**Grand Jury Finding – F1:** Violations outnumber the ability of Code Enforcement to do its job.

**Grand Jury Finding – F2:** Those who are responsible to enforce Siskiyou County Codes find them confusing, inconsistent, and insufficient.

**Grand Jury Finding – F3:** Communication between County departments responsible for code enforcement needs improvement.

**Grand Jury Finding – F4:** The Code enforcement department suffers from high turnover reducing its effectiveness.

**Grand Jury Finding – 5:** Code Enforcement staff are insufficiently trained for the work they are required to do.

**Grand Jury Finding – F6:** Code Enforcement officers often work in unsafe situations causing delays in enforcement.

**Grand Jury Finding – F7:** Access to code enforcement information through the Siskiyou County website is challenging as it is in multiple places and uses different formats.

**Grand Jury Finding – F8:** While there are multiple ways to make a complaint there is little instructional information.

**Grand Jury Finding – F9:** The Siskiyou County General Plan is outdated which impacts successful code enforcement results.

***RESPONSES***

* **Recommendation R1**: The Board of Supervisors should prioritize public health and safety complaints during the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

**Response to R1:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board agrees.

Current County Code Sec. 1-5.01 states:

*In recognition of the complexity and the demand on staffing that the enforcement of the Siskiyou County Code has on limited County resources and staffing levels, the County reserves the right to prioritize its code enforcement activities on any such factor it determines appropriate including, but not limited to: whether the violation is an immediate threat to the public health and safety; the degree and extent of the violation; the public impact of the violation; and the perseverance of the violation.*

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

The number of violations and associated code enforcement cases outpace the capacity of the Code Enforcement Division as well as law enforcement, which is concerning given the current societal trend regarding noncompliance in general. Illegal cannabis cultivation is the primary complaint generator. Code Enforcement currently has three positions, which is more than in past history.

* **Recommendation R2**: The Board of Supervisors should review and strengthen the County Codes necessary to support code enforcement goals. Each code section should outline the violation and its method of enforcement.

**Response to R2:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board agrees.

The Board is in constant and continuous communication with County staff and stakeholders as well as supports efforts to seek allowable improvements and options to the County Code to address illegal cannabis eradication.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

Siskiyou County Code is primarily derived from State law. Concerns are very real and a true and fair statement. Laws and County Code lack teeth and sufficient deterrent for violators.

* **Recommendation R3**: The Board of Supervisors will direct the development of a written process to communicate with all involved departments for any code enforcement case. These written processes should be developed into standard operating procedures manual beginning November 1, 2022.

**Response to R3:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board partially agrees.

The Board encourages and is supportive of departments to working collaboratively on matters of mutual interest. The Board recognizes the expertise of each department and supports the authority of the respective Department Heads to continue to collaborate.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

Communication between Community Development Divisions (Planning, Building and Environmental Health) is firsthand and cohesive. Code Enforcement has developed relationships with city law enforcement and the Sheriff’s Department. Communication can always be improved, and we will continue to work to improve communication with all stakeholders.

* **Recommendation R4**: The Board of Supervisors should focus on supporting Code Enforcement officers, ensuring adequate training and shall require ongoing communication among all departments starting immediately.

**Response to R4:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board agrees.

The Board of Supervisors supports appropriate training for all County employees. The Board encourages departments to work collaboratively on matters of mutual interest.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

This is a true statement that could be made county wide. Code Enforcement is particularly difficult to maintain staff due to the nature of the job.

* **Recommendation R5**: The Board of Supervisors should task Community Development department to establish written procedures for training new Code Enforcement officers before sending them to work in the field. Ongoing training should occur annually beginning September 1, 2022.

**Response to R5:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board agrees.

The Board of Supervisors supports appropriate training for all County employees.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

CDD recognizes the need to implement a regimented training program. Currently staff takes advantage of web-based training when available.

* **Recommendation R6**: The Board of Supervisors should evaluate the need for policy change to allow Code Enforcement officers to be armed or to work in tandem with a Sheriff Deputy dedicated to Code Enforcement beginning September 1, 2022.

**Response to R6:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board agrees.

The Board previously directed County Administration to research other agencies who have armed Code Enforcement Officers and found that other agencies utilize a Deputy Sheriff for code enforcement activities pertaining to illegal cannabis. Thus, the Board approved a new position allocation to the Sheriff’s budget, of a full-time Deputy Sheriff II specifically for illegal cannabis code enforcement on January 4, 2022.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

As Code Enforcement officers are not armed, it is the internal policy that civil standby is requested and obtained prior to investigating cases/complaints that have elevated concern for personal safety. Civil standby typically needs to be scheduled with law enforcement.

* **Recommendation R7**: The Board of Supervisors will direct the update and consolidation of the multiple web pages referencing code enforcement to be consistent by November 1, 2022.

**Response to R7:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board partially agrees.

The Board of Supervisors encourages Community Development to work with IT on website enhancements if the Department Heads deems necessary for ease of public access and understanding.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

Direct links to the Code Enforcement complaint form are in multiple locations on the Community Development Department’s (CDD) website for higher visibility. Links to the forms can be found under Community Development, Planning, and Code Enforcement pages. Two options are available for forms - an online complete and submit and a PDF that can be printed and sent in or hand-delivered to the office. Forms are relatively basic and self-explanatory. We have a link to the Sheriff’s marijuana crime report. CDD will review and work to further simplify.

* **Recommendation R8**: The Board of Supervisors will direct the update of all code enforcement forms should contain contact information and instruction for completion by July 1, 2023.

**Response to R8:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board partially agrees.

The current complaint form contains contact information for the department.

The Board encourages Community Development to work with IT to enhance information available on the website.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

See response for Recommendation 7.

* **Recommendation to R9**: The Board of Supervisors should create a plan to prioritize updating the General Plan focusing on the elements of highest concern to the citizens of Siskiyou, utilizing the free tools, and low-cost resources available through the Governor’s Office.

**Response to R9:**

* **Board of Supervisors Response**: The Board agrees.

The Board of Supervisors supports the update to the General Plan. County Administration is currently working with CDD on funding to complete the update.

* **Director of Community Development Response**:

CDD Planning Division has received direction from the Board of Supervisors and designated funds through the County Administration to commence the General Plan Update. Staff has drafted an RFP to initiate proposals for the four major elements.