

June 21, 2004

Honorable Clifford R Anderson, III
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
P.O. Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

RE: Response to 2004 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Anderson:

The County of Santa Barbara, General Services/Information Technology Division was named as an Affected Agency to the to “The Electronic Courtroom” report, contained in the 2003-2004 Grand Jury report on Criminal Justice and Detention Facilities. The following is the General Services’ response to the finding and recommendation:

Finding 1: The installation of a video arraignment system would be a cost cutting and safety enhancing method of conducting the arraignment of prisoners in Santa Barbara County.

GS/ITS response to finding 1: As an internal technology services support agency, General Services’ only potential role in video arraignment would be limited to providing and maintaining a system that was requisitioned by the video arraignment user community. General Services is therefore not in a position to expertly assess the cost cutting or safety benefits of video arraignment.

General Services/ITS Response to 2004 Grand Jury Report (continued)

Recommendation 1: The Grand Jury recommends that a video arraignment system be installed in both North and South Santa Barbara County.

GS/ITS response to recommendation 1: The General Services ITS division has extensive experience with video conferencing systems and is fully capable and willing to support a video arraignment system. In addition, the county's fiber optic based network infrastructure is well positioned to support high quality video transmission between campuses. However, General Services is not in a position to implement a video arraignment system without a project request and appropriate funding. The users of a video arraignment system would also have the option of contracting the project to an outside vendor such as Court Vision, in which case the General Services' role might only be to provide network transport. In conclusion, General Services is available to support video arraignment in any capacity that is requested.

This response was written by Dennis Kirby, Assistant General Services Director, Technical Services.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kirby
568-2671