



YOLO COUNTY CHAPTER

California Grand Jurors' Association

email: cgjayolo@gmail.com

website: <http://groups.dcn.org/yolocgja>

May 29, 2013

Mel Garcia, Fire Chief
Dunnigan Fire Protection District
PO Box 213
Dunnigan, CA 95937

Dear Chief Garcia,

I am writing to you as a Yolo County resident and President of the Yolo-CGJA, a Chapter of the California Grand Jury Association, composed of Yolo County residents who are previous grand jury members. Our goals are to support the grand jury system and promote government accountability. One of our tasks is to follow up on prior grand jury recommendations.

The following pertains to the 2011-12 Grand Jury report on Dunnigan Fire Protection District. The Fire Chief and the Commissioners responded to recommendations indicating intent to take action. Although implementation might have occurred, the public at large and succeeding grand juries are not aware of it.

In its report, the Yolo County Grand Jury recommendation **R1** was:

“Implement a standard written policy to inform all volunteer firefighters of the DFPD volunteer retention procedure.”

Here is the response from the Fire Chief to recommendation **R1**:

“This recommendation will be implemented within 2 months.

We are committed to ensuring all volunteers are knowledgeable about the retention policies outline within the existing association’s by-laws. Although these by-laws are provided to the recruits when they are first accepted to our department, and the probationary period ad procedures to become a fully vested volunteer are also discussed, at this we understand a standalone document specifically designed to be given to new volunteers may help with communicating these conditions. Our goal is to support all new volunteers so they may make full volunteer status. We are planning on implementing an Annual Awards and Recognition Dinner to acknowledge the accomplishments and dedication of our members. This dinner will serve as a vehicle to celebrate our members, their efforts and commitment as volunteers who strive to serve our community. In addition, California State Firefighters Association provides a workshop for Rural Districts on the topic of Recruitment and Retention. We will make a point to send Officers to this event when it made available in our region.”

In its report, the Yolo County Grand Jury recommendation **R2** was:

“Identify and publish a protocol for response call situations that may be appropriate for the first responder to respond from their location directly to the emergency.”

Here is the response from the Fire Chief to recommendation **R2**:

“This recommendation will be implemented within 2 months.

We agree with the concept that in some cases it would be appropriate for the first responder to arrive at the emergency before going to the stations as our current policies require. We will develop and publish a policy that can be used to identify what situations may be appropriate for this tactic, and how the policy can be put into practice.”

Supporting documentation is online at <http://groups.dcn.org/yolocgja>, under the Specifics link.

Please provide us with a specific update on your responses to these grand jury recommendations.

We would appreciate your response by July 15. You may send your response electronically to: Barbara Sommer at cgjayolo@gmail.com. Please note that we will share this letter and your response with the current Yolo County Grand Jury, the advising judge, and the public.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sommer
President, Yolo Chapter, CGJA
530.756.7553