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TRINITY COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT

**Trinity County Grand Jury  
2009 - 2010**

**FILED**


JUN - 7 2010

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
COUNTY OF TRINITY  
BY: STACI WARNER, DEPUTY CLERK

**Special Districts Committee  
SDR2009/2010-002  
Final Report**

**Trinity County  
Study of Weaverville and Hayfork  
Recreation Districts**

**Approved May 18, 2010**

  
**Ronald D. Ward**

Approved  
June 7, 2010

## **2009-2010 Trinity County Grand Jury**

### **Special Districts Committee**

#### **Study of Weaverville and Hayfork Recreation Districts**

##### **Summary**

The Trinity County Grand Jury undertook a study of the Recreation Districts, specifically Hayfork and Weaverville.

Because of the County's economic problems, many of the areas financially supported by the County had to be reviewed and decisions made where funding cuts could be made. The County parks were one of these areas and much of their funding was stripped. As a result, much of the park maintenance has been performed by volunteers in the local communities.

Some of the parks have heavy funding obligations, such as swimming pools. This put an additional burden on the community. Communities are relying on volunteers and special fundraisers to keep the parks and recreational facilities operating.

##### **Background**

The Weaverville Douglas City Park and Recreation District (WDCPRD) receives property tax revenue from their District and this is the basis for their budget. They supplement this with income from various programs and grants. The Lowden Park pool, which operates under WDCPRD, raises funds for operation outside of the funding for the Districts' other programs. Lowden Aquatic Park Project (LAPP), a main source of revenue for the pool, is a non-profit corporation that raises funds in the local community to support the pool.

In the case of the Greater Hayfork Valley Park and Recreation District (GHVPRD), the pool is the main source of recreation for the District. They receive Special Assessment funding for the operation of the pool with additional income being derived from pool admissions and District fundraisers.

Prior to the latest budget constraints the County did provide funds for park maintenance.

##### **Method of Investigation**

The Recreational Districts' budgets were reviewed, Board and community informational meetings were attended, and District and County personnel were interviewed.

## **Discussion**

The communities in the County that have parks and recreational sites are looking for ways to support the infrastructure and services these facilities provide. Many of these services are provided mainly for the youth of the area. Even when the County was fully funding the parks, the communities had to raise funds to support special programming, and projects for maintenance and improvement.

Trinity County applied for and received a grant to build a new pool at Lowden Park, but decided against the project due to declining revenue. WDCPRD took over the grant, and built the pool, incurring considerable debt in the process. Now they are relying on LAPP and the community for a majority of the funding to keep the pool operating. WDCPRD has budgeted \$25,000 in revenue from LAPP in 2009-2010 for pool funding.

GHVPRD also has an older pool that has recently undergone a large retrofit to correct years of deferred maintenance. Their Special Assessment income barely covers the maintenance on the pool. Money to operate the pool and also maintain the park must be raised in addition to the Special Assessment income. Due to economic conditions in the area, the GHVPRD has set pool admission fees low to allow local families to enjoy the pool. This income is insufficient to cover pool expenses. Approximately \$35,000 in additional funds must be raised to operate the pool for the season. GHVPRD has an active board that creates opportunities for this additional funding. A grant writer is currently working on grants for this season. The District has a working plan in the event that the funds will not allow for a full summer season of operation for the pool.

GHVPRD is in the process of negotiating Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County to operate the park in Hayfork. The MOU is on hold pending next year's budget while the County works on funding alternatives to maintain the parks. GHVPRD says that the County will often be able to provide maintenance material for the parks, but cannot supply any labor.

There is great community support for these Recreational Districts, and many supporters are coming forward with fundraisers and needed volunteerism. The Districts, with support of the communities, are even applying for future grants to expand their parks and recreational facilities.

## **Findings/Recommendations**

### Finding 1:

These recreational districts rely on outside funds for much of their operational costs making it difficult to plan for, and fund maintenance and seasonal expenditures. Lack of funding has caused program cancellations and personnel layoffs.

Recommendation 1:

Because the Districts receive significant community support now is the time to seek additional Special Assessment funding, or other stable income sources. This would ensure funds are available for appropriate budgeting. This is especially prudent when the community is looking to expand their facilities and incur future debt.

This “special assessment” funding assures the money is spent in the community and for what purpose.

**Responses Required**

In accordance with California Penal Code 933.05 a response is required as indicated below.

<u>Respondent</u>	<u>Finding/Recommendation</u>	<u>Due date</u>
County Administrative Officer	1	60 days
GHVPRD	1	60 days
WDCPRD	1	60 days
Board of Supervisors	1	90 days

The governing bodies indicated above should be aware that comment or response of the governing body must be conducted subject to the notice, agenda and open meeting requirements of the Brown Act.



# TRINITY COUNTY

## Office of the County Administrator

DERO B. FORSLUND

County Administrative Officer

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613

PHONE (530) 623-1382 FAX (530) 623-8365

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SEP 13 2010

TRINITY COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT

*Forwards  
9/14/10*

TO: The Honorable Anthony Edwards,  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Dero B. Forslund, CAO

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2009-10  
Grand Jury Special Districts Committee Final Report  
Re Trinity County Study of Weaverville and Hayfork Recreation Districts

DATE: August 30, 2010

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The Grand Jury Special Districts Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Trinity County Study of Weaverville and Hayfork Recreation Districts. In my capacity as County Administrative Officer, my response is as follows:

#### Finding 1:

These recreational districts rely on outside funds for much of their operational costs making it difficult to plan for, and fund maintenance and seasonal expenditures. Lack of funding has caused program cancellations and personnel layoffs.

Response: We concur

#### Recommendation 1:

Because the Districts receive significant community support now is the time to seek additional Special Assessment funding, or other stable income sources. This would ensure funds are available for appropriate budgeting. This is especially prudent when the community is looking to expand their facilities and incur future debt.

This "special assessment" funding assures the money is spent in the community and for what

purpose.

Response: We concur with the recommendation but would remind the Grand Jury that both districts have recently had failed assessment measures on the ballot. Any attempt to secure a special assessment will require the efforts of community representatives as well as the Districts. The recommendation can only be implemented by the districts.

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## TRINITY COUNTY

### Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093  
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

TO: The Honorable James Woodward,  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to 2009-10 Trinity County Grand Jury  
Special District Committee  
Final Report on Study of Weaverville and Hayfork Recreation Districts

DATE: October 5, 2010

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The Grand Jury Special District Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Final Report on Study of Weaverville and Hayfork Recreation Districts. The Board of Supervisors' response is as follows:

**Finding #1:** These recreational districts rely on outside funds for much of their operational costs making it difficult to plan for, and fund maintenance and seasonal expenditures. Lack of funding has caused program cancellations and personnel layoffs.

**Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation 1:** Because the Districts receive significant community support now is the time to seek additional Special Assessment funding, or other stable income sources. This would ensure funds are available for appropriate budgeting. This is especially prudent when the community is looking to expand their facilities and incur future debt.

This "special assessment" funding assures the money is spent in the community and for what purpose.

**Response:** Requires further analysis. We agree that a new assessment would be helpful for the park districts. However, a very well thought out approach for successful passage of such a measure would be needed for community support. You may recall the past two attempts did not pass. This activity would need to originate from the districts and their boards to assess the right time for such a ballot measure and proper plan.

JUDY PFLUEGER  
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS  
DISTRICT 2

ROGER JAEGLER  
DISTRICT 3

HOWARD FREEMAN  
DISTRICT 4

WENDY OTTO  
DISTRICT 5