

ENDORSED FILED

FEB 12 2021

Report
of the
2020-2021
Sutter County Grand Jury

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

Charles Smith-Foreperson, Herbert Bradley III, Sukhvinder Singh Bhugal, Heather Ann Chambers,
Todd Chambers, Heather Esemann, Randall Helvey, Millard Johnson, Sylvia Johnson, Jessica Jopson,
Betty Mack, Danika Mann, Emma Nelson, Julie Nissen, Marco Ontiveros, Paul Tuttle,
Margaret Walker, Noelle Zumoff

Final Report [pursuant to Penal Code 933(a)] on subject:
SUTTER COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT *Fight the Blight-Keep Sutter County Beautiful!*



Charles Smith
2020-2021 Foreperson

2-4-2021

Date

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(a), the Presiding Judge makes the finding that the foregoing report
is in compliance with the Title 4, Chapter 3 of the Penal Code
("Powers and Duties of the Grand Jury")



Honorable Susan E. Green, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Sutter County

2/5/21

Date

SUTTER COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT

Fight the Blight – Keep Sutter County Beautiful!



**Sutter County Grand Jury Report
2020-2021**

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Sutter County Code Enforcement

Fight the Blight – Keep Sutter County Beautiful

SUMMARY

Why code enforcement? Codes are designed to preserve and enhance safety and to protect the values of the community. Code enforcement encourages compliance, resulting in less blight, more safety and improved quality of life. The 2020-2021 Sutter County Grand Jury reviewed three years of data and found Sutter County neglected its responsibility for code enforcement. Fines totaling over \$1.1 million had not been collected as of November 30, 2020. The enforcement of county zoning codes, ordinances and building permits improves or maintains the quality of life and property values for the residents. Collection of fines associated with enforcement can create revenue to defray the cost of enforcement activities and encourage compliance. There are 178 citations (of the 651 issued) still categorized as open from 2018 to 2020. Sutter County's code enforcement has been under-staffed, as evidenced by the large number of outstanding citations and fines. Finally, 206 active cases from 2018 -2020 were closed without an inspection, which suggests that active cases were dropped for no apparent or valid reason. The Grand Jury recommends:

- Outstanding fines be collected or mitigated¹.
- Additional enforcement officers be hired to immediately address the backlog of cases and to effectively process current and future complaints.
- Board of Supervisors be informed of the ongoing progress regarding code enforcement on a regular basis.
- The County publicly explain why the cases were closed without investigation.

¹ Mitigate: to lessen in force or intensity; make something less harmful, unpleasant, or bad