 3

This recommendation has been implemented. As discussed in Response to Recommendation 1, the ROV is actively engaged in state-wide activities and committees to help understand and direct the future of election administration. This effort helps with the ROV long-term planning and decisions.

Finding 4

During the onsite presentation of the Elevate Sorter, it was noted by several Grand Jurors that the keyboard utilized to operate it was not adjustable, was intended to be used only while standing, and appeared to assume a standing height of five feet eight inches.

Response to Finding 4

The Registrar of Voters agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 4

The Registrar of Voters (ROV) should seek to resolve this issue.

Response to Recommendation 4

This recommendation requires further analysis. ROV will work with the manufacturer to try to incorporate an option for the keyboard to be utilized from a more accessible position. If this option is technically feasible, ROV plans to implement the improvement prior to the start of the November 2016 election cycle.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira J. Rosenthal
Chief Information Officer and Registrar of Voters

Courtesy Copy

Grand Jury

Board of Supervisors

Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator

Dennis Bunting, County Counsel

Magen Yambao, Sr. Management Analyst