



Lou Ann Texeira  
 Executive Officer

**MEMBERS**

<b>Candace Andersen</b> <i>County Member</i>	<b>Michael R. McGill</b> <i>Special District Member</i>
<b>Donald A. Blubaugh</b> <i>Public Member</i>	<b>Rob Schroder</b> <i>City Member</i>
<b>Federal Glover</b> <i>County Member</i>	<b>Igor Skaredoff</b> <i>Special District Member</i>
	<b>Don Tatzin</b> <i>City Member</i>

**ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

<b>Diane Burgis</b> <i>County Member</i>
<b>Sharon Burke</b> <i>Public Member</i>
<b>Tom Butt</b> <i>City Member</i>
<b>Stanley Caldwell</b> <i>Special District Member</i>

July 12, 2017

July 12, 2017  
 Agenda Item 12

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
 651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor  
 Martinez, CA 94553

**2016-2017 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury Reports**

Dear Members of the Commission:

The grand jury system in California consists of 58 grand juries—one in each county. The grand jury is convened annually by the Superior Court to carry out the following functions:

- investigate and report on the operations of local government (which is known as the "watchdog" function - a civil, rather than criminal function),
- issue criminal indictments to require defendants to go to trial on felony charges, and
- investigate allegations of a public official's corrupt or willful misconduct in office, and when warranted, file an "accusation" against that official to remove him or her from office.

With regard to its watchdog authority, the grand jury investigates local governments as it is an independent body, separate from the entities and officials it investigates. It conducts its investigations under the auspices of the Superior Court and has broad access to public officials, employees, records and information.

The grand jury's fact-finding efforts typically result in written reports which contain specific recommendations aimed at identifying problems and offering recommendations for improving government operations and enhancing responsiveness. In this way, the grand jury promotes government accountability.

Throughout the State, grand juries spend considerably more time on investigating and reporting on local government operations than they do on criminal matters. The local governmental entity to which a report is directed is required to answer both the *Findings* and *Recommendations* in writing and within a specified period of time after the issuance of the final report.

Since the 2016-2017 Grand Jury convened, it has issued 12 reports, all of which are available online at <http://www.cc-courts.org/civil/grand-jury-reports.aspx>. The 2016-2017 reports cover a

number of topics ranging from mental health services for at-risk children, homelessness in cities, and emergency mass care and shelter, to animal shelter services, funding flood control infrastructure, and the Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse.

Of particular interest to LAFCO are two recent reports: *Funding the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District* and *Alamo Parks Planning and Development* (County Service Area R-7). You can access these reports online or through the LAFCO office.

*This is an informational item – no Commission action is needed.*

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER