

MICHAEL R. KEITZ
District Attorney



SUPERIOR COURT BUILDING
209 W. Yosemite Avenue
Madera, California 93637

Telephone: 559. 675.7726
Facsimile: 559. 673.0430

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 12, 2013

D. Lynn Jones
Presiding Judge
Madera Superior Court
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, California 93637



Re: Response to the 2012-2013 Madera County Grand Jury Report
entitled: Madera County Department of Probation

Dear Judge Jones:

This letter responds, pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05(a) and (b), to the relevant recommendations set forth in the 2012-2013 Grand Jury report entitled: "Madera County Department of Probation".

The District Attorney's response is limited to the recommendation that the District Attorney provide an in-house Deputy District Attorney to the Madera County Probation Department ("MCPD".)

Grand Jury Recommendation:

3. That the District Attorney provide an in-house Deputy District Attorney to the MCPD.

District Attorney's Office Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented.

Budget constraints have placed heavy pressure on staffing considerations within the Office of the District Attorney. At present, staffing levels do not allow for the dedication of a prosecutor to juvenile cases exclusively. All attorney's in the office must be available to handle any assignment or case at a moment's notice in the Madera Superior Court, which is co-located with the District Attorney's Office. Juvenile Court is located in the main Superior Court. Whereas, the Probation Department's Juvenile Services Division is not located near the courthouse.

Further, centrally locating staff attorneys is advantageous for supervision, essential assistance between attorneys, communication, logistical support of the office and immediate response to court departments. On the other hand, the use of electronic communication and transference of case materials between the District Attorney's Office and the Juvenile Services Division enables the two departments to function without being co-located.

For the above reasons, the District Attorney respectfully declines to implement the recommendation of the Grand Jury. Should resources improve, this decision may be reconsidered in the future.

I would like to thank the members of the Grand Jury for their service, commitment to improving the government of Madera County and allowing the District Attorney's Office the opportunity to explain its position on this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael R. Keitz', is written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL R. KEITZ
District Attorney