



CITY OF ATASCADERO

August 16, 2019

Henry Rible, Foreperson
San Luis Obispo Grand Jury
PO Box 4910
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

RE: "Affordable Housing, An Urgent Problem For Our Community" *and* "Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities."

Dear Foreperson Rible,

In response to your request for responses regarding the findings and recommendations for the above referenced Grand Jury reports, this letter will serve as the City of Atascadero's response.

Attached, please find the responses to each finding and recommendation required to be answered by the City of Atascadero. These responses have been prepared by the Atascadero City Manager Rachelle Rickard and Atascadero Police Chief Jerel Haley.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Chief Haley or I should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Lara Christensen', is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

Lara Christensen
Deputy City Manager, City of Atascadero

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: "Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities"

Report Date: June 18, 2019

Response by: Jerel Haley **Title:** Chief of Police

FINDINGS

1. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
2. I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____

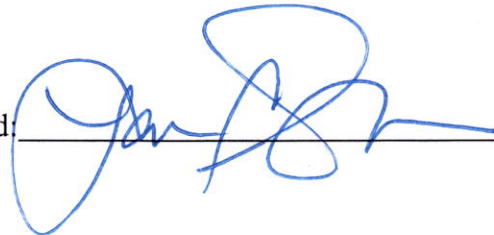
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations numbered R6 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implementation actions.)
2. Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
3. Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury report.)
4. Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 08/16/2019

Number of pages attached: 1

Signed: _____



“Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities”

R6. Crime Lab should provide the same training to city law enforcement agencies for handling DNA evidence as they do for Sheriff Deputies.

The Atascadero Police Department has highly trained personnel who are proficient in the collection of evidence from crime scenes including the collection of DNA evidence. The Department employs a Crime Scene Investigator who is known throughout the county as an expert in his field. He is often utilized by outside agencies, including the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department, for assistance in the collection of evidence at major crime scenes. He routinely provides instruction to Atascadero Police Department personnel in the collection of evidence using the most up to date methods. The Department also sends employees to Crime Scene Investigation training courses to learn about the latest methods for evidence collection.

To date, there has been no indication, nor any grievances received, that there are any deficiencies in the methodologies used by members of the Atascadero Police Department in evidence collection. The Atascadero Police Department is open to partnerships with the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department and will willingly participate in any training they provide as staffing levels allow. The Atascadero Police Department is also open to changing our evidence collection methodologies, as needed, if deficiencies are identified by the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department Laboratory personnel.