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DAVID HOLLISTER
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RECEIVED
AUG 20 2026
By KC

19 August 2026

Board Chair and Directors
Chester Public Utility District
PO Box 503
Chester, CA 96020

Re: Request to Publish Confidential Grand Jury Proceedings

Dear Chair and Board Directors:

I am in receipt of copies of the letters you directed to the Honorable Douglas Prouty, Presiding Judge of the Plumas County Superior Court, and the Honorable Mimi Hall, Chair of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors.

I wish to share with you a couple of items in response to your letters:

First, the confusion about whether the 2024-25 Grand Jury report had two or three sections has been addressed conclusively. An article explaining the confusion and resolving any issue appeared in the Plumas Sun and can be found at: https://plumassun.org/2026/02/15/2024-2025-grand-jury-report-controversy-continues/. No version published by the 2024-25 Grand Jury contains a section pertaining to the Chester Public Utility District.

Second, evidence adduced, discussion and votes by a Grand Jury member are secret. Divulging such privileged conversations is a misdemeanor pursuant to Section 924.1 and 924.2 of the Penal Code. A person may be prosecuted for this crime if they directly divulge the privileged material or if they aid and abet in such a disclosure. A person aids and abets a crime "if he or she knows of the perpetrator's unlawful purpose and he or she specifically intends to, and

does in fact, aid, facilitate, promote, encourage, or instigate the perpetrator's commission of that crime" (see CalCrim Jury Instruction 401).

Third, the only thing a Grand Jury may publish about its discussions, deliberations, votes or topics is that which is contained in a "final report" as set forth in Section 933 of the Penal Code. This "final report" must be approved by 12 Grand Jurors (in a 19 person grand jury).

Finally, **a Grand Jury has the absolute right to, and often does, conduct investigations which are not approved for its final report and are not published. Should such a scenario occur, the evidence, discussions and votes as to such unpublished topics must remain "secret" by operation of law.** Our legislature has deemed maintaining the secrecy of a Grand Jury's actions of such paramount importance, violating this trust is punishable as a crime and could lead to a perpetrator being imprisoned and/or fined.

While your letter(s) suggests you do not "seek to circumvent the confidentiality that governs Grand Jury deliberations," that is exactly what your letters request of Judge Prouty and Chair Hall. While I have great confidence neither would entertain your request to engage in unlawful conduct, the fact a public body is making such a request is, at best, concerning.

Finally, your letters allude to a member of the 2024-25 Plumas County Grand Jury divulging privileged information that member obtained during secret Grand Jury proceedings. If this is, in fact, the case, please direct me to those who witnessed this lawless behavior so it may be addressed promptly.

Respectfully yours,

DAVID HOLLISTER
District Attorney

cc: The Honorable Douglas Prouty
The Honorable Mimi Hall
Prentice Long PC, District Counsel (hand delivered to CPUD)
Bonnie Mullaney, General Manager (hand delivered to CPUD)