



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

JORDAN WAMHOFF, District No. 1
DAVID ROGERS, District No. 2
ROBERT L. POYTHRESS, District No. 3
LETICIA GONZALEZ, District No. 4
BOBBY MACAULAY, District No. 5

KAREN SCRIVNER, Chief Clerk of the Board

September 17, 2024

The Honorable Michael Jurkovich
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
Madera County Superior Court
200 S. G Street
Madera, CA 93637

Subject: Response to the 2023-24 Grand Jury Report entitled "Madera County Strategic Plan – Mission 2023"

Honorable Judge Jurkovich:

Pursuant to the California Penal Code 933.05, the Madera County Board of Supervisors submits this response to the findings and recommendations in the 2023-24 Madera County Grand Jury report entitled "**Madera County Strategic Plan – Mission 2023.**"

Finding 1:

The current Strategic Plan – Mission 2023 has expired.

Response

Respondent disagrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (2). Although the current version of the Madera County Strategic Plan, Strategic Plan-Mission 2023 (Plan) has extended past the five-year scope contemplated in the Plan, it is not subject to an expiration date. As described by the Grand Jury, the Plan "remains an ongoing, living document under consideration by the 24 Departments identified by the County."

Finding 2:

The Madera County BOS did not have a plan for moving forward once the Strategic Plan expired.

Response

Respondent disagrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (2). The Strategic Plan did not expire in 2023. The plan is not subject to expiration, rather it is a living document. The Board of Supervisors, even prior to 2023, has planned for and anticipated updates and revisions to the plan. As noted by the Grand Jury, The Strategic Plan and updates to the plan, have been the subject of discussions not only at County Management Workshops, but at dedicated Board workshops. On May 24, 2021, the Board of Supervisors, at its Strategic Workshop, worked with staff to review the current plan and provide direction for the continued evolution of the plan.

Finding 3:

Individual Focus Areas identified on BOS Agenda Packet Agenda Item Submittal forms are often grouped together or completely omitted with no explanation or rationale provided.



Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 4:

In reviewing Agenda Packets, no agenda item was found that made reference to an annual Report Card, which would provide an update on the status of the Plan and provide the public with information and increase transparency.

Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 5:

Madera County and the City of Madera officials are in conflict regarding Government relations.

Response

Respondent disagrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (2). Although the Grand Jury solicited varied responses regarding the current state of government relations from County and City representatives, review of both the Madera County Strategic Plan and Vision Madera 2025 find consistency in terms of emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the two entities. As noted in the Grand Jury's report, the County Strategic Plan emphasizes continued collaboration with the cities within Madera County in order to provide seamless services throughout the County and includes a stated objective of strengthening intergovernmental relationships. Vision 2025, the City of Madera's Vision and Action Plan, includes strategies centered around, promoting greater collaboration with the County, strengthening alliances between City and County and developing collaborative incentive programs.

Finding 6:

The current Strategic Plan – Mission 2023 did not take into consideration goals for the future.

Response

Respondent disagrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (2). The Strategic Plan is not an assessment of the state of the County at a certain point in time. As with all strategic plans, it is aspirational with established objectives and goals meant to be accomplished over a period of time. In the case of Mission 2023 the goals contemplated an initial 5-year period of time into the future. As aptly described by the Grand Jury, the plan is an "ongoing living document." Some of the goals outlined in the plan have been accomplished, others remain. As the plan evolves and the Board of Supervisors works with County departments to update and revise the plan, the plan will continue to consider the future of the County.

Recommendation 1:

In order to permit time until a new Strategic Plan is developed and published, at the next regularly scheduled BOS meeting after receipt of this Report the Madera County BOS document and publish a statement indicating that the Strategic Plan – mission 2023 stands as its statement of Creating a countywide Culture of Excellence until that time when a new Plan is in place.

Response

The recommendation requires further analysis. Following the September 2023 Madera County Management Workshop, the County Administrative Office convened a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of a representative from each county department. The purpose of the committee is to develop and implement revisions to the county strategic plan. As work progresses on this project, periodic updates will be provided to the Board of Supervisors. At what point, and in what form, updates will occur will be determined during the course of committee work and plan development.

Recommendation 2:

Prior to and included in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, the BOS will determine policies and procedures for having a new plan in place prior to the previous Plan's expiration date.

Response

The recommendation requires further analysis. As the Strategic Planning Committee works its way through the development of an updated strategic plan, consideration will be given to the need for continued revisions. Related policies and procedures will be included and presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Recommendation 3:

After receipt of this Report and at the next regularly scheduled BOS meeting all Departments take into consideration how and why Focus areas are grouped and/or omitted from Agenda items Submittal forms and provide explanation in the space provided.

Response

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. County Administration will work with County departments to ensure renewed emphasis on inclusion of relevant strategic plan focus areas on County Agenda Item Submittal forms.

Recommendation 4:

Prior to the publishing of the version of the Strategic Plan, the Madera County BOS work with the City of Madera Council to develop a plan for improved working relations so that the process can be identified and published in the new Plan.

Response

The recommendation requires further analysis. Undoubtedly, government relations will continue to be an important component of a revised strategic plan. It is clear that both the County of Madera and the City of Madera recognize the importance of continued collaboration between the two entities. Regardless of the status of either entities' strategic plan, collaboration between the two is ongoing and is certain to continue. To the extent a plan is necessary to foster improved working relations between the County and the City, such a need will be identified and developed during the course of deliberations by the Strategic planning Committee.

Recommendation 5:

To improve public information and transparency, the Madera County BOS develop a specific plan for the presentation of an annual update at BOS meetings of current status of the Plan.

Response

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. As work of the Strategic Planning Committee progresses, status updates will be provided to the Board of Supervisors. In terms of Board of Supervisors updates, annual or otherwise, to be delivered once revisions to the Plan are completed, such updates will be contemplated and included in the revised Strategic Plan.

Recommendation 6:

For the next version of the Strategic Plan, the Madera County BOS identify specific goals for a growing, aging, and technologically advanced population.

Response

The recommendation requires further analysis. The Strategic Planning Committee will carefully consider all aspects of serving the public in the development of an updated strategic plan with an aim toward enriching the lives of all that live, work and play in Madera County.

The Board acknowledges the Grand Jury's review and time involved in this matter and appreciates the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Robert Poythress
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors