

**GARY L. FERAMISCO
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR**

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May 14, 2002

Honorable Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312 - C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Grand Jury Report
Assessment of Santa Barbara County Business/Management

Dear Presiding Judge and Foreperson:

Finding 1: Several of the agencies head by elected officials choose not to participate in the Project reviews. These include the Sheriff, Auditor-Controller, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, and Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Response. This respondent disagrees wholly. This investigation was conducted **without the benefit of any contact with this Department Head required to respond**, and reached certain conclusions. From my perspective, this approach does not give creditability to the purpose of the Grand Jury, for a different result would have been reached if a meeting were held. For the record, this respondent does participate in the Strategic Planning and Project Review process. This Department will be a participant when the Strategic Scan is presented to the Board of Supervisors, and is represented during the Project Review process regarding our property tax information technology project, even though ISAC recommended that it not be included in the tracking process.

Recommendation 1: The Board of Supervisors and the non-participating agency heads should evaluate participation in these reviews. The benefit of participation in these reviews outweighs any concern that elected department heads may feel about giving up control to the County Administrator's Office.

Response. The recommendation is in place and apart of this Departments normal business practice.

Respectfully submitted,

GARY L. FERAMISCO
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

cc: Board of Supervisors
Sheriff
Auditor-Controller
Clerk-Recorder-Assessor