



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: August 14, 2012  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme: 10 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer, 568.3400  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, 568-3400

**SUBJECT:** Response to the Grand Jury Report titled “Reducing Truancy throughout the County – A Prudent Investment.”

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Consider and adopt responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors responses to the Grand Jury report entitled “Reducing Truancy throughout the County – A Prudent Investment” and
- B. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included as Attachment A forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge.

**Summary Text:**

On June 7, 2012, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a follow up report on truancy prevention entitled “Reducing Truancy throughout the County – A Prudent Investment.” This current report is a result of the Grand Jury member’s engagement and monitoring of the Board’s Ad Hoc Subcommittee on truancy between November 2011 and May 2012.

The Grand Jury’s June 2012 follow up report requests responses on two findings and three recommendations.

**Background:**

On May 26, 2011 the Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled “Where is the Truancy Program in Santa Barbara County? Truancy is Troubling . . .for Everyone” The Board of Supervisors responded to the Civil Grand Jury on that report and formed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Truancy. Supervisor

Carbajal and Lavagnino were appointed to the Subcommittee. Support to the Subcommittee was provided by the District Attorney's, Sherriff's, Probation, County Executive Departments and the County Office of Education. The Subcommittee conducted a series of meetings with school district administrators and leaders from agencies capable of impacting the truancy problem to identify options and solutions to prevent truancy. The Civil Grand Jury was present at these meetings. A final report of the Board Subcommittee was approved on May 22, 2012.

On June 7, 2012, the Civil Grand Jury issued a follow up report entitled "Reducing Truancy throughout the County – A Prudent Investment" following their observations of the Board Subcommittee.

The Response Letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court for the June 2012 Grand Jury report (Attachment A) provides proposed responses to two findings (# 2 and 3) on the amount of truancy prior to, and following, the cessation of the truancy prevention program. It is proposed that the Board agree with the two findings.

The Response Letter additionally request responses to three recommendations (# 2, 5 and 6.) The Board implemented Recommendation #2 when, on June 15, 2012, the Board adopted the FY2012-13 budget with \$170K to fund positions in the District Attorney's Department. The Board requested the truancy prevention funding be ongoing.

The Grand Jury's Recommendations 5 and 6 requests secondary school district administrators to report on school revenues lost to truancy during the past (2011-12) school year (#5) and any reduction in truancy with the calculated increase in revenue from the implementation of the re-initiated truancy prevention program in the District Attorney's Department(#6). The attached letter to the presiding judge states that this will not be implemented by the Board since it is beyond the Board's authority to create the reports. The Board does, in the future, look forward to school districts completing the identified reports and providing them to the Board.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted:

No fiscal analysis required for consideration and adoption of this response.

### **Attachments:**

- A- Response to the Grand Jury report "Reducing Truancy throughout the County – A Prudent Investment"
- B- Grand Jury Report – ""Reducing Truancy throughout the County – A Prudent Investment"

### **Authored by:**

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive Officer

### **cc:**

Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney  
Ted Sten, Foreman, 2011-2012 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury