



**GRAND JURY  
El Dorado County**

P.O. Box 472  
Placerville, California 95667  
(530) 621-7477 Fax: (530) 295-0763  
E-mail address: [grand.jury@edcgov.us](mailto:grand.jury@edcgov.us)

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Members of the Board of Supervisors:

August 7, 2010

It has recently come to the attention of the El Dorado County Grand Jury that the County Administrative Office is about to recommend elimination of BOS Policy B-10. It should be noted that there has been no meeting or discussion with the Grand Jury leading up to this specific recommendation.

This recommended course of action is hasty and ill conceived, based on a lack of key information, and strikes at the heart of Grand Jury operations on behalf of the citizens of El Dorado County. In doing so, it strikes at the heart of citizen participation in effective oversight of county government.

The basic background for this policy is, as stated in the policy itself:

"The El Dorado County Charter, Section 210,a (12), requires that "The Board of Supervisors shall adopt a policy and procedures for wide distribution of the Grand Jury Final Report and the Board of Supervisors Response to the Final Report."

This BOS Policy governs and provides in pertinent part that:

"The County Chief Administrative Officer shall, upon approval by the Board of Supervisors of a formal response to the annual Grand Jury Final Report, arrange for publication and distribution of said reports to assure access to the reports by all major population areas within the county.

Publication and distribution will be in the form of a tabloid in newspapers with major circulations within the County."

The Grand Jury is charged under law with performing a fundamental function on behalf of citizen taxpayers and beneficiaries of county services. Effective citizen oversight and watchdog activities are substantially dependent on the ability to publicize results of significant investigations into the functions of county government.

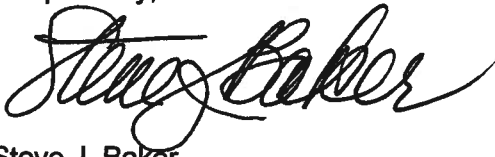
BOS Policy B-10, as written, protects those fundamental duties and operations of a Grand Jury by assuring reasonable access to and distribution of the results of Grand Jury investigations on behalf of all the citizens of this county, not just those enjoying access to the Internet or those with inside information about county government.

In fact, one need only reference the recent report of the 2009-2010 Grand Jury entitled "Special District Websites" which clearly delineates the obvious folly of exclusive reliance on access to the Internet in El Dorado County. A near majority of citizens in this county lack effective access to the Internet.

On behalf of the El Dorado County 2010-2011 Grand Jury, indeed on behalf of all grand juries in the State of California, we must lodge a strenuous objection against this apparent disregard for the fundamental operations of the Grand Jury and, by extension, the ability of the good citizens of El Dorado County to be informed and engaged with their county government.

We strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to reject the recommendation to eliminate BOS Policy B-10.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Baker" clearly distinguishable.

Steve J. Baker  
Foreperson  
El Dorado County  
2010-2011 Grand Jury

cc: Editor, Mountain Democrat  
Editor, Sacramento Bee