

PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

2024-2025



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

June 30, 2025

Amended July 9, 2025

Cover Photo Credit: Placer County Media Valet



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

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The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge, Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661-9072

The Honorable Trisha Hirashima
Advising Grand Jury Judge, Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661-9072

Subject: 2024–2025 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Pineschi, Judge Hirashima, Placer County Board of Supervisors, and Citizens of Placer County:

As foreperson it is my honor to present the 2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury Final Consolidated Report. The report contains thirteen individual reports on our investigations and required inspections completed during our term. Two additional investigations were conducted with no findings and/or recommendations. Some of the key topics investigated were public safety, community schools, agency adherence to state statutes on conflict of interest, special district operations and welfare fraud.

The Placer County Grand Jury consists of nineteen civic-minded individuals who dedicated their time and efforts this past year to identify areas of improvement within Placer County for the benefit of its residents and governmental organizations. Each member of the grand jury has devoted hundreds of hours of hard work in connection with the investigations, inspections, tours, research, and the writing required to prepare this final report. The results of their dedication, knowledge, and experiences are evident in this year's reports. Their commitment and accomplishments cannot be overstated.

The Placer County Grand Jury receives complaints from citizens throughout the year. Each complaint is carefully reviewed by the grand jury to determine jurisdiction and the relevance and impact of the complaint topic to the citizens of the county. After completion of the initial review, complaints are moved to the

appropriate committee for further exploration. Committees examine each topic with oversight by the full grand jury. Due to time constraints, not every complaint received by the grand jury is investigated. A written report of the grand jury's findings and recommendations regarding any specific complaint may or may not be included in this year's final report.

The grand jury acknowledges and thanks the advice and guidance provided by our Presiding Judge, the Honorable Alan V. Pineschi, and Advising Judge, the Honorable Trisha Hirashima. A special thank you to Deputy County Counsel Jason Folker for his invaluable research and responses to grand jury requests. A major change in Placer County support to the grand jury was the responsibility for managing administrative and office management activity. As directed by the Placer County Superior Court, this responsibility is now placed on the grand jury. As a member of the grand jury, it is paramount to recognize juror Wendy Biel, who stepped forward and took on juror training, ensuring all general office management tasks were covered, and critical compliance documentation was timely processed. Wendy also fulfilled a full role in grand jury committee investigations and work, including chairing a committee. We also recognize Rosalinda Cruz, Executive & Judicial Services Supervisor, for her guidance and support throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Bob Peterson, Foreperson
2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury

Placer County Grand Jury 2024-2025



Wendy Biel
Roseville

Richard Boher
Auburn

Gary Clark
Roseville

Aggie d'Esterhazy
Granite Bay

Crystal Elledge
Lincoln

Joe Gear
Roseville

Gary Haynes
Granite Bay

David Hughes
Auburn

Michael Johnson
Rocklin

David Klabunde
Auburn

Celeste Licata
Granite Bay

Bob Peterson
Auburn

Donald Pfluger
Roseville

Jim Ratliff
Roseville

Brian Scott
Rocklin

David Williams
Roseville

Scott Williams
Roseville

Timothy Worley
Rocklin

David Yazzolino
Meadow Vista



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Introduction to the Grand Jury

What is a Grand Jury?

The grand jury is an investigatory body with the authority to act as a watchdog over local government, to investigate citizen complaints, and to assist in criminal matters at the request of the district attorney.

The grand jury is part of the county judicial system as authorized by the California State Constitution. It is advised by the Placer County Superior Court and is not accountable to elected officials or government employees. Its findings and recommendations are unbiased and impartial. Grand jurors are sworn to secrecy and, other than final reports, their work is kept strictly confidential.

History

The jury system is rooted in English common law and dates to the eleventh century. In 1635, the Massachusetts Bay Colony impaneled the first grand jury in North America to consider cases of murder, robbery, and wife beating. The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment and the California Constitution Article 1 call for grand juries. Grand juries were established throughout California during the early years of statehood. As constituted today, criminal and civil grand juries are a part of the judicial branch of government and function as arms of the court system.

The grand jury is an investigatory body created for the protection of society and the enforcement of the law. The grand jury in California is unusual because its duties include investigation of local and county governments as provided by statutes passed in 1880.

Investigations

The primary duty of the grand jury is to evaluate local government entities through a systematic fact-finding process. The objective of the investigations is to produce beneficial reports that persuade local officials to run agencies more effectively and efficiently. The final report of the grand jury is the result of investigative efforts and is a public record of their endeavor.

Anyone may ask a grand jury to investigate a civil issue that falls within the grand jury's jurisdiction. Whether it chooses to investigate such a complaint is entirely in the jury's discretion and may be affected by workload, resource limitations, or jurisdiction.

By law, all proceedings of a grand jury are confidential. Findings and recommendations are published in its final report. Per California law, elected officials must respond within sixty days. Governing bodies of public agencies must respond within ninety days. The following year's grand jury publishes the responses to the final report.

Upon occasion, the district attorney can ask a grand jury to hold hearings in criminal investigations to determine whether evidence presented by the district attorney is sufficient to indict an individual, who would then stand trial in court. A minimum of twelve grand jurors must vote for an indictment in any criminal proceeding.

Placer County Grand Jury Committees

The 2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury served a one-year term from July 9, 2024, through July 9, 2025. In performing its duties, the grand jury examined county government, special districts, school districts, city governments, and inspected jails, holding facilities, and the juvenile detention facility.

Grand jury reports are done by committees. A juror typically serves on three committees and may be an officer on two of those committees. Committees meet at least twice each month.

Audit and Finance

This committee may audit Placer County Government offices, departments, agencies, and districts.

Cities

This committee may investigate incorporated cities and towns within Placer County. The committee investigates the operations or functions of one or more city departments or functions. The six cities and towns are Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville.

Continuity and Editorial

This committee is responsible for ensuring the written reports of the grand jury are factual, clear, concise, and readable. Editing includes proper punctuation, spelling, grammar, and formatting. This committee also leads the ongoing task of updating the Placer County Grand Jury Handbook so subsequent grand juries may make a smooth transition into a new term.

County Administration

This committee concerns itself with the investigation of the offices, departments, and functions of county government. It includes, but is not limited to, all appointed boards and commissions not under the purview of the Special Districts Committee.

Criminal Justice

This committee is mandated to inspect jails and holding facilities in Placer County each year. It also may investigate matters concerning criminal justice. This committee also considers matters concerning law enforcement and public safety.

Health and Welfare

This committee investigates issues related to the social services of Placer County. In addition, it is responsible for the annual Juvenile Detention Facility inspection.

Schools and Libraries

This committee investigates public educational institutions and public libraries. It has no jurisdiction over school policies or personnel.

Special Districts

This committee investigates special districts, agencies, boards, commissions, and joint powers agencies serving Placer County. Examples of these special districts include water agencies, hospitals, cemetery, utility, airport, and fire districts.

Jurisdiction

The areas within the investigatory jurisdiction of the Placer County Grand Jury include:

- persons imprisoned in the county jail on a criminal charge and not indicted,
- the condition and management of the public jails within the county,
- willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within the county,
- county government, city government, special districts, school districts, agencies, and authorities, and
- criminal hearings upon request of the district attorney.

The areas which are not within Placer County Grand Jury jurisdiction include:

- federal agencies,
- state agencies,
- superior court system, and
- school district personnel records, curriculum, and policy.

Grand Juror Qualifications

Prospective grand jurors must possess the following qualifications per California Penal Code § 893:

- applicant is a citizen of the United States, 18 years or older, who has been a resident of Placer County for one year immediately before being selected and sworn in,
- applicant is in possession of his or her natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgment, and of fair character, and
- applicant possesses sufficient knowledge of the English language.

A person is not allowed to serve as a grand juror if:

- serving as a trial juror in any California court,
- discharged as a grand juror in any court of this state within one year,
- convicted of malfeasance in office, any felony, or other high crime, or
- serving as an elected public officer.

Desirable qualifications for a grand juror include:

- computer and internet communication skills,
- good health,
- open-minded with concern for the views of others,
- ability to work with others,
- genuine interest in community affairs,
- investigative skills, and
- ability to write reports.

Juror Selection

In the spring of each year, the Placer County Superior Court solicits applications from citizens of the county. Applicants should expect that a criminal records check will be conducted. Applications are reviewed and an interview is scheduled with the presiding and advising judges as well as the foreperson of the outgoing grand jury.

After the interview process, prospective applicants are required to appear for the final selection which is held in a Placer County Superior Court courtroom. With outgoing grand jurors in attendance, the court clerk draws nineteen names at random. A minimum of ten names are drawn to form a list of alternate jurors. The presiding judge swears in the new nineteen grand jury members and gives the jurors a description of their duties and responsibilities.

Commitment

Persons selected for grand jury service can expect to serve forty or more hours per month for a period of one year, generally from July 1 through June 30. Jurors may opt to serve a second consecutive year, if approved by the court.

Remuneration

Grand jurors receive a nominal payment for meetings they attend and are reimbursed for mileage to attend meetings and training.

Orientation

Jurors attend a two-day orientation program provided by the Civil Grand Jury Association about grand jury functions, duties, and responsibilities. The jurors also receive onboarding training from the IT department.

Why Become a Grand Juror?

Those who volunteer and are accepted for grand jury service should feel privileged to be selected. They enter this service with interest and curiosity to learn more about the administration and operation of Placer County government. Serving as a grand juror requires many hours and serious effort and reflects a generous commitment to public service.

How to Apply to Serve as a Grand Juror

Apply to be a grand juror online at:

https://www.placercourts.org/grand_jury/general-grandjury-application-form.html

Grand Jury Reports

The Placer County Superior Court maintains webpages for the grand jury on its website. Past and present final reports, and responses to those final reports, may be found at: <https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions>

How to Submit a Confidential Citizen Complaint

All complaints must be submitted in writing. A confidential citizen complaint form is available online at: <https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-confidential-citizen-complaint-form> and may be submitted electronically. The form may also be mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the grand jury office at the address below. The citizen will receive a letter acknowledging receipt of the complaint.

All grand jury documents, including citizen complaints, are secret and cannot be subpoenaed in court or revealed to the public. Complainants' names are held in strictest confidence.

How to Contact the Grand Jury

By Mail: Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

In Person: Materials can be placed in a drop box located by the entrance door at the above address.

Online: info@placergrandjury.org **OR**
forepersonprotem@placergrandjury.org

By Phone: (530) 886-5200

By Fax: (530) 886-5201



INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDENTS

The legal requirements affecting respondents and responses to Grand Jury findings and recommendations are contained in California Penal Code § 933.05. The full text of the law is provided at the end of this document.

Two different time periods for responses, and to whom you must respond to, are defined in California Penal Code § 933(c). They are as follows:

Type of Agency	Time Frame	To Whom
Government Boards	Ninety (90) Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Elective Office or Agency Head	Sixty (60) Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presiding Judge of the Superior Court• Information copy to Board of Supervisors

An original signed copy of the response must be provided to both of the following:

1. Presiding Judge of the Placer County Superior Court at the address listed below:

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661-9072

2. Placer County Grand Jury at the address listed below:

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Ave
Auburn, CA 95603
Attention: Foreperson

When responding to more than one report, respondents must respond to each report separately.

Respondents are encouraged to use the Response to Grand Jury Report Form, included in this report, to help format and organize your response. An electronic version of the form is available upon request from the Grand Jury.

RESPONSE TO PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: _____

Response Provided by: _____

What is a Compliant Response?

Penal Code § 933.05 is very specific in what is required in a response. First, a respondent must address the findings listed in the report. There are only two responses allowed by the penal code. However, additional information is required if the respondent disagrees with a finding. If a report only lists findings and there are no recommendations, a response agreeing or disagreeing with each finding is not necessary.

FINDINGS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following two actions regarding each finding.

The respondent agrees with the finding.
The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding; in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reason(s) therefore.

- I (we) **agree** with the finding(s) numbered: _____.
- I (we) **disagree** wholly or partially with the finding(s) numbered: _____.

Describe any portions of the finding(s) that are disputed or not applicable; include an explanation of the reason(s).

RECOMMENDATIONS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following four actions regarding each recommendation.

The recommendation <u>has been implemented</u> with a summary regarding the implemented action.
The recommendation <u>has not yet been implemented</u> , but will be implemented in the future, <i>with a timeframe for the implementation.</i>
The recommendation <u>requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe</u> for the matter to be prepared for discussion. <i>This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury’s report.</i>
The recommendation <u>will not be implemented</u> because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, <i>with an explanation</i> , therefore.

- Recommendations numbered _____ **have been** implemented.
(Describe the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ **have not yet been** implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a targeted completion date of _____.
Per Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2), a time frame for implementation must be included.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **require further analysis.** The further analysis will be completed by _____.
Describe 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 (6) months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **will not be** implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
Provide an explanation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Number of pages attached _____.

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE

Section 933.05

- (a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:
- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
 - (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.
- (b) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:
- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
 - (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, ***with a timeframe for implementation.***
 - (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with 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 head 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 publication of the grand jury report.
 - (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation, therefore.
- (c) However, if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.
- (d) A grand jury may request a subject person or entity to come before the grand jury for the purpose of reading and discussing the findings of the grand jury report that relates to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release.
- (e) During an investigation, the grand jury shall meet with the subject of that investigation regarding the investigation, unless the court, either on its own determination or upon request of the foreperson of the grand jury, determines that such a meeting would be detrimental.
- (f) A grand jury shall provide to the affected agency a copy of the portion of the grand jury report relating to that person or entity two working days prior to its public release and after the approval of the presiding judge. No officer, agency, department, or governing body of the public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.

Final Report Summaries

Placer County Public Assistance Does Fraud or Abuse Exist?

Placer County Health and Human Services Department is charged with administering public assistance through various benefit programs which it manages on behalf of the federal, state, and local governments within the county. Although there are a number of benefit programs accessible to Placer County residents, the primary focus of the grand jury's review was to determine if there are any issues of fraud or abuse within the system which would have an impact on the effectiveness, efficiency, or transparency of these various programs. This report will provide a summary of the processes for receiving assistance from the various benefit programs available in Placer County. This report will also identify the difficulties in identifying, preventing, and recovering erroneous or fraudulent distributions.

Securing Our Community A Closer Look at Placer County Sheriff's Staffing Challenges

Placer County Sheriff's Office mission is to "maintain the quality of life we enjoy and to ensure our county is a safe place to live, work and visit." To accomplish this mission, Placer County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to safeguarding individual liberties, preventing crime, building community partnerships through transparency and education. Placer County Sheriff's Office is also responsible for the professional care and custody of those confined within the county's jail system.

The Placer County Grand Jury's primary focus was to investigate law enforcement staffing, determining the factors affecting recruitment, workforce sustainability, and identifying the underlying causes of staff shortages. During the Grand Jury's investigation, it was apparent additional staff, especially sworn peace officers, are needed to perform all the required services provided by this law enforcement agency. It was noted Placer County Sheriff's Office should evaluate the use of incentives to motivate individuals to apply as law enforcement officers and would encourage current staff to remain with the agency.

Human Trafficking in Placer County An Unseen Crime

The Placer County Grand Jury's investigated the effectiveness of local government agencies and their partnership with public services and community organizations in addressing the issue of human trafficking. The grand jury also examined whether existing policies, resources and programs are adequately identifying and supporting victims of trafficking, as well as confirming preventative measures are in place.

This investigation intended to substantiate the attempts being made to increase public awareness and educational steps being taken throughout Placer County since both play a significant role in combating human trafficking. This report's intent is to serve as an informational tool for public awareness, bringing to light the complexity of human trafficking and the harms this criminal enterprise inflicts on its victims.

Placer County Code Enforcement Services Residents Code Enforcement Complaints

The mission of Placer County Code Enforcement Services is to promote and maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment. The purpose of this investigation was to determine whether Code Enforcement conducts its investigations in a timely manner, providing complainants with proper notifications, resolving alleged violations in accordance with the code, and reducing its complaint backlog.

Code Enforcement Services claims it is committed to resolving all complaints as quickly as possible. However, information received during the grand jury's investigation indicated the county had been receiving numerous complaints regarding the lack of response or status regarding open complaints. It was noted there were many open complaints being two to three years old. The grand jury reviewed staffing, organizational structure, procedure and policies and the various reporting responsibilities of the unit in order to ascertain its efficiency and effectiveness.

Although Code Enforcement has closed many long-term open cases since June 2024, the grand jury believes Code Enforcement could improve its performance and public image by providing more information on the status of cases. The current reporting structure wherein Code Enforcement reports to the Planning Services Division may need to be re-assessed so delays in the resolution of complaints are reduced.

Auburn Union School District Tackling Academic and Financial Challenges

The Auburn Union School District has been in a deficit spending cycle for over 20 years, most notably since 2012. During the 2021-2022 school year, the first interim budget report, the district submitted a "Qualified" budget to the state, indicating the district may not be able to meet its financial obligations over the next three years. This financial report initiated a string of required corrective actions requested by the Placer County Office of Education. These actions included an audit from the California Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance team, the reduction of two active school sites, and the appointment of a new interim superintendent. Additional staffing reductions and school class reconfiguration followed.

During this same time period, there was significant disagreement amongst Board of Trustees in adopting corrective measures to address the financial challenges as well as the overall action plan to address: below 50 percentile student academic performance within the district, and the desire to significantly expand the student

wellness services championed by the California Teachers Association, the Auburn Union Teachers Association and two of the Auburn Union School District Board of Trustees.

In June and July of 2024, the District hired a permanent superintendent and hired a new chief business officer. In the November 2024 election, two community members won seats on the Board of Trustees, which shifted the overall balance and political perspectives of the Board of Trustees as a whole. While issues remain, interviews with Auburn Union School District staff, administration and the Board of Trustees have shown there is a new spirit of collaboration and pride within Auburn Union School District and the Board of Trustees.

The year-ending change in the Auburn Union School District Fund Balance trend is budgeted to run negative annually through the 2026-2027 school year. The next three-year-ending fund balance will continue to meet the State standard of a minimum of 3%.

Although many challenges remain for Auburn Union School District regarding long-term financial viability and resolving the strategy to improve student academic performance and student well-being, the district staff, administration, and the Board of Trustees are poised to address the issues.

Conflict of Interest Code, Form 700, Ethics Training Compliance

Are Cities in Placer County Compliant?

Good governance requires public officials to act in the best interests of their constituents rather than in their own. It is imperative the public trust their elected officials to act in an ethical manner. As a result, California law requires certain elected and appointed local agency officials, known as statutory filers, file a Statement of Economic Interests known as Form 700. California law also requires local public agencies to enact a Conflict of Interest Code. The Conflict of Interest Code requires certain officials, identified as designated filers, file Form 700. California law also requires certain officials complete ethics training.

Placer County Grand Jury investigated the five incorporated cities; Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Rocklin, and Roseville, and one incorporated town, Loomis, in Placer County to determine whether those local agencies enacted the necessary components of a Conflict of Interest Code, and whether the officials timely filed Form 700 and timely completed ethics training.

Collecting and compiling the data from local agencies which were investigated proved to be a difficult task for the Placer County Grand Jury. California law regarding Form 700 filings recently changed. In most cities, the city clerk was the filing officer responsible for all Form 700 filers. As of January 1, 2025, the state requires the statutory filers to e-file Form 700 directly with the Fair Political Practices Commission. City clerks now notify the individuals filers via email the

filing date is upcoming, and when necessary, send out additional reminder emails of the upcoming deadlines. The responsibility for filing Form 700 is on the individual mandated by statute or designated by each city in its Conflict of Interest Code. If Form 700 is not filed in a timely manner the Fair Political Practices Commission can impose fines against the statutory filer for noncompliance. The designated filers continue to file with the city clerk. However, Placer County Grand Jury learned most local agencies do not have provisions in their Conflict of Interest Codes to enforce the filing of Form 700 or require ethics training.

Community Schools

Examining Community Schools

Over the past few years, tension has been escalating between schools and parents over a wide range of concerns, including curriculum and school-based services such as physical and mental healthcare. A major source of resident concern has been Placer County's implementation of the community school strategy and associated school-based mental health initiatives.

The Placer County Grand Jury found a notable lack of consistent, public facing communication on how the community schools' model is being implemented across the county through Placer County Office of Education and several county school districts. This created a gap in the public's understanding of community schools, a spread of misinformation, and a lack of trust. While there are positive aspects of the Community School framework, there are areas of concern, particularly about school-based mental health initiatives closely associated with this framework.

The Placer County Office of Education, as lead advocate for community schools, needs to be transparent about community schools, the California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, and the Multi-payer Fee Schedule. There are concerns about parental rights to make health decisions for their children and the privacy of sensitive health information.

It is imperative local district Board of Education members fully understand the advantages and risks associated with community schools, the California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and the Multi-payer Fee Schedule.

Foresthill Public Utility District

Transparency and Governance

Can a Newly Elected Board of Directors Recharge Confidence?

Under the governance of an elected Board of Directors and a General Manager, the Foresthill Public Utility District provides water and related services to a community of approximately 2,050 customers. Foresthill Public Utility District is considered an independent special district under the oversight of the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission and its governance guidelines. In addition to the Foresthill

Public Utility District and its employees, elected Board members are entrusted with financial and governance responsibilities for this public utility district serving the community of Foresthill.

Foresthill Public Utility District is fortunate to have a stable revenue stream with Sugar Pine Reservoir providing a dedicated water supply. Administratively, Foresthill Public Utility District is highly dependent on the General Manager and until recently, the General Manager created the monthly board agenda and served as Board Secretary. With annual operating revenue in excess of \$2.7 million, accounting activities are outsourced (engagement partner out of state) and Foresthill Public Utility District does not have an in-house finance staff member (Finance or Business Manager).

In board meetings attended prior to the election of new board members in November 2024, members of the Placer County Grand Jury observed contentious rather than unified leadership. Challenges for the newly elected Board of Directors include demonstrating behaviors their community can be proud of, performing their duties in a collaborative manner and tackling legacy and strategic issues to provide a foundation beyond the current Board of Directors and Foresthill Public Utility District's leadership team's tenure.

Transient Occupancy Tax Understanding TOT and TBID

Placer County has a program in place to generate revenue through a Transient Occupancy Tax, applicable to short-term rentals in unincorporated Placer County. Transient Occupancy Tax revenue, nearly \$30 million a year for the last three years, can help support a variety of projects and improvements for Placer County, such as parks, trails, infrastructure improvements, workforce housing and transportation. Transient Occupancy Tax funds are an added source of non-property tax revenue for Placer County.

The county also has a program supporting Tourism Business Improvement Districts to fund tourism promotion and activities. Placer County currently has two Tourism Business Improvement Districts in place, both in the North Lake Tahoe region: the North Lake Tahoe Tourism Business Improvement District and the Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Microtransit District.

The grand jury wanted to learn how these programs work, how revenue is collected, and how dollars are spent in support of the intended purpose of these programs. This report provides information on current processes in place and the benefits provided to the residents and visitors to Placer County.

Placer County Grand Jury 2024-2025 Report Inspections of Jails and Holding Facilities, Community Update on Coroner's and District Attorney's Offices

This report provides an in-depth review of the Placer County Grand Jury's inspections of three county jails and three holding facilities. The Placer County Grand Jury also visited the Placer County Sheriff's Coroner's Office and the Placer County District Attorney's Office for the 2024-2025 term.

As part of its statutory responsibility, the grand jury conducted comprehensive on-site evaluations of each facility to assess their condition, operations, and adherence to state and local standards. The inspections included detailed observations of cleanliness, maintenance, safety protocols, and the overall treatment of detainees. The grand jury found each facility to be clean, well-maintained and compliant with safety protocols and the proper treatment of detainees is actively taking place.

Jails

- Placer County Main Jail in Auburn
- South Placer Adult Correctional Facility in Roseville
- South Placer Minimum Security Facility in Roseville

Holding Facilities

- Historic Auburn Courthouse
- Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse in Roseville
- Burton Creek Tahoe Substation in Tahoe City

Coroner's Office

District Attorney's Office

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility Annual Inspection 2024-2025

The Placer County Grand Jury inspects the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility annually. The Placer County Probation Department oversees the operation of the Juvenile Detention Facility. The 2024-2025 inspection was conducted on October 22, 2024, and was facilitated by three high level probation staff.

The grand jury found the Juvenile Detention Facility to be maintained in a professional manner. The staff demonstrated genuine concern for the youths in their charge. The staff was focused on offering educational opportunities, addressing mental health issues, and providing positive reinforcement for good behavior. The grand jury identified a need to recoup the actual cost of housing youths from outside of Placer County. The 2024-2025 report highlights changes from the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report.

Five-Year Follow-Up to the 2019-2020 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report

Every year the Placer County Grand Jury publishes a final report. The reports provide citizens of the County with an insight into county and city governments, special districts, schools, libraries, the juvenile detention facility, jails, and holding facilities. These reports may offer recommendations to the different entities for possible improvement in their procedures or operations. This year the grand jury looked back five years to the recommendations from the 2019-2020 final report and investigated the updated status of those recommendations.

NOTE: Simple spelling errors by the respondent were corrected for readability quality.

Studying the Responses to the Placer County Grand Jury 2023-2024 Final Report

The primary duty of the Placer County Grand Jury is to investigate the functions of city and county government, school districts, and special districts. Each year the grand jury conducts inspections of the jails, holding facilities, and the juvenile detention center in the county. Additionally, the grand jury investigates different aspects of city and county government. Reports are written on the inspections and investigations conducted during the term with each report listing the grand jury's findings and recommendations. These documents are combined into a final report published each June. The full 2023-2024 Grand Jury report can be found at: <https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions>.

A Response Report is published in the Winter of each term. The report contains the responses from the investigative entities to their respective findings and recommendations. The purpose of this report is to verify that responses to the Placer County Grand Jury 2023-2024 final report are Penal Code section 933.05 compliant.



PLACER COUNTY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Does Fraud or Abuse Exist?



Photo Credit: Placer County

Placer County Public Assistance Does Fraud or Abuse Exist?

Summary

Placer County Health and Human Services Department is charged with administering public assistance through various benefit programs which it manages on behalf of the federal, state, and local governments within the county. Although there are a number of benefit programs accessible to Placer County residents, the primary focus of the grand jury's review was to determine if there are any issues of fraud or abuse within the system which would have an impact on the effectiveness, efficiency, or transparency of these various programs. This report will provide a summary of the processes for receiving assistance from the various benefit programs available in Placer County. This report will also identify the difficulties in identifying, preventing, and recovering erroneous or fraudulent distributions.

Glossary

Affordable Care Act (ACA): A federal health insurance reform law aiming to make health care more affordable and accessible. Legislation was passed in March 2010.

CalWORKs (CW): Provides cash aid and services to eligible needy families with children.

CalWORKs Employment Services: Helps family members acquire the skills needed to get a job. The County determines if a family must participate in Welfare-To-Work (WTW) activities as programmatically required.

CalWORKs Child Care Assistance: Provides families who receive CalWORKs and are working or attending school with help in paying childcare costs.

CalFresh (CF): Helps to improve the health and well-being of qualified households and individuals by providing a means to meet nutritional needs. CalFresh issues monthly electronic benefits which can be used to buy most foods at many markets and food stores.

California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS): A case management system which helps manage public assistance programs in California. This system is administered through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT): System used in California since 2002 for the delivery, redemption, and reconciliation of issued public assistance benefits, such as CalFresh, CalWORKs, and other food and cash aid benefits.

Eligibility Worker (EW): Staff employees tasked to determine eligibility for, or continuation of, designated and specialized client services programs and their respective benefits; to provide administrative and technical support for designated program operations and the provision of services; and to track and monitor the

continuing quality of services provided and client needs to ensure compliance with program guidelines and regulations.

General Relief (GR): Provides cash assistance to eligible indigent adults without children. For the employable population, the program is time-limited to three months in a 12-month period.

Medi-Cal (MC): This is California’s version of the federal Medicaid program, a public health insurance program which provides needed health care coverage and services for eligible individuals and families.

Background

Welfare fraud is obtaining financial support or benefits from public assistance programs by deception. These benefits are designed to provide aid to the disadvantaged, elderly, or disabled members of the community. Fraud leads to increased costs of operating such programs, reducing the funds available to the intended recipients and indirectly impacting all tax paying citizens.

With an increase in population, the rise in homelessness, and fluctuating unemployment levels, the Placer County Grand Jury wanted to ensure Health and Human Services is accurately identifying fraud, waste, or abuse in the distribution of benefit funds and pursuing the collection of overpayments made to unqualified recipients.

Methodology

The Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) obtained information from interviews with Health and Human Services (HHS) management and staff, county websites, interviews with Revenue Services Division staff, (unit under Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector) and with a representative of the Placer County District Attorney’s Office. Requests for information and data collection were provided by interviewees and HHS’s website.

Discussion

Federal, state and county governments are responsible for assisting individuals and families in need. They provide public assistance through a variety of programs. In Placer County, HHS administers these programs within the Human Services Division. The programs they direct are: CalFresh,¹ CalWORKs,² Medi-Cal,³ and General Relief.⁴ They also oversee Veteran’s Services and Housing Authority.

¹ Placer County Website. www.placer.ca.gov/2101/Food-Nutrition-Assistance. Accessed March 11, 2025.

² Placer County Website. www.placer.ca.gov/2111/CalWORKs-Employment-Services. Accessed March 11, 2025.

³ Placer County Website: www.placer.ca.gov/2122/Healthcare-Coverage. Accessed March 11, 2025.

⁴ Placer County Website: www.placer.ca.gov/2150/General-Relief-General-Assistance. Accessed April 16, 2025.

The CalFresh program, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and formerly known as “Food Stamps”, aids a family’s food budget to put healthy and nutritional food on the table. The program issues monthly benefits on a “debit card” (known as EBT)⁵ which can be used to buy most foods at many markets and food stores. CalFresh is entirely funded by the federal government.

Some of the benefits provided by CalWORKs are childcare, work expense assistance, transportation and counseling. Through its “Employment Services” it can assist recipients in education, employment and training programs within the county. Its primary concern is to provide financial assistance to families with children to meet basic needs and move toward self-sufficiency. The County determines if an individual must participate in Welfare-To-Work⁶ activities as a requirement for CalWORKs. Family members may also voluntarily participate. CalWORKs is funded by state and federal funds.

The General Relief program is intended for single adults or couples with no dependent children. It provides temporary cash aid for those who are not eligible for federal or state programs or other assistance programs. It is solely funded by the county and eligibility is limited to Placer County residents with the following criteria: must be at least 18 years old, must be a resident of Placer County for at least 15 days, and the combined value of any real and personal property cannot exceed \$75. One vehicle is allowed and exempted from the property limit. If any income is received within a month, it is deducted from the total grant amount.

⁵ EBT Card. www.cdss.ca.gov/ebt-card. Accessed February 24, 2025.

⁶ Placer County Website. www.placer.ca.gov/2111/CalWORKs-Employment-Services. Accessed April 15, 2025.



Photo Credit: Placer County

Intake Process

Placer County has an easy-to-use online presence which briefly explains each benefit program. It lists the eligibility requirements for each, as well as any required documentation. Most programs allow anyone wishing to apply to do so in multiple ways: online, fax, mail or in person. General Relief requires the application to be made in person.

Once the application form and required documentation are received, an Eligibility Worker (EW) will review the application. The worker has a 30-day period in which to do so. During this period, they may request additional documentation or have additional questions. Some programs require the applicant to meet in person with the EW. After the review, the EW may approve or deny the application.

If approved, benefits will begin and continue for the time allowed by each program. General Relief provides cash assistance to eligible indigent adults without children. For the employable population, the program is time-limited to three months in a 12-month period.⁷ Other programs generally continue until a required review and/or renewal of benefits.

⁷ General Relief. www.placer.ca.gov/Faq.aspx?QID=696 . Accessed April 16, 2025.

The dollar amount of benefits dispensed to a recipient is dependent upon the information provided by the recipient and verified by the EW. The Veteran’s Service office does not take applications for benefits and does not distribute or deny funds. They assist veterans in filing for their benefits with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA distributes or denies the claims independently. As for Medi-Cal, it does not distribute funds. Instead, applicants are determined to be eligible to the State’s Medi-Cal program. Any costs borne through medical and health related treatment are managed by the State and Federal Medicaid programs.

In October 2022, Placer County was one of the first counties to transition from an older eligibility determination system (CalWIN), one of three such systems in California, to a new single statewide system, CalSAWS.⁸ This system is used by all 58 California counties as of October 2023 and is maintained by CDSS.

As noted below, the number of applicants requesting benefits has increased in the past five years because of population growth, the increase in homelessness and fluctuating unemployment levels.

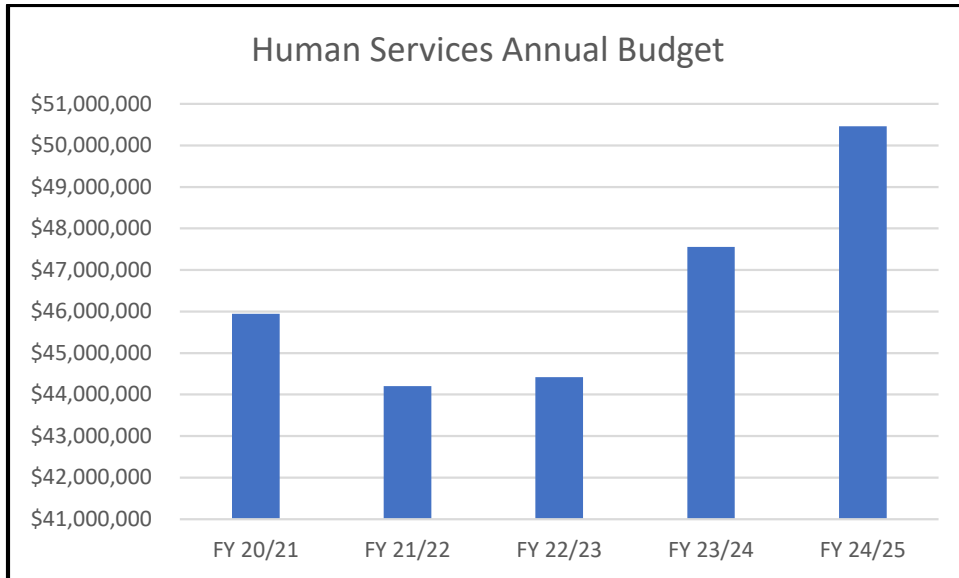
Number of Placer County Recipients/Claims Filed Requesting Funds per program per the past five years					
App Received Fiscal Year	CalFresh	CalWORKs	Medi-Cal	General Relief	Housing Authority
20/21	10,595	1,623	12,281	1,441	67
21/22	13,828	2,411	10,586	2,256	105
22/23	16,900	2,887	13,667	2,993	84
23/24	16,748	3,072	13,820	3,576	42
24/25*	6,903	1,428	6,958	1,530	23
	* July through November 2024				

The percentage increase in the number of applicants from 2020 to 2024 for CalFresh is 58%, CalWORKs is 86%, Medi-Cal is 13%, and General Relief is 148%.

Funding

The overall budget for Placer County’s HHS for 2024/2025 is \$304,543,622, which is 2.76% over the prior year’s budget. The annual budget for Human Services (HS) for the past five years is reflected below.

⁸ CalSAWS website. <http://www.calsaws.org/>. Accessed March 2, 2025.



In reviewing the budgets for HS for the past three fiscal years, it was noted Expenditures exceed Revenues increasingly each year. In 2022/2023, HS was \$2,616,069 over budget; in 2023/2024 it was \$3,877,271 over budget and it is projected in 2024/2025, it will be over-budget by \$4.8 million.

The amount of funds allocated to each benefit program by HS for the past five years is shown below. These funds represent the cost of staff, support systems, building upkeep, computers, and other overhead expenses which are designated by the state to administer these programs.

Amount of Funds Allocated to Each Program						
Fiscal Year	CalFresh	CalWORKS	MediCal	General Relief	VSO	Housing
20/21	\$4,380,869	\$13,730,819	\$12,945,514	\$319,919	\$693,763	\$3,481,317
21/22	\$5,164,529	\$11,132,550	\$13,431,110	\$297,230	\$809,046	\$4,074,314
22/23	\$5,043,173	\$12,331,942	\$13,602,012	\$458,493	\$853,387	\$4,104,071
23/24	\$5,831,375	\$11,151,183	\$14,775,962	\$285,275	\$1,076,226	\$5,201,497
24/25	\$7,045,832	\$12,773,933	\$14,497,012	\$877,991	\$1,122,101	\$6,811,699
Grand Total	\$27,465,778	\$61,120,427	\$69,251,610	\$2,238,908	\$4,554,523	\$23,672,898

The amount of funds distributed by Placer County over the past five years is shown below. As previously stated, the VA handles all applications, distribution of funds and denials of claims, which are not reflected below. It should be noted although HS does not administer the VA benefits, staff does assist veterans in filing for their benefits.

Amount of Funds Distributed per Program				
Fiscal Year	Housing	CalWORKS	CalFresh	General Relief
20/21	\$11,581,931.76	\$7,055,011.41	\$38,002,795.65	\$419,388.17
21/22	\$6,238,873.68	\$6,467,588.03	\$56,926,438.05	\$240,070.78
22/23	\$4,563,511.00	\$7,162,377.98	\$66,073,650.30	\$241,155.85
23/24	\$5,751,946.00	\$11,902,166.87	\$56,155,958.52	\$351,046.54
24/25	\$2,044,833.00	\$15,247,112.60	\$25,750,794.88	\$289,806.00
Grand Total	\$30,181,095.44	\$47,834,256.89	\$242,909,637.40	\$1,541,467.34

Staffing

Currently HS has 245 filled positions and 10 vacancies. There are 182 staff employees consisting of Eligibility Workers, EW supervisors, Counselors and Program Supervisors.

These employees deal directly with individual applicants/recipients requesting benefits from the various programs. The remaining 63 employees are considered support staff. As of November 2024, there were 10 vacancies of which only 3 were support staff. In-house training is provided; however, senior staff are encouraged to guide and assist newer employees with their job requirements. Turnover was described as moderate because of “burnout” by employees. There is no mandatory overtime.

Fraud Prevention and Detection

Fraud prevention and detection are an integral part of HS’s overall management of public assistance programs. The county has primary responsibility for determining eligibility and computing benefit amounts to qualified recipients. If fraud is suspected or discrepancies are found in the information supplied on an application, then benefits are denied.

Welfare fraud⁹ occurs when an applicant knowingly and willfully, with the intent to deceive, makes a false statement or withholds information to receive aid.

⁹ Welfare Fraud Definition.
leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=10980.&lawCode=WIC.
Accessed March 2, 2025.

During the intake process, EWs are trained to ask questions and verify the information with each initial and renewal application. If the EW suspects the applicant is not truthful or information supplied is inaccurate, they can contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) to determine if the individual received any income which would make them unqualified to receive benefits. The software system used by EDD is called Integrated Fraud Detection (IFD) and is integrated with CalSAWS.

IFD reports are issued quarterly statewide to all counties. HS maintains the Program Integrity Unit (PIU), which handles issues arising from the IFD reports. If an EW determines a recipient has been overpaid, either in cash or through a benefit, such as EBT, or CalWORKs, they will contact the recipient via a “Notice of Action” letter. The letter informs the recipient of the reason for denial and/or the amount of overpayment which needs to be returned or credited to the program. The letter also provides the recipient with an opportunity to clarify or correct the denial of benefit by submitting necessary verifiable information. The recipient has 30 days to comply or request an administrative hearing.

Number of Recipients/Claims Denied Each Program per Year					
App Denials	CalFresh	CalWORKs	Medi-Cal	General Relief	Housing Authority
2020	3,666	874	7,572	No Available data	52
2021	2,804	987	11,519	No Available data	60
2022	5,506	1,532	1,145*	558	47
2023	8,335	1,702	7,546	3,172	27
2024	6,657**	1,638**	7,044**	3,108**	18**
* October - December only					
** July - November only					

Number of Notices of Action Issued Each Program per Year				
Fiscal Year	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Program Total
	<i>(10/30/22-6/30/2023)</i>	<i>(7/1/23 - 6/30/24)</i>	<i>(7/12024 - 12/11/2024)</i>	
CalWorks	1,655	10,361	13,630	25,646
CalFresh	19,889	48,274	64,526	132,689
Medi-Cal	44,458	116,329	94,544	255,331
General Relief	513	1,798	1,514	3,825
Welfare to Work	1,462	8,203	8,984	18,649
Year Total	67,977	184,965	183,198	436,140

Once the Notice of Hearing is received, a Senior Eligibility Worker within PIU attempts to contact the recipient to mitigate the issue prior to scheduling a hearing. Depending on the reason for non-compliance by the recipient, conditional arrangements can be made such as: a payment schedule, acceptance of a lesser benefit amount to reimburse the amount overpaid, or acceptance of a tax lien against the recipient.

If PIU is unable to mitigate the issue, a hearing is scheduled with an Administrative Hearing Officer provided by CDSS. All hearings are held in Rocklin. Prior to COVID, all hearings were in person; however, approximately 75% of all hearings are now conducted via Zoom. There are two days per month set aside for hearings regarding CalFresh and CalWORKs benefits. There are another two days per month set aside for hearings involving the Affordable Care Act (ACA)¹⁰ and Medi-Cal denials.

The PCGJ noted the number of hearing requests has been increasing over the past several years. However, the number of allocated employees within PIU has not changed. There are nine employees (seven Senior EWs, one administrative assistant, and one Program Supervisor) within the unit. These individuals are responsible for acquiring the necessary information via the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IVES)¹¹ managed by EDD and CDSS to verify employment. They also must attempt to negotiate mitigation with the recipient prior to the administrative hearing. Although the number of hearings held has not significantly increased, the number of hearings requested has. This increases the workload for PIU employees.

¹⁰ Affordable Care Act. www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/3590. Accessed March 11, 2025.

¹¹ Income Verification System. cdss.ca.gov/fraud/res/pdf/recipient_manual.pdf. Accessed November 21, 2024.

Hearing Requests Filed							
Filed	ACA	MC	CF	CW	WTW	GR	Total
2019	91	98	102	42	4	12	349
2020	87	85	120	29	0	5	326
2021	40	65	94	22	1	4	226
2022	29	66	135	30	2	10	272
2023	73	58	188	44	0	5	368
2024	77	91	235	79	3	5	490

Went To Hearing							
WTH	ACA	MC	CF	CW	WTW	GR	Total
2019	6	9	20	13	1	3	52
2020	6	1	11	5	0	1	24
2021	2	8	24	6	0	1	41
2022	2	6	20	7		2	37
2023	4	4	41	10	0	0	59
2024	5	4	31	10	0	1	51

Special Investigations Unit

An EW can request an investigation be made by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) which is maintained in the Placer County District Attorney’s Office, when there are reasonable grounds to suspect a crime (i.e., fraud, perjury, etc.) against a public social service program has occurred.¹²

Reasonable grounds exist when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- An overpayment/over issuance may have or has resulted from a recipient's failure to report information pertinent to eligibility or benefits.
- A questionable situation exists and the applicant/recipient or third party will not cooperate in providing necessary verification which affects eligibility or benefit amount.
- The program staff person finds conflicting information which could affect eligibility or benefit amount, and any further action on his/her part could jeopardize the investigator's ability to investigate.

¹² See e.g., *Welfare & Institutions Code* section 10980. codes.findlaw.com/ca/welfare-and-institutions-code/wic-sect-10980/. Accessed April 16, 2025.

- The program staff receives an allegation of fraud from any government agency.
- A public complaint is received alleging fraudulent receipt of public funds.

All cases in which EWs have reasons to suspect fraud based on the criteria stated above need to be referred to the SIU within five working days. When an applicant is suspected of fraud, the case is referred to the SIU immediately and prior to completion of the application for or granting of benefits. Because the application is pending, SIU investigates these cases on a priority basis to resolve any questions of possible fraud in time to allow the county to complete the determination of eligibility within the time limits imposed by the program. This process and procedure are referred to as “Early Fraud Investigation”.

SIU is comprised of seven positions: two sworn DA Investigators; two Investigative Assistants, one Legal Secretary, one Supervising DA, and one embedded EW from HS. This unit is not solely dedicated to fraud complaints filed by Human Services, but also additional crimes committed within the county, such as: child abuse, sexual assault, organized crime and threat assessments.

The DA Investigators conduct all investigations in compliance with due process of law so as not to infringe upon the constitutional rights of applicants/recipients. Home visits for the purposes of the investigation may be made during reasonable hours of normal family activity. They prepare investigative reports on completed investigations and present their findings to the Supervising DA. It is up to the DA’s Office to determine what action will be taken against the violator.

The following table reflects the workload of SIU over the past five years involving HS referrals.

Placer County District Attorney’s SIU Workload					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cases Referred	887	664	1,212	1,406	1,012
Requests For Investigations Accepted	774	600	1,119	1,302	883
Cases Referred For Prosecution	69	164	30	73	32
Cases Referred For Early Investigation	119	165	238	130	297
EBT Card Trafficking Referred	3	46	44	266	79

SIU noted the number of investigations of EBT fraud has risen. This fraudulent activity typically has been perpetrated by a group of individuals skimming information (PIN/Account Number) from assorted EBT cardholders. They create fake cards and when the funds are replenished, the group picks ATMs from around the state to hit early in the morning. The available cash is then drained from the account. These funds are gone immediately and need to be replenished by accountholders to retain their benefits. There is no insurance when these funds are stolen. In effect the taxpayers are billed twice. Reimbursement of these funds comes from the State General Fund.

To date, the loss to the State of California has risen well into the millions since EBT cards have been issued. EBT cards operate on a system which uses different specifications from those of ordinary chip-enabled credit and debit cards. As a result, new standards had to be developed to enable the new EBT cards to work with existing chip technology. According to CDSS, the implementation of the new card will occur sometime in 2025.

It is anticipated this new technology will reduce the number of thefts and scams being committed.

Most investigations handled by SIU deal with funds issued through CalWORKs and CalFresh. The following table represents the dollar amount involved in the investigations conducted by SIU.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Fraud \$ Overpayments Sent To DA	\$196,828.57	\$643,091.11	\$85,803.00	\$214,359.26	\$74,494.00

Collection Efforts

Once a recipient has been informed of the overpayment of benefits, fails to make a repayment, does not mitigate the situation, or fails to comply with a Hearing Officer’s decision or Court Order, the matter is referred to the Revenue Services Division, currently under Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office.

Amount of Dollars (Overpayments) Submitted for Collection per Year	
Total Prior to CalSAWS (Conversion in October 2022)	\$4,655,990.84
FY 2022-2023	\$1,041,991.67
FY 2023-2024	\$2,214,349.04
FY 2024-2025 (as of December 2024)	\$1,455,404.54
Total	\$9,367,736.09

HHS in February 2023 entered into an agreement with the County Executive Office’s Revenue Services Division to collect overpayments of benefits issued through HHS. Prior to February 2023, HHS performed its own collection efforts. According to those interviewed, collection efforts were moved from HHS to Revenue Services since it was already in the business of collecting and was better suited to more efficiently and cost effectively oversee the duties.

The Revenue Services Division was moved to Treasurer-Tax Collector in July 2024. This existing agreement is set to expire on January 31, 2026. The agreement provides Revenue Services would be the point of contact for repayments. They would make necessary telephone calls and correspondence to those recipients

having failed to comply. Staff are required to document status, along with notes and case updates in CalSAWS including all communications with clients. If monies are received by Revenue Services, they are to be sent to HHS for deposit daily.

Revenue Services indicated they are supposed to receive emails from HS for any updates regarding client information. However, there are issues in timeliness and accuracy of these emails. There may be discrepancies in telephone numbers, addresses, and correct client names listed in CalSAWS. They also receive all forwarded return mail regarding collections from EWs to follow up on. With a staff of only five employees consisting of one Collection Agent, two Senior Collection Agents, one Staff Services Analyst, and one Program Supervisor, this additional workload of trying to locate individuals without accurate data has placed a burden on the unit. Staff have indicated CalSAWS is not user friendly and will not allow them to update in real time. Without the ability to access appropriate databases and be confident in the information they contain; Revenue Services has had to forego collection efforts on numerous cases.

Placer County does have an on-line repayment process¹³ wherein a recipient can use an electronic check, debit or credit card to make their payments. Revenue Services maintains this system on behalf of HHS.

According to HS, the Outstanding Collection Balance as of December 2024 is \$4.44 million. This amount represents everything from the balance for individuals making regular payments to amounts associated with people whose whereabouts are unknown. The likelihood of recovery varies from account to account. Therefore, a large portion of the outstanding balance may be unrecoverable. If a recipient is currently employed with an entity which is compliant with tax laws, recovery is possible. However, if these recipients remain unemployed or receive cash under the table, there is a high probability these funds will not be collected.

¹³ Placer County Website. www.placer.ca.gov/7253/Health-and-Human-Services-HHS-Overpayment. Accessed February 25, 2025.

Outstanding Collection Balance as of December 2024		
Program:	Number of Cases	Current Balance
CalFresh	4,655	\$2,440,477.18
CalWORKs	1,448	\$1,381,113.00
General Relief	4,702	\$603,233.00
Welfare to Work	9	\$2,703.87
Homeless	4	\$6,425.00
Other	218	\$12,349.00
Total:	11,036	\$4,446,301.05

As shown above, 90% of the uncollected funds are related to the major benefit programs administered by HS. The number of cases and amount to be collected represent years of overpayments. Some may have occurred last year; others may be several years old. Revenue Services will refer uncollected amounts to the Tax Intercept Unit within the Department of Franchise Tax Board if verified information, i.e. addresses, date of birth, Social Security Numbers or correct names, is available.

Conclusion

The Placer County Grand Jury acknowledges Health and Human Services is adequately providing public assistance to individuals and families in need within Placer County through the various programs they administer. With the rise in population growth and the homelessness issues in the county, an increase in applications and claims for benefits are posing a challenge to staff.

Fraud does exist as evidenced by the number of denials of claims. Examples of denials include individuals attempting to access funds without verifiable documentation, the number of cases involving EBT scams, and the amount of dollars lost due to uncollectible overpayments. All these unlawful activities contribute to the burden of tax dollars being assessed on county residents.

In reviewing the practices of the Human Services Division, which administers the funding of the various benefit programs, it was noted additional staff are needed to support the current operations and to create a more streamlined process of tracking recipients and better visibility of fund allocations and distribution. The process to recover overpayments needs to be re-evaluated and a determination made whether to maintain collection efforts within the division, adopt new software, or upgrade the current data system to integrate with applicable state-wide information systems.

Efforts to detect fraud and prevent fraudulent activities need to be improved to ensure public funds are awarded only to needy and qualified recipients. This can be accomplished with additional personnel and an updated integrated data system which expands the existing data to track recipients and monitor the collection of overpayments which is not currently being met.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** The number of applications for public benefits administered by Health & Human Services has increased.
- F2.** Human Services Division staffing levels are insufficient to handle the increase in applications, denials, and requests for hearing.
- F3.** Current software, California Statewide Automated Welfare System, is not fully capable of determining actual overpayments or losses due to its inability to accurately identify violators.
- F4.** There is an increase in EBT fraudulent activity which requires new technology to identify and prevent violators using the “debit cards”.
- F5.** Revenue Services is not fully able to recover all known or potential overpayments with existing procedures and ineffective software.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** Health & Human Services should direct staff from the Human Services Division to develop a plan increasing staffing within the Program Integrity Unit by November 1, 2025.
- R2.** Health & Human Services should coordinate with California Department of Social Services to re-evaluate the current software California Statewide Automated Welfare System to improve the identification of overpayments and the exact amounts needing to be collected by December 31, 2025. This may require identifying or determining if a new software system would be more beneficial. Response should address proposed timeline for implementation.
- R3.** Health & Human Services should conduct a cost analysis of the Revenue Services’ agreement to determine if their service is more effective and efficient than maintaining collection efforts within Health & Human Services for better oversight and continuity by December 31, 2025. Response should address proposed timeline for implementation.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing body:

<u>Responding Entity</u>	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Placer County Health and Human Services Department Dr. Rob Oldham 11434 B Avenue Auburn, CA 95603	F2, F3, F4, F5	R1, R2, R3	September 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County District Attorney

Morgan Gire

10810 Justice Center Drive Ste 240
Roseville, CA 95678

Human Services Division

Greg Geisler, Deputy Director

11434 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Treasurer-Tax Collector

Tristan Butcher

2976 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603



Securing Our Community

A Closer Look at Placer County Sheriff's Staffing Challenges



Photo Credit: Placer County

Securing Our Community

A Closer Look at Placer County Sheriff's Staffing Challenges

Summary

Placer County Sheriff's Office mission is to "maintain the quality of life we enjoy and to ensure our county is a safe place to live, work and visit."¹ To accomplish this mission, Placer County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to safeguarding individual liberties, preventing crime, building community partnerships through transparency and education. Placer County Sheriff's Office is also responsible for the professional care and custody of those confined within the county's jail system.

The Placer County Grand Jury's primary focus was to investigate law enforcement staffing, determining the factors affecting recruitment, workforce sustainability, and identifying the underlying causes of staff shortages. During the Grand Jury's investigation, it was apparent additional staff, especially sworn peace officers, are needed to perform all the required services provided by this law enforcement agency. It was noted Placer County Sheriff's Office should evaluate the use of incentives to motivate individuals to apply as law enforcement officers and would encourage current staff to remain with the agency.

Glossary

Assembly Bill (AB) 109: In April 2011, the California Legislature enacted AB109, referred to as 2011 Public Safety Realignment. This bill created extensive changes to existing law which would reduce the number of offenders incarcerated in state prison and "realign" them to local county jails.

Placer County Corrections Officers (CO): Non-sworn officers employed by the Sheriff's Office who are responsible for the custody, supervision, safety, and regulation of inmates.

Placer County Deputy Sheriffs (SO): Sworn peace officers, as defined by §830.1(a) of the Penal Code of California, employed by the Sheriff's Office and who may also serve as a deputy coroner.

Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO): The county's law enforcement agency headquartered in Auburn, California. Sheriff officers are typically tasked with operating jails, security at courthouses and county buildings, protection of judges and juries, preventing crime, and coordinating with local city police departments.

Proposition (Prop) 47: A California initiative was enacted in November 2014 after having passed voter approval. This legislation reclassified certain property and drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors to reduce jail population.

¹ PCSO website. <https://www.placer.ca.gov/2593/Mission-Vision>. Accessed September 25, 2024

Proposition (Prop) 36: A California initiative was enacted in November 2024 after having passed voter approval. The intent of this legislation was to increase punishment for various theft and drug crimes.

Title 15: Regulations set forth by the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Office providing the minimum standards for adult facilities.

Vanir Report: An independent survey conducted by Vanir Construction Management and its consultants to perform an operational assessment and staffing analysis for the Placer County jail facilities.

Background

Placer County Sheriff's Office is tasked with ensuring the safety and well-being of Placer County residents and those who visit the county. To achieve their commitment, Placer County Sheriff's Office needs willing, well-trained, and competent officers and professional staff. However, like other law enforcement agencies, it faces several challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified law enforcement officers, both sworn² and non-sworn.^{3 4}

These challenges include legislative changes, population growth, public image of all law enforcement agencies, budgetary constraints, training, and hiring process. Placer County Grand Jury was interested in determining if changes in hiring practices, salaries, benefits, work environment, and community outreach are impacting Placer County Sheriff's Office's ability to recruit and retain its staff.

Methodology

Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) obtained information from interviews with Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) management and staff, county websites, interviews with Roseville Police Department staff, and the Placer County District Attorney's Office staff. Tours of Placer County jails and holding facilities were also conducted. Request for information and data collection was provided by interviewees, Placer County Sheriff's website, California Department of Justice's website, the Vanir Report, and other local law enforcement agencies websites.

² CA Penal Code §830.1(a). [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&division=&title=3.&part=2.&chapter=4.5.&article=](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&division=&title=3.&part=2.&chapter=4.5.&article=). Accessed March 11, 2025.

³ Correctional Officer Defined. www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Adult-Corrections-Officer-Core-Training-Course-Manual-January-2022.pdf. Accessed March 11, 2025.

⁴ CA Penal Code 830.55. law.justia.com/codes/california/code-pen/part-2/title-3/chapter-4-5/section-830-55/. Accessed April 15, 2025.

Discussion Legislative Impact

With the enactment of AB109,⁵ passed in April 2011, PCSO was required to adjust its Correctional Facility's procedures to accommodate the change in inmate classifications and to accommodate for the longer potential incarceration of inmates at these facilities. The impact of this new legislation changed the length of stay an inmate served. According to the Vanir Report,⁶ the average length of stay was shown to be over six times longer than those who had not committed an AB109 offense. The report also indicated these types of offenders occupied between 17% and 32% of total jail beds over the past 10 years. It was also noted those inmates who were previously incarcerated in state prison were accustomed to amenities and privileges which do not necessarily exist in a county jail.

In 2014, the implementation of Prop 47⁷ added an additional challenge by reclassifying certain property and drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. Although this new legislation's intent was to reduce the number of inmates incarcerated, it had an impact by increasing the recidivism rate.⁸ With this new legislation, it was noted by PCSO the number of bookings shifted by reducing felony bookings and increasing misdemeanor bookings.

In 2024, Prop 36⁹ was passed. Its purpose was to partially reverse Prop 47, which reduced penalties for certain lower-level drug and petty theft offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. The new legislation both modified and added key changes to California law. This included prosecutors being able to charge individuals convicted of various third-time drug offenses with a so-called treatment-mandated felony, which would direct them to substance use disorder or mental health treatment in lieu of up to three years in jail or prison. Also, heavier consequences may extend to petty theft and shoplifting offenses, including the possibility of up to three years in jail or prison if a person has already been twice convicted for certain theft offenses. Therefore, increasing the number of bookings which potentially increases inmate population in county jails.

⁵ Placer County Website. www.placer.ca.gov/2024/Assembly-Bill-109-AB-109#:~:text=In%20April%202011%2C%20the%20California,Straight%20Jail%20Term Accessed October 1, 2024.

⁶ In November 2023, Vanir Construction Management, Inc. ("Vanir") conducted an operational and staffing analysis for the Placer County Jail facilities. On October 25, 2024, Vanir submitted its final report to PCSO. Note that the finalization of the Vanir Report occurred before the passage of Proposition 36 and does not address its potential implications. See further discussion, *post*.

⁷ Proposition 47. courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-08/prop47faqs.pdf. Accessed April 15, 2025.

⁸ Recidivism Rate. [Not Taking Crime Seriously: California's Prop 47 Exacerbated Crime and Drug Abuse | Manhattan Institute](https://www.manhattaninstitute.org/analysis/2023/09/20/not-taking-crime-seriously-california-s-prop-47-exacerbated-crime-and-drug-abuse). Accessed March 26, 2025.

⁹ Proposition 36. oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/2024-dle-19.pdf. Accessed April 15, 2025.

HISTORICAL BOOKINGS BY FACILITY						
Fiscal Year	Auburn Main	South Placer	Tahoe Burton	Nevada Co (Truckee)	Total	YOY* Increase
20/21	741	5,974	175	2	6,892	
21/22	835	5,434	166	11	6,446	-6.47%
22/23	1,959	6,468	213	14	8,654	34.25%
23/24	2,255	6,531	222	3	9,011	4.13%
24/25 Projected#	2,598	7,221	246	3	10,068	11.73%
24/25^	866	2,407	82	1		
*Year over year						
# 24/25 Projected is based on the 4 months of YTD data						
^July 1 - October 31, 2024						

Population Growth

Another challenge facing PCSO is the county has been experiencing an increase in population. In 1993, Placer County’s population totaled 186,799 residents. As of 2023, the population was 423,561, an increase of 226%. The California Department of Finance¹⁰ predicts the population will increase an additional 14% within the next 15 years, making it the fastest growing county in the state.

With the increase in growth, PCSO determined it needs to expand its ability to provide services in a timely manner to the western region of the county, which is growing the fastest. The PCGJ learned the county had purchased a commercial building and property¹¹ in Rocklin, California, in July 2024, as a potential site for a substation. This site would meet the needs of PCSO which would include a building with substantial and secured parking directly adjacent to the building, private and secure support spaces including a lobby with accessible restroom, training rooms, offices for command staff, workstations, evidence and specialty equipment storage, showers/lockers, and a gym. This substation would not include a jail or holding facility.

With the increase in population, there is the likelihood the crime rate will also rise. The following table reflects the escalation in various types of crime within Placer County:

¹⁰ Growth Rate. <https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates-e1/>. Accessed January 10, 2025.

¹¹ PCSO Expansion. <https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/311242/county-buying-rocklin-office-space-for-sheriffs-office/>. Accessed March 11, 2025.

CRIME STATISTICS FOR PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE¹²					
Fiscal Year	Violent	Property	Arson	Total	YOY Increase
19/20	183	1,077	9	1,269	
20/21	220	952	5	1,177	-7.25%
21/22	265	950	14	1,229	4.42%
22/23	502	943	9	1,454	18.31%
23/24	543	1,027	9	1,579	8.60%

The types of crimes considered as violent are homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes include burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft ranging in value from \$1 to over \$400. Arson includes structural, mobile, and other types of property. Not included in these statistics are those crimes which were handled by local law enforcement agencies including police departments (PD) within Placer County, i.e., Auburn PD, Lincoln PD, Rocklin PD, Roseville PD, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP). It should be noted PCSO handles all bookings at their three jail facilities.

The above-cited statistics do not include drug-related crimes.¹³ These crimes are typically associated with offenses in which a drug’s pharmacologic effects contribute to; offenses motivated by the user’s need for money to support continued use; and offenses connected to drug distribution itself. PCGJ was informed there has been an increase in drug offenses and a rise of fentanyl deaths¹⁴ within the county.

Although PCGJ was unable to ascertain exact data for drug crimes, it was apparent these types of offenses impact the workload of SOs on field patrol, as well as those SOs and COs working within the jails.

¹² Crime Stats. <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/crimes-clearances>. Accessed November 1, 2024.

¹³US Dept. of Justice website. bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/DRRC.PDF. Accessed March 12, 2025.

¹⁴Placer County website. www.placer.ca.gov/7815/Fighting-Fentanyl-in-Placer-County. Accessed March 12, 2025.

Staffing

PCSO serves an unincorporated/contract city population of 120,520 and a total population of 423,561, as of 2023. The county has an area of 1,502 square miles, of which 1,407 square miles is land and 95 square miles (6.4%) is water.¹⁵

PCSO maintains three Jails:

- South Placer Adult Correctional Facility in Roseville.
- South Placer Minimum Security Facility in Roseville.
- Placer County Main Jail in Auburn.

Three Holding Facilities:

- Historic Auburn Courthouse.
- Honorable Howard G. Gibson Courthouse in Auburn.
- Burton Creek Tahoe Substation in Tahoe City.

Four Substations:

- Burton Creek Tahoe Substation in Tahoe City.
- Colfax Substation.
- Foresthill Service Center.
- Loomis Substation.

Each of these substations handles a specific region of the county and has varying number of staff manning the offices. The Foresthill Service Office has one Sergeant SO and it also relies on volunteers for support.

The Colfax substation consists of:

- One Sergeant SO.
- Four Deputy SOs.
- Two resident SOs.
- It also relies on volunteer citizens to assist in administrative duties as needed.

The Loomis substation is manned with:

- Six patrol sergeants.
- Thirty-four patrol deputy positions.
- One traffic deputy (Town of Loomis).
- Three detective positions.
- One Youth & Community Services Unit/School Safety Sergeant.
- Eight School Resource Officer positions.

¹⁵ US Census. data.census.gov/profile/Placer_County,_California?g=050XX00US06061. Accessed February 20, 2025.

- One Community Service Officer.
- One Administrative Sergeant.
- One Administrative Assistant.
- Six Cadet positions – field community services.
- Other professional staff and numerous volunteers.

The Burton Creek Tahoe substation staff consists of:

- One Administrative Lieutenant.
- One Community Services Officer.
- One Court Deputy.
- One Detective Sergeant.
- One Evidence Technician.
- One Field Operations Lieutenant.
- One Jail Deputy.
- One Problem Oriented Policing Deputy (during summer) which then becomes the School Resource Officer (during school year).
- Eighteen Patrol Deputy positions.
- Four Detectives.
- Five professional staff.
- Six Patrol Sergeants.

As previously stated, it is anticipated PCSO will expand its operational facilities by creating a new West Placer Substation in Rocklin. It is unknown how many sworn officers and professional staff will be required to manage the operations at this site. According to Placer County law enforcement staff, it is not known if personnel will be drawn from other facilities to staff this substation.

Burton Creek Tahoe Substation’s Dilemma

Burton Creek Tahoe substation has been under evaluation since 2019 by Placer County’s Board of Supervisors and Planning Department to replace the current facility with the Tahoe Justice Center.¹⁶

¹⁶ Placer County Planning. www.placer.ca.gov/10013/Tahoe-Justice-Center-Burton-Creek-Replac. Accessed February 20, 2025.

The Burton Creek Tahoe substation is sixty-five years old, non-ADA¹⁷ compliant, too small to adequately house the department's offices or necessary jail cells, and long overdue for replacement. Last year's Grand Jury Final Report¹⁸ included a report regarding an evaluation and status of the project. Their report identified several issues that impact services and staffing at the facility. They are as follows:

- Burton Creek Substation jail is a Type I facility, meaning it is not equipped for overnight housing of inmates, but rather, used as a holding facility for courtroom proceedings during business hours, Monday through Thursday.
- As a result of not being able to house inmates overnight or on weekends, PCSO contracted with Nevada County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) for jail services which provides booking and overnight arrest holds. NCSO's substation is in Truckee, California.
- Because of staffing constraints at Burton Creek Substation, PCSO needs to transfer detainees directly to the Truckee jail for after-hours booking, then to the Auburn Main Jail the following day during their usual transport schedule. If a booking occurs over the weekend, PCSO will transfer the detainee on the following Monday to the Auburn Main Jail.
- A transport takes a PCSO deputy off patrol for as many hours as the roundtrip requires, reducing the quality of service to the North Tahoe region, while affording no cost benefit to taxpayers.
- Due to Burton Creek Substation's location in the North Tahoe region, the weather is a factor especially during the winter months. Although PCSO is exempt from CHP road closures, they are required to make the trip from North Tahoe to Auburn any day or time if NCSO rejects a detainee.

In addition to evaluating the jail facilities, the report included a review of the annual contracts between Placer County and Nevada County for the period 2017 through 2023. It was noted there is an annual increase of three percent per year, and at the time of the review, it had extended to well beyond a half-million dollars annually. It was stated in the contract Placer County funds would go directly towards hiring Nevada County Sheriff Officers.

PCGJ made a request for data to ascertain the number of bookings at the Burton Creek Tahoe Substation and Truckee substation for the past five years. The chart below reflects the number of bookings per year as well as the contract amount paid by PCSO to NCSO.

¹⁷ US DOJ. www.ada.gov/#:~:text=The%20Americans%20with%20Disabilities%20Act,ADA.gov. Accessed March 12, 2025.

¹⁸ PCGJ Annual Report. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions/grand-jury-reports-2023-2024. Accessed September 24, 2024.

PLACER COUNTY - BURTON CREEK TAHOE SUBSTATION				
Fiscal Year	Contract Cost	Booking - Count	Cost/Booking#	Cost/Booking/Day
20-21	\$ 479,796	2	\$ 239,898	\$ 79,966
21-22	\$ 488,008	11	\$ 44,364	\$ 14,788
22-23	\$ 502,648	14	\$ 35,903	\$ 11,968
23-24	\$ 517,727	3	\$ 172,576	\$ 57,525
24-25*	\$ 189,315	1	\$ 189,315	\$ 63,105
* 24/25 is for July 1 - October 31, 2024. Annual contract prorated for 4 months				
# Cost/Booking/Day assumes a 3-day jail time - i.e. booked on Friday				

The data provided shows the excessive cost of the contract and monies paid explicitly for law enforcement officers should be used to fund PCSO officers, not those of Nevada County.

Funding

PCSO's budget for the past five years is reflected below:

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET							
Fiscal Year	Total Allocated Budget	Total Allocated Personnel Budget*	Allocated Sworn Officers	Allocated Correctional Officers	Allocated Professional Staff	Total Allocated Staff	YOY Staff Change %
20/21	\$154,946,022	\$108,590,122	271	133	173	577	
21/22	\$161,101,835	\$114,310,688	272	137	172	581	0.69%
22/23	\$169,048,811	\$115,738,004	281	137	166	584	0.52%
23/24	\$177,120,783	\$130,406,654	289	138	167	594	1.71%
24/25	\$193,545,975	\$135,794,293	294	134	167	595	0.17%
*Allocated personnel budget includes benefits & overtime							

PCGJ was informed allocated positions do not align with funded and filled positions. Some allocated positions are not funded and there are some which are funded but not filled. PCSO also provided the number of new hires and the number of those exiting positions for the past five years for each category of staff.

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE NEW HIRES & EXITS						
Fiscal Year	SO Hires	SO Exits	SO Net New	CO Hires	CO Exits	CO Net New
20/21	12	22	-10	15	13	2
21/22	19	26	-7	0	13	-13
22/23	33	28	5	18	16	2
23/24	35	26	9	26	18	8
24/25 Projected#	51	45	0	32	21	11
Total	150	147	3	91	81	10
24/25*	19	17	2	12	8	4
# 24/25 Projected for full year based on YTD hires & exits thru 11/14/24						
* 24/25 Actuals through 11/14/24						

As a result of the number of vacancies, exits, and the time involved in training new personnel until they are proficient in their duties, the existing staff are scheduled for mandatory overtime hours. When there is a shortage of personnel in the jails, deputies are being called in from field patrol to work a shift or rotation within any of the jail facilities. Data was provided to PCGJ for the number of overtime hours incurred over the past five years and the overtime equivalent pay for personnel employed.

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE OVERTIME		
Fiscal Year	Overtime Hours	Overtime Equivalent Pay
20/21	110,213.23	\$7,785,617.00
21/22	133,436.46	\$9,329,222.00
22/23	154,142.56	\$11,229,962.00
23/24	164,176.20	\$12,501,206.00
24/25 Projected#	171,696.67	\$12,719,485.33
Total	733,665.12	\$53,565,492.33
24/25*	64,386.25	\$4,769,807.00
# 24/25 Projected for full year based on YTD hires & exits through 11/14/24		
* 24/25 Actuals through 11/14/24		

PCSO has recognized these personnel challenges over the past several years and in 2021 they developed a Five-Year Strategic Plan. The plan outlined objectives, strategies, and tactics in obtaining their goal of ensuring all positions and vacancies are staffed with quality people, reflective of the community.”¹⁹

As part of PCSO’s process to ensure staff were efficient, effective, and delivered valuable public safety services, it contracted with a consulting firm, Vanir Construction Management, Inc. In November 2023, Vanir began its survey by conducting an operational and staffing analysis for the Placer County Jail facilities. On October 25, 2024, the consulting agency submitted its final report, the VANIR Report, to PCSO.

This comprehensive report provided insight into the impact of population on the jails based upon growth projections, current data and legislative actions. It provided an operational assessment of corrections as well as aspects of the physical building which directly impact on how the facilities can operate and how these physical impacts affect staffing. The report also contained an analysis of the current staffing levels, including the number of staff by levels, classification and assigned duties.

In addition to providing detailed analysis, the report also proposed recommendations which would: improve operational efficiency; increase job performance; encourage staff retention and recruitment; expand safety and security; and reduce the rate of recidivism. The report also recommended the county review the degree and amount of mandatory overtime to potentially reduce issues with staff recruitment, retention or burnout.

The report provided the following recommendations:

- Reallocation of duties and responsibilities to ensure skilled officers are performing skilled officer tasks and assign clerical and administrative tasks appropriately.
- Assess the maintenance workload at each facility and consider hiring permanent positions in the appropriate classifications to perform those tasks.
- Ensure all maintenance personnel have the appropriate security clearance which would allow them to move through each facility without an escort.
- Consolidate tasks and responsibilities being performed by disparate people to single individuals where appropriate to reduce multi-tasking; thereby increasing efficiency and creating single best practice policies and procedures.
- Continue current recruitment efforts, with a focus on female officers.
- Consider incentives for staff who may not have opportunities for continued upward mobility options.

¹⁹ PCSO Website. www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/49729/2021-Strategic-Plan. Accessed March 14, 2025.

- Consider creating an open forum to promote and encourage open communication
- Ensure consistency in job titles and job duties.
- Consider elongating work assignment rotations – this could improve morale by giving the custodial staff a more stable environment for scheduling vacations and other time off.

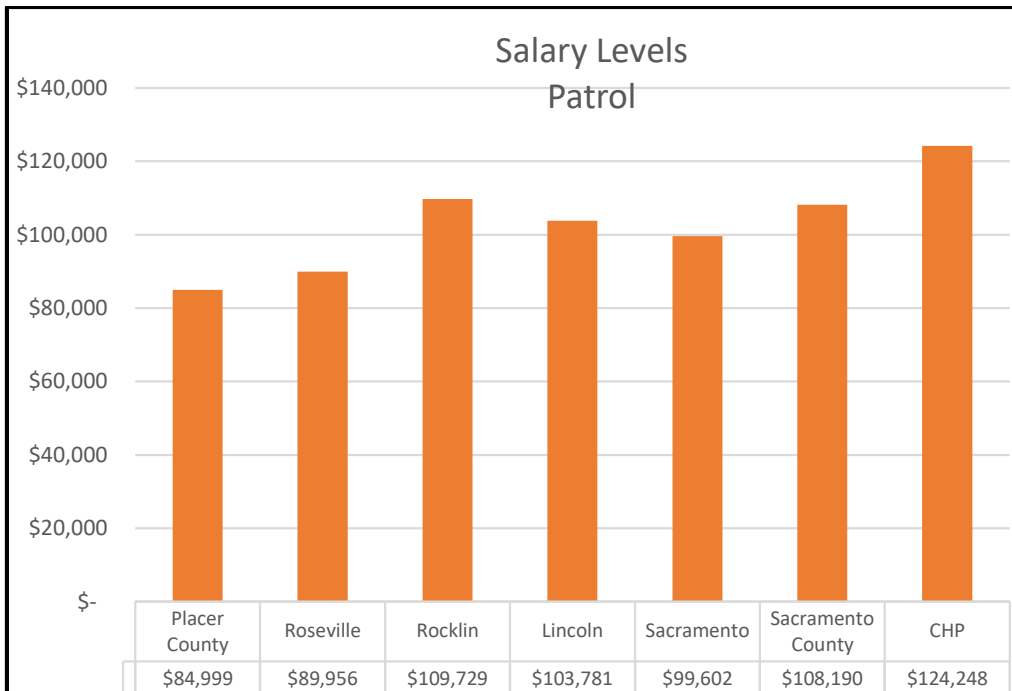
Recruitment Efforts

Law Enforcement agencies across the United States are struggling to recruit and hire police officers.²⁰ The difficulty in recruiting law enforcement officers and employees is not attributed to a single cause. As vacancy numbers increase due to their inability to fill positions and as more officers continue to become eligible for retirement, existing officers are becoming overworked and burned out, i.e., affecting an officer's mental health.

There were several reasons provided by PCSO as to why recruitment is difficult within Placer County:

1. The quality of applicants is often poor. Candidates who appear to be strong fail a background check or divulge disqualifying information during the interview process.
2. Competing salaries (see chart below) with local law enforcement agencies, such as Roseville PD, Rocklin PD, Sacramento Sheriff's Office, Sacramento PD, and California Highway Patrol (CHP).
3. Generational differences between the Baby-Boomers, Generation Z and Millennials. The younger generations are typically looking for more flexible hours and guaranteed time off.
4. The public image of law enforcement is not the same as it was years ago. Police have been scrutinized via cellphone recordings, media coverage, interactions with the public and entertainment portrayals.

²⁰ IACP. www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/239416_IACP_RecruitmentBR_HR_0.pdf. Accessed March 13, 2025.



All salaries listed above are for entry level Patrol Officers. Data for each law enforcement agency was obtained from each individual agency’s website.

The hiring process is also a major challenge for new hires. The amount of time it takes from submission of application through hiring may take well over six months. Once an application has been submitted, the candidate is scheduled for a written examination. If they pass the examination, they are scheduled for a Question & Answer event. Once completed, the candidate needs to perform a physical agility performance test and proceed through a second interviewing process. If the candidate has progressed to this stage, they are then required to complete a medical examination and undergo a psychological test. Applicants for either a Deputy SO or CO are required to follow this process.

If an applicant for CO is successful in getting hired, they need to attend an 80-hour correction academy administered by the Jail Training Program.²¹ The Jail Training Program is intended to introduce new officers to PCSO’s policy and procedures, BSCC Title 15 regulations, and the full responsibilities of a corrections officer position. All officers must be able to complete this training with satisfactory reviews, demonstrating sufficient skill, competence, and understanding of their role within the corrections facility.

²¹ PCSO website. www.placer.ca.gov/FAQ.aspx?QID=922. Accessed March 17, 2025.

As required by BSCC, all new CO candidates for the adult corrections facilities need to attend a 179-hour BSCC Adults Corrections Standard CORE Training (STC)²² course within the initial twelve months of hire or demonstrate prior completion through another agency.

If a new applicant for SO is successful in completing all their requirements, they must then attend a Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) Academy. PCSO does not maintain its own academy and therefore sends all its new hires to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Training Academy.²³ The Academy is approximately 24 weeks in length and consists of 956 hours of training. Basic cost (registration, materials, and ammunition) is approximately \$3,000. There are additional costs for uniforms, physical training equipment and miscellaneous personal items if needed by a cadet.

PCSO does encourage lateral transfers of individuals who possess a valid and current POST certificate. The amount of time it takes to process this type of applicant is less. Besides possessing a POST certificate, they need to be vetted and have a physical and psychological examination.

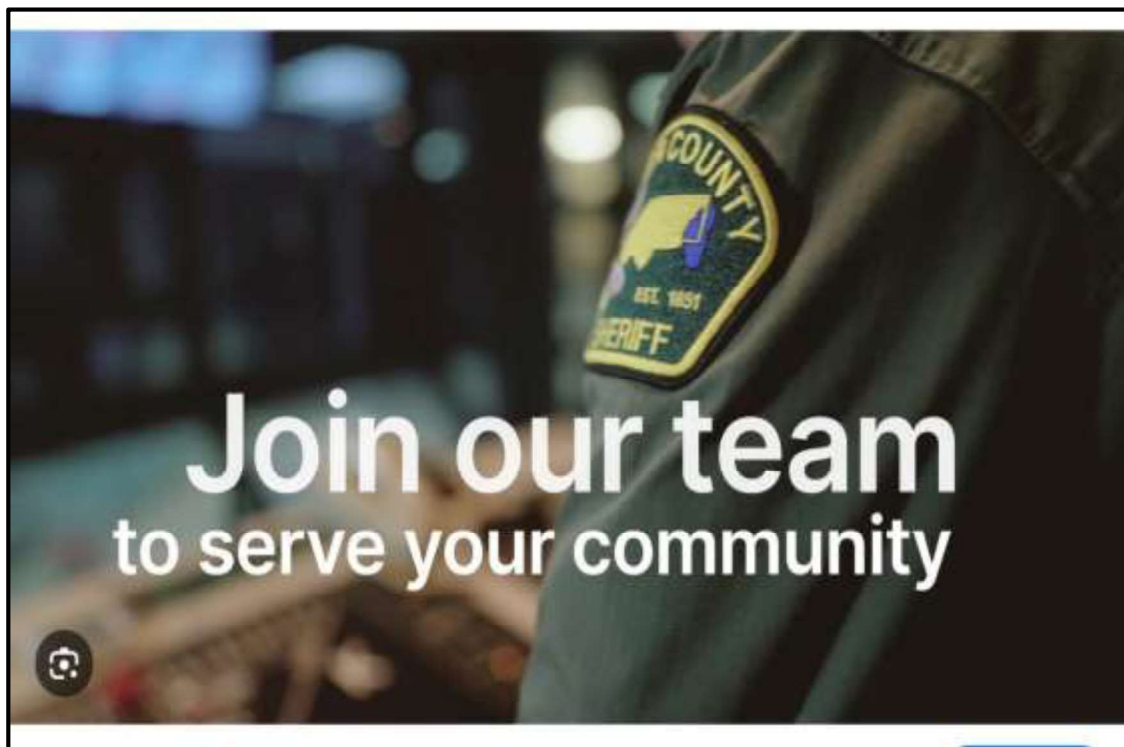


Photo Credit: PCSO

²² BSCC Training. www.bscc.ca.gov/s_stccoretrainingprogram/. Accessed March 17, 2025.

²³ Sacramento County Website. Sac Sheriff. Accessed March 17, 2025.

PCSO has ramped up its recruiting efforts by increasing the number of times within the year when individuals can apply for SO and CO positions. They have enhanced their website with a video encouraging the submission of applications. They also attend job fairs, post openings on various social media platforms, allow ride-alongs as an introduction to policing, and provide community outreach at secondary and local colleges.

Recruitment and Retention Solutions

It is important PCSO and the Board of Supervisors recognize they need to bolster police recruitment and the retention of qualified officers. The need for law enforcement officers is in high demand, but the number of candidates is lessening. A 2024 study²⁴ of career inducements found financial incentives were the most significant factor influencing students' willingness to apply for a career in policing. PCSO does not offer new candidates an incentive package. The "Recruit and Retain Act"²⁵ which passed in May 2024, was designed to provide grants to cover the costs of sign-on bonuses, relocation assistance, tuition reimbursement, and more.

Policing can take an emotional and physical toll, leading to injuries, medical retirements and stress-related burnout. PCSO does provide its officers with one hour of physical exercise prior to their shift and each facility is equipped with various types of fitness equipment. It is unknown if all officers take advantage of this opportunity. With the amount of mandatory overtime, rotating shift schedules, and stress related incidents, officers are challenged with maintaining a healthy fitness level. As a new hire, an officer is required to pass a medical examination and a physical agility test. Once on board, there are no periodic fitness tests to determine if an officer can still perform the job as originally required. PCSO may want to establish an annual fitness evaluation with financial benefits to incentivize officers to remain healthy.

In addition to financial and wellness incentives for recruitment and retention of officers, the need for growth and advancement is beneficial to law enforcement agencies in maintaining their best employees. Incentives such as specialized training in the areas of cyber-security, forensic analysis, and crisis negotiation can align an officer's professional skill with their personal interest. Leadership training would also benefit young officers for supervisory and management roles. PCSO indicated it has partnered with Sierra College in the past and it may want to consider subsidizing tuition for selective courses which would enhance an officer's professional development.

²⁴ Criminology and Public Policy. [Informing the recruitment crisis in policing: Evaluating which incentives can entice the best candidates among college students - Santos - 2024 - Criminology & Public Policy - Wiley Online Library](#). Accessed December 9, 2024.

²⁵ Public Law No. 118-64. www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/546. Accessed December 9, 2024.

Women in Law Enforcement

As of January 21, 2025, PCSO has only twenty-five female sworn officers, which is 9% of the total (271), and thirty-four correctional officers, which is 27% of the total (127). There is a need to recruit more females as noted by the Vanir report.

Some challenges facing women in recruitment are:^{26 27 28}

- Gender stereotypes - Traditional gender roles often portray policing as a male-dominated profession, leading to stereotypes that women are not as physically capable or mentally resilient as their male counterparts.
- Bias and Discrimination - Women may encounter prejudice and discrimination during the recruitment process, ranging from overt sexism to unconscious biases influencing hiring decisions.
- Lack of Representation - A lack of female role models and mentors within law enforcement agencies can deter women from pursuing careers in policing, as they may struggle to envision themselves succeeding in a male-dominated environment.
- Physical Fitness Standards - Some recruitment processes impose physical fitness standards which disproportionately disadvantage women, leading to lower rates of female applicants passing these requirements.
- Work-Life Balance - Policing often involves irregular shifts and long hours, challenging many to balance their careers with familial responsibilities.

Changing policies to lower standards for female applicants has its risks and needs to be assessed by the agency. PCSO should consider recruiting from female-populated places such as: female gyms, women's sports teams, military, volunteer EMT's or firefighters, and colleges/universities. They should also provide opportunities for success by being provided with information about the type of physical testing to be performed and given opportunities to practice the test.

Once a female officer is on-board, PCSO should provide a mentoring program to assist in retention and promotion. PCSO needs to ensure there are family-friendly policies established dealing with pregnancy and childcare leave. Flexible work options should be afforded to all male and female officers.

²⁶ Epic Recruiting. pdrecruiting.com/breaking-barriers-women-in-police-recruitment/. Accessed March 21, 2025.

²⁷ Recruiting and Retaining Women: A Self-Assessment Guide for Law Enforcement. www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/p-r/Recruiting_Retaining%20Women%20officers.pdf. Accessed April 22, 2025.

²⁸ Police Culture and Women in Law Enforcement. [Women in Law Enforcement - Exploring Police Culture - Lexipol](https://www.lexipol.com/women-in-law-enforcement-exploring-police-culture). Accessed April 15, 2025.

Conclusion

Placer County Sheriff's Office is struggling to recruit and hire new officers as are so many law enforcement agencies within the United States. Legislative changes have impacted the number of bookings and jail population which Placer County Sheriff's Office manages. The growth of Placer County has forced Placer County Sheriff's Office to seek additional workspace to handle the growing population. It is also experiencing an increase in violent crime.

Maintaining adequate staff has been a challenge, and the number of overtime hours spent has taken a toll on officers as well as Placer County Sheriff's Office's budget. The study conducted by Vanir validates the fact additional officers are needed to maintain the jail facilities effectively and efficiently. Placer County Grand Jury agrees with the findings of the Vanir report and supports incentives to be adopted to entice new candidates in applying for vacant sworn and non-sworn positions.

Placer County Sheriff's Office has improved its recruitment process by conducting additional written examinations throughout the year. It needs to determine if the hiring process can be expedited and streamlined. Placer County Sheriff's Office needs to adopt new solutions in recruitment, such as signing bonuses, relocation costs, tuition assistance, etc. As for retention, Placer County Sheriff's Office needs to consider offering specialized training, professional development, and career advancement opportunities to all its officers.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** The enactment of AB109 required Placer County Sheriff's Office to adjust its Correctional Facility procedures to adapt to the change in inmate classifications and accommodate for longer potential incarceration of inmates.
- F2.** The implementation of Prop 47 added an additional challenge to Placer County Sheriff's Office by reclassifying certain property and drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors.
- F3.** The passage of Prop 36 partially reversed Prop 47 and added a heavier consequence to petty theft and shoplifting offenses, which increased the number of bookings.
- F4.** Placer County Sheriff's Office may face staff shortages if Placer County's population continues to increase as predicted.
- F5.** Placer County Sheriff's Office has been experiencing an increase in the number of mandatory overtime hours over the past five years to adequately manage the jail facilities, thereby reducing the number of deputies in the field, which also affects staff morale and leads to burnout.

- F6.** Placer County Sheriff's Office's contract with Nevada County Sheriff's Office for jail services is not providing taxpayers with the best value for their money.
- F7.** The Vanir report produced numerous recommendations involving operational changes and recruitment solutions which Placer County Sheriff's Office needs to address.
- F8.** Placer County Sheriff's Office struggles to recruit and hire new officers. Recruiting is impacted by low quality applicants, competing salaries with local law enforcement agencies and public perception of law enforcement agencies.
- F9.** Placer County Sheriff's Office lacks sufficient incentives to offer new hires and lateral transfers during the recruitment process, as well as incentives to retain existing staff.
- F10.** Placer County Sheriff's Office has less than 10% sworn female officers and faces challenging issues in recruiting females.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** Placer County Sheriff's Office needs to develop a plan(s) responding to legislative changes for operational efficiency by developing training programs for staff to better navigate and adapt to evolving laws such as AB109, Prop 47, and Prop 36. Placer County Sheriff's Office also needs to review booking procedures and jail capacity planning to accommodate fluctuations in inmate classifications and incarceration durations by November 1, 2025.
- R2.** Placer County Sheriff's Office should take steps to promote the hiring of and retention of sworn officers to mitigate cost increases associated with overtime pay and providing services to a rapidly increasing County population by November 1, 2025.
- R3.** Placer County Sheriff's Office should take steps to promote the hiring of and retention of correctional officers to mitigate cost increases associated with overtime pay and reduce the need for sworn officers to serve jail rotations by November 1, 2025.
- R4.** Placer County Sheriff's Office and Placer County Board of Supervisors should renegotiate the contract with Nevada County Sheriff's Office on an annual basis starting with fiscal year 2026-2027 to ensure the actual cost of jailing a detainee is per person based upon Placer County Daily Jail Rate, until the Tahoe Justice Center is completed by December 31, 2025.

- R5.** Placer County Board of Supervisors should have a plan including completion dates for the replacement of the Tahoe Justice Center/Burton Creek Tahoe Substation by December 31, 2025.
- R6.** Placer County Sheriff's Office should address the recommendations from the Vanir Report to streamline jail operations and staffing efficiencies, which would reduce overtime and improve work-life balance for current staff by December 31, 2025.
- R7.** Placer County Sheriff's Office should expand its recruitment efforts by developing targeted recruitment campaigns to attract a larger pool of quality applicants by November 1, 2025.
- R8.** Placer County Sheriff's Office should offer competitive financial and wellness incentives, as well as advancement and mentorship opportunities to retain quality officers by November 1, 2025.
- R9.** Placer County Sheriff's Office should improve its efforts in recruiting females by targeting specific outreach and partnerships with women's law enforcement organizations, and by evaluating policies and work environments to ensure they are inclusive and supportive of female officers by November 1, 2025.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing bodies:

	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Placer County Board of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Ave Auburn, CA 95603	F6	R4, R5	October 1, 2025
Placer County Sheriff Wayne Woo 2929 Richardson Dr Auburn, CA 95603	F6, F7, F9, F10	R1, R2, R3, R4, R6, R7, R8, R9	September 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Placer County District Attorney

Morgan Gire
10810 Justice Center Drive, Suite 240
Roseville, CA 95678

Disclaimer

In the process of preparing this report, one grand juror was recused, and they took no part in the investigation, including interviews, deliberations, writing, and approval of this report.



Human Trafficking in Placer County

An Unseen Crime



Photo credit: Placer County

Human Trafficking in Placer County An Unseen Crime

Summary

The Placer County Grand Jury's investigated the effectiveness of local government agencies and their partnership with public services and community organizations in addressing the issue of human trafficking. The grand jury also examined whether existing policies, resources and programs are adequately identifying and supporting victims of trafficking, as well as confirming preventative measures are in place.

This investigation intended to substantiate the attempts being made to increase public awareness and educational steps being taken throughout Placer County since both play a significant role in combating human trafficking. This report's intent is to serve as an informational tool for public awareness, bringing to light the complexity of human trafficking and the harms this criminal enterprise inflicts on its victims.

Glossary

Assembly Bill (AB)1227, Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act: Legislation which amended California Education Code (EC) Section 51934, part of the California Healthy Youth Act, for grades seven through twelve to require human trafficking prevention education in public schools. This legislation also amended EC Section 51950 to require the continuation of training for specified school district personnel regarding human trafficking which began on January 1, 2018.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force: A task force comprised of individuals who respond to, serve, or have oversight for or impact on prostituted children.

Human Trafficking: Trafficking in persons or modern-day slavery is a crime which involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts.

Placer County Children's System of Care (CSOC): A division within Placer County's Health & Human Services Department designated to meet the special needs of children and youth who may be at risk, and their families.

Placer County District Attorney's Office (DA): The Placer County District Attorney's Office prosecutes crimes, conducts investigations, supports victims, and works to safeguard the community.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000: The TVPA is the first federal law to address human trafficking. This law provides a three-pronged approach: prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Background

Human trafficking is among the world's fastest growing criminal enterprises and is estimated to be a \$150 billion-a-year global industry. It is a form of modern-day slavery which profits from the exploitation of our most vulnerable populations. Human trafficking strips victims of their freedom and violates our nation's promise every person in the United States is guaranteed basic human rights.

In the past, the U.S. Department of State has estimated 14,500 to 17,500 victims are trafficked into the United States each year. This figure does not include victims who are trafficked within the country each year. California, a populous border state with a significant immigrant population and the world's fourth largest economy, is one of the nation's top destination states for trafficked human beings.

California's numerous large cities, ports, and highways, as well as its agricultural and service industries, provide environments where labor and sex trafficking can thrive. Human trafficking in the state often involves both international and domestic victims who are coerced, deceived, or forced into exploitative conditions. Various California county grand jury reports highlight the prevalence and complexity of the problem, providing specific findings and recommendations for addressing it at local and regional levels.

The 2014-2015 Placer County Grand Jury¹ investigated the extent and the pervasiveness of human trafficking in Placer County. Two of the recommendations made by this report were: the coordination of all agencies involved in identifying and tracking human trafficking incidents within the county needs to continue (R2), and the county needs to develop human awareness programs to educate parents and children (R3). Placer County Grand Jury intends to assess if these issues have improved.

Methodology

The scope of the Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) investigation into human trafficking in Placer County focused on evaluating the roles and responsibilities of the following Placer County agencies: Roseville Police Department, Placer County Sheriff's Office, Placer County District Attorney's Office (DA), KidsFirst, Stand Up Placer, Placer County Office of Education, and several local school districts in preventing and addressing human trafficking. This included reviewing current policies, interagency coordination, and the effectiveness of public awareness campaigns. Interviews were conducted with local law enforcement agencies and representatives of the District Attorney's Office. Research was obtained from various federal and state governmental websites, news articles and statistical reports.

¹ PCGJ Report 2014-2015. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions/grand-jury-reports-2014-2015. Accessed February 25, 2025.

Discussion

Human trafficking,² also known as trafficking in persons or modern-day slavery, is a crime which involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. Coercion can be subtle or overt, physical, or psychological, and may involve the use of violence, threats, lies, or debt bondage. Exploitation of a minor for commercial sex is human trafficking, regardless of whether any form of force, fraud, or coercion was used. Human trafficking does not require travel or transportation of the victim across local, state, or international borders.

As codified in the California Penal Code,³ anyone who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services, procure or sell the individual for commercial sex, or exploit the individual in obscene matters, is guilty of human trafficking. Depriving or violating a person's liberty includes "substantial and sustained restriction of another's liberty accomplished through fraud, deceit, coercion, violence, duress, menace, or threat of unlawful injury to the victim or to another person, under circumstances where the person receiving or apprehending the threat reasonably believes it is likely the person making the threat would carry it out."

According to the California Attorney General, there are three types of human trafficking:⁴

Sex Trafficking

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act⁵ (TVPA) of 2000 and its subsequent reauthorizations defines sex trafficking as a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (22 U.S.C. § 7102(9)).

² Definition. [What is Human Trafficking? | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#). Accessed March 30, 2025.

³ Penal Code. [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=236.1.&lawCode=PEN](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=236.1.&lawCode=PEN). Accessed March 31, 2025.

⁴ California Attorney General. [What is Human Trafficking? | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#). Accessed May 20, 2025.

⁵ House Resolution 3244. [www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/house-bill/3244#:~:text=Prohibits:%20\(1\)%20forced%20labor,for%20violations%2C%20including%20life%20imprisonment](https://www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/house-bill/3244#:~:text=Prohibits:%20(1)%20forced%20labor,for%20violations%2C%20including%20life%20imprisonment). Accessed March 30, 2025.

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, or transportation of a person for labor services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. It is modern-day slavery. Labor trafficking arises in many situations, including domestic servitude, restaurant work, janitorial work, factory work, migrant agricultural work, and construction. It is often marked by unsanitary and overcrowded living and working conditions, nominal or no pay for work which is done, debt bondage, and document servitude. It occurs in homes and workplaces and is often perpetrated by traffickers who have the same cultural origin and ethnicity as the victims, which allows the traffickers to use class hierarchy and cultural power to ensure the compliance of their victims.

Domestic Servitude

A form of labor trafficking, domestic servitude often involves women who are forced to live and work in the homes of employers who confiscate their legal documents and prevent them from leaving. Domestic workers can be U.S. citizens, lawfully admitted foreign nationals, or undocumented immigrants.

There is a difference between human trafficking and smuggling. Human smuggling⁶ is the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation, or illegal entry of a person(s) across an international border, in violation of one or more countries' laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as through the use of fraudulent documents.

Recognizing Sex Trafficking

According to the U.S. Department of State, some of the key red flags which could alert an individual to potential sex trafficking are:⁷

- Living with an employer.
- Person is deferring to another person before giving information.
- Person has physical injuries or branding such as name tattoos on face or chest, tattoos about money and sex, or pimp phrases.
- Clothing is inappropriately sexual or inappropriate for weather.
- Minor is unaccompanied at night or falters in explaining who they are with and what they are doing.
- Identification documents are held by another.
- Person works long or excessive hours or is always available "on demand".
- Overly sexual for age or situation.
- Multiple phones or social media accounts.

⁶ Smuggling Defined. www.ice.gov/about-ice/hsi/investigate/human-smuggling. Accessed April 1, 2025.

⁷ Signs of Trafficking. www.placer.ca.gov/8658/The-issue-is-human-trafficking. Accessed February 25, 2025.

- Signs of unusual wealth without explanation: new jewelry, shoes, or phones without any known form of income.
- Person lives in a “massage” business or is not free to come and go.
- Signs of physical abuse.
- Person is submissive or fearful.



Photo Credit, Placer County

The various law enforcement agencies interviewed, informed the PCGJ a number of victims of sex trafficking were initially contacted via social media. Social media platforms have become an integral part of the lives of children and adolescents, providing opportunities for communication, self-expression, and engagement with peers. Traffickers use social media and technology for all stages of the trafficking, including recruiting and identifying future victims, gaining control over their victims, and advertising their victims.⁸ Platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, WhatsApp, and TikTok have led to a more globalized and connected society.

⁸ Human Trafficking Front. humantraffickingfront.org/social-media-and-child-sex-trafficking/ Accessed April 15, 2025.

The information traffickers look for on social media platforms include victims' friends, family, location, work, vacation patterns, revealing habits, and vulnerabilities.⁹ Many people often feel free to express personal troubles online on social media. Traffickers can see this as a potential victim who is in a state of hopelessness and therefore easier to manipulate, coerce, and control. Based on all the information presented on social media, traffickers can then develop different targeted grooming strategies based on the potential victim's social media presence.

Trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude, restaurant and janitorial work, sweatshops, and migrant agricultural labor. Traffickers use various techniques to instill fear in victims and to keep them enslaved. The most obvious techniques include:¹⁰

- Debt bonding – financial obligations, honor-bound to satisfy debt.
- Isolation from public – limiting contact with outsiders and making sure any contact is monitored or superficial in nature.
- Isolation from family members and members of their ethnic and religious community.
- Confiscation of passports, visa and/or identification documents.
- Use or threat of violence toward victims and/or families of the victims.
- The threat of shaming victims by exposing circumstances to family.
- Telling victims, they will be imprisoned or deported for immigration violations if they contact authorities.
- Control of the victims' money, such as, holding their money for "safe keeping".

Perpetrators and victims of human trafficking use Interstate 80 as a pipeline enroute to Nevada, where there is a hub and culture of sex tourism. According to an article in the North Lake Tahoe/Truckee independent newspaper, Moonshine Ink, "If they are going across state lines, they're predominantly Northern California [to] Northern Nevada, and second to that would be Northern Nevada [to] Vegas, but it's not as much. We see that [I-] 80 route more often than not." The article cited Sacramento, Stockton, Oakland, and other places in the Bay Area and Northern California as frequent origins of victims and their traffickers.¹¹

⁹ Polaris Project.org. polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/A-Roadmap-for-Systems-and-Industries-to-Prevent-and-Disrupt-Human-Trafficking-Social-Media.pdf. Accessed April 15, 2025.

¹⁰ California Department of Social Services Website. www.cdss.ca.gov/trafficking-victims. Accessed February 18, 2025.

¹¹ Moonshine Ink. www.moonshineink.com/tahoe-news/traffick-on-i-80/. Accessed April 10, 2025.

Reporting Human Trafficking

Victims often do not go to the police or support organizations for help for a variety of reasons such as:

- They do not recognize they are a victim of human trafficking.
- Lack of knowledge of victim's rights.
- Threats made to the victim and towards people they know or families.
- Fear it would put fellow workers at risk if a report were made.
- Situation is perceived by the victim as a loving relationship.

Seeking help can help break the cycle of abuse. PCGJ found the Placer County's law enforcement agencies, Placer County Children's System of Care (CSOC),¹² and non-profits are always available to help. However, to obtain help a victim should reach out to law enforcement or a support organization and then file a report, be willing to answer questions, and provide details of their situation and hold the trafficker accountable.

In 2014, CSOC developed the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Task Force.¹³ CSEC is comprised of representatives from:

- Placer Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- District Attorney's office.
- County Counsel.
- Lincoln and Roseville Police Departments.
- Placer County Sheriff's Office.
- Stand Up Placer.¹⁴
- Family and Children Services.
- Placer County Office of Education (PCOE).

This task force was established to enable agencies which work directly with commercially sexually exploited youth to strategically partner to identify and respond to the specific needs of these youth, and to hold their traffickers accountable. In 2015, CSEC partnered with the DA's office and to establish the Human Trafficking Resources Portal.¹⁵ The portal provides information regarding human trafficking and community resources for victims through CSOC, Stand Up Placer and KidsFirst.¹⁶

¹² HHS website. [Children's System of Care | Placer County, CA](#). Accessed April 3, 2025.

¹³ Center for Children & Youth Justice. [ccyj.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Toolkit_1_What-is-a-task-force.pdf](#). Accessed March 31, 2025.

¹⁴ Stand Up Placer website. [standupplacer.org/](#). Accessed March 10, 2025.

¹⁵ Placer County website. [www.placer.ca.gov/9533/Human-Trafficking-Resource-Portal](#). Accessed February 18, 2025.

¹⁶ Kids First website. [CSEC - Kids First](#). Accessed October 1, 2024.

The DA's office also has a dedicated Special Investigation's Unit (SIU) which works to hold traffickers accountable, find victims justice, help survivors connect to resources and find legal options to help keep them safe moving forward. The Deputy District Attorneys in this unit work closely with the DA's Victim Advocates¹⁷ to guide victims every step of the way during the legal process.



Photo credit: Placer County

The DA's office established the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center (MDIC)¹⁸ in 1993 through a collaborative effort between the DA's office and Placer County Health and Human Services Department (HHS). The MDIC has specialists who conduct interviews with victims of CSEC. This center serves as a child-friendly forensic interview facility for children who may have been abused or witnessed a crime. Interviews are conducted by trained Child Forensic Interview Specialists, with team members observing through a closed-circuit monitor and communicating remotely. This approach minimizes the number of interviews a child undergoes, reducing trauma and enhancing the accuracy of information gathered. The MDIC also provides resources and support to families, connecting them with community programs and services.

¹⁷ Placer County website. www.placer.ca.gov/7191/Victims-Services. Accessed April 1, 2025.

¹⁸ Placer County MDIC website. www.placer.ca.gov/3330/Placer-MDIC Accessed March 10, 2025.



Photo credit: Placer County MDIC

According to MDIC staff, the number of CSEC at-risk interviews held in 2020 was five, ten in 2021, sixteen in 2022, twenty-one in 2023, and sixteen as of mid-December 2024.

Within Placer County, Roseville Police Department (PD) has a special unit, the Crime Suppression Unit (CSU), with sixteen highly trained investigators specializing in five areas, with one being human trafficking. The unit works to address both the supply and demand of human trafficking with the intent to secure the prosecution of the traffickers to the highest degree allowed by law. This unit also works with regional, state, and federal partners to stay ahead of trafficking trends locally and across the country. It should be noted smaller police departments, Rocklin and Lincoln, work in conjunction with Roseville PD and their CSU on cases involving human trafficking.



Photo credit: City of Roseville

Interviews with Roseville PD staff provided PCGJ with information regarding the department's use of stings to find and arrest prostitution rings. Among these efforts, once a year the department along with other local law enforcement agencies conduct a major operation posing as potential victims to identify and capture possible prostitution suspects involved in human trafficking and works with Sacramento Regional Task Force.

Statistics

Since December 2007, Polaris, a nonprofit organization, has operated the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH).¹⁹ The hotline connects victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking with services and provides support to get help and stay safe. NHTH receives tips about potential situations of sex and labor trafficking and facilitates reporting such information to the appropriate authorities. In certain cases, NHTH works closely with service providers, law enforcement, and other professionals in California to serve victims and survivors of trafficking, respond to human trafficking cases, and share information and resources. The toll-free phone and SMS text lines and live online chat function are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and accessible in over 200 languages. The National Human Trafficking Hotline serves all individuals who reach out for their services.

California is one of the largest sites of human trafficking in the United States. The chart below reflects the number of contacts, known as signals, received, the number of cases of human trafficking for the past five years, the number of victims involved and the type of trafficking. The various types of signals are hotline, text message, on-line, email, and web chat.

National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics - California						
Year	No. of Signals Received	No. of Cases Identified	No. of Victims Involved	Type of Trafficking		
				Sex	Labor	Sex & Labor
2019	4,780	1,519	3,045	1,126	157	72
2020	4,995	1,340	2,125	1,032	127	47
2021	5,014	1,338	2,129	1,027	131	63
2022	4,003	1,188	1,910	848	115	87
2023	3,152	1,128	2,045	697	179	126

The NHTH website also provides statistics for sex trafficking venues: residence-based commercial sex, illicit massage/spa business, escort/delivery service, online ads, and venue unknown. Venues identified for labor trafficking include domestic work, restaurant/food service, begging ring, illicit activity, health and beauty services, and health care.

¹⁹ Federal Hotline website. [humantraffickinghotline.org/en](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org/en). Accessed March 31, 2025.

The Placer County District Attorney's recognizes human trafficking as one of the world's most complex issues, particularly in California. In light of this recognition, the DA provides the following statistics for consideration: ²⁰

- The Department of Homeland Security estimates the global human trafficking trade brings in an estimated \$150 billion annually.
- Estimates show there are up to 27 million modern day slaves worldwide.
- According to the Human Trafficking Resource Portal, 50% of victims are children; 80% of those are women and girls.
- 70% of female victims are trafficked into the commercial sex trade industry.
- 244,000 American children and youth were estimated to be at risk of child sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation.
- The average age of entry into sex trafficking is 12-14.

Placer County Educational System

California schools are mandated by AB 1227²¹ to provide human trafficking awareness and prevention education for students in grades 7-12 as part of comprehensive sexual health education. Additionally, specified school staff are required to receive training on human trafficking identification and prevention. Whether school districts choose to create their own curriculum or adopt one which already exists, human trafficking prevention education for students and training for specified school personnel is mandated in the Education Code and must be implemented.

According to PCOE, they do not monitor compliance with AB 1227. However, school districts certify they have met the requirements of AB 1227 through their annual certification through the Consolidation Application Reporting System (CARS).²² PCOE indicated they did create in 2018 a local toolkit consisting of a variety of curriculum to meet AB 1227 requirements which can be adopted by each school district's Health curriculum. PCOE does not monitor the "opt out" option for parents since the materials used are a part of the supplemental curriculum associated with the Health curriculum.

²⁰ Placer County DA. [Human Trafficking Resource Portal | Placer County, CA](#). Accessed May 20, 2025.

²¹ Assembly Bill 1227. legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1227/id/1652095. Accessed April 24, 2025.

²² Consolidation Application Reporting System. www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/co/cars.asp. Accessed April 25, 2025.

PCGJ performed a random sampling of several school districts in Placer County to determine compliance with AB 1227. The website for Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District indicates the district provides human trafficking prevention to all eighth-grade students. Families can opt-out of this instruction.²³ The grand jury was informed Roseville Joint Union High School District instructs all ninth-grade students on human trafficking as part of their required health course, which is provided to them over a one to two day period. As a graduation requirement, Placer Union High School District includes a module on sex trafficking within their one to two week health and safety instruction program during a student's junior or senior year. In the Rocklin Unified School District, 7th and 9th grade students receive instruction on sex trafficking as part of their Family Life Units of instruction. All of these districts also provide parents at the beginning of the unit instructions on how to opt their student out of specific content in accordance with district policy and state law.

PCOE did create a training program called CSEC 101 which is an overview of CSEC warning signs, resources, and reporting requirements. This training is available to school counselors, administrators, and other professionals in the community. PCOE also developed an online safety training for parents regarding on-line predators. Although these training programs are on-demand, PCOE does provide the training twice a year.

Roseville Joint Union High School District requires all staff to complete a human trafficking training module every other year through Keenan Safe Schools.²⁴ This training is on-line and is approximately one hour in length. The training provides faculty and staff with an overview of human trafficking, strategies for identifying potential victims, understanding the scope of the issue, reviewing real-world case studies, recognizing warning signs and learning appropriate response procedures. Placer Union High School District conducts annual staff training through an online training module for all teachers, administrators, counselors, and mental health providers. Topics include identification, warning signs, reporting, and prevention. Results are verified through the Public School Works system.²⁵ For Rocklin Unified School District, all employees are required to complete a series of videos via Public School Works. The training consists of videos which covers a section on sexual exploitation which discusses four categories: minors involved in obscene acts, minors engaging in prostitution, sharing of images of children, and child trafficking for sexual purposes. Another section discusses human trafficking. The training completion data is maintained by the district's Human Resources Department.

²³ Dry Creek website. www.drycreek.k12.ca.us/departments/student-services/commercial-sexual-exploitation-of-children. Accessed April 11, 2025.

²⁴ Keenan Safe Schools. www.keenan.com/property-and-casualty/training-and-compliance/online-training-courses/. Accessed April 25, 2025.

²⁵ Public School Works. <https://corp.publicschoolworks.com/>. Accessed April 29, 2025.

PCOE's website²⁶ does provide prevention resources; however, it does not track or collect data from the various school districts. If it is noticed a child is at risk or engaged with trafficking, each individual school district would file a mandated report with CSOC. CSOC would then track the information received and forward to appropriate law enforcement or governmental agency.

Outreach Programs and Resources

Blue Campaign²⁷ is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases. Blue Campaign works closely with DHS Components²⁸ to develop general awareness trainings, as well as specific educational resources to help reduce victimization within vulnerable populations. Blue Campaign's educational awareness objectives consist of two foundational elements, prevention of human trafficking and protection of exploited persons.

January was designated Human Trafficking Prevention Month by President Obama, and as part of the Red Sand Project, red sand is poured into sidewalk cracks to symbolize victims of human trafficking who "fall through the cracks" every day. Red Sand Day and Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11th) aka #WearBlueDay²⁹ are two prominent outreach programs in Placer County. Families and organizations throughout Placer County are invited to join the Placer County Children's System of Care, Probation, law enforcement, education, and other partners to raise awareness of human trafficking through the "Red Sand Project."

April is the National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, MDIC joins law enforcement, PCOE, and other local non-profits to educate and support the community on how to protect the children against abuse and produce thriving families.

KidsFirst was established in 1989 as a public, non-profit organization. Their mission is to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect through education, advocacy, and counseling. They have developed a program in Placer County to address the growing challenge for those at risk of being exploited.

²⁶ Placer County Office of Education. [Pages - Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth](#). Accessed April 11, 2025.

²⁷ Dept. of Homeland Security. www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/about-blue-campaign. Accessed April 11, 2025.

²⁸ Dept. of Homeland Security. www.dhs.gov/operational-and-support-components. Accessed April 11, 2025.

²⁹ Placer County Website. www.placer.ca.gov/9530/Human-Trafficking-Prevention-Month. Accessed March 10, 2025.

Stand Up Placer is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to empowering Placer County survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking to heal from the trauma and create new lives of strength and self-sufficiency. They take pride in the community by engaging and inspiring Placer County residents to end the legacy of abuse.

Financial Support

In January 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors approved \$1.5 million in grant awards to four local nonprofits working to prevent and address the impacts of domestic violence and human trafficking:

- Stand Up Placer was awarded \$950,000.
- Crisis Intervention Services (Sierra Community House) was awarded \$300,000.
- Child Advocates of Placer County was awarded \$100,000.
- KidsFirst – Child Abuse Prevention Council of Placer County was awarded \$150,000.

Placer County Victim Services³⁰ face challenges such as funding reductions, limited awareness of available resources, and potential barriers to accessing services, including transportation and accessibility. Furthermore, victims may experience fear of losing housing, custody, or independence, or fear of not being believed. This year, California is receiving over a 40% reduction of Victims of Crime Act funds from last year.

According to the DA's office, "Funding to support our victims and survivors of crime and the organizations which serve them is vital to the health and resilience of our communities throughout the state... Every year, the taxpayers of California entrust our state officials to prioritize issues which are important to residents through the budget process. Every decision, every vote tells residents where our priorities stand. Protecting children, seniors, survivors of abuse and human trafficking, all must be of critical importance to the law makers in charge of the budget in our state.

Conclusion

Human trafficking is a persistent and a grave issue in California. It exists in Placer County, however there is limited knowledge about the full extent. Roseville Police Department and the Placer County District Attorney's Office have a coordinated and proactive approach to combating human trafficking within the region. Both agencies assumed leadership roles among local law enforcement bodies, with smaller municipal and regional departments routinely deferring to Roseville PD's specialized resources and experience in handling these complex cases. Roseville PD has established a dedicated Crime Suppression Unit and the District Attorney's

³⁰ Placer County District Attorney's Office. www.placer.ca.gov/9765/Placer-DA-joins-local-survivors-in-calli#:~:text=This%20year%2C%20California%20is%20receiving,Capitol%20today%20at%2010%20a.m. Accessed April 10, 2025.

Office a Special Investigations Unit with officers trained specifically in human trafficking detection, victim-centered interviewing, and intelligence gathering. These units work in collaboration with state and federal partners, other local law enforcement agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to conduct undercover operations, monitor online platforms for trafficking activity, and engage in community education and prevention efforts.

The extent of the existence of human trafficking in Placer County is uncertain due to the nature of this criminal enterprise and the fact many victims do not seek help. As such, it is possible adequate resources are not dedicated to the problem of human trafficking. Due to incomplete information regarding human trafficking, strengthening community education in schools, for law enforcement, and for the public would be beneficial. This could include partnering with schools for trafficking awareness programs or social media campaigns to reach at-risk populations. Placer County has done a good job of providing victims of human trafficking with resources and information for assistance.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** Due to incomplete information regarding human trafficking, there may not be adequate resources dedicated to human trafficking.
- F2.** Roseville Police Department is addressing human trafficking via social media platforms with increased cyber work and sting operations.
- F3.** Placer County District Attorney's Office and Roseville Police Department have taken an active leadership role in tackling the issue of Human trafficking in Placer County.
- F4.** Placer County is a known transit and destination area for human trafficking due to its proximity to major highways/freeways and tourist spots.
- F5.** Placer County has done a good job of creating and funding support for human trafficking victims.
- F6.** Placer County Office of Education provides support and training to its individual school districts and relies strictly on annual certification (CARS) data to determine if the districts are in compliance with AB 1227.
- F7.** Roseville Police Department and Placer County Sheriff's Office are partnering with the Sacramento Regional Task Force to address human trafficking issues.
- F8.** The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force does not have representatives from all Placer County local law enforcement agencies.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** All Placer County law enforcement agencies and Placer County Health and Human Services should increase efforts to identify and record human trafficking cases to better allocate resources by December 31, 2025.
- R2.** Placer County Children’s System of Care should encourage the Placer County Probation Department and all Placer County law enforcement agencies within Placer County be included in the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force to improve enforcement, communication, training, and recordkeeping by November 1, 2025.
- R3.** Placer County Office of Education should establish and implement a plan to ensure and assess each middle and high school within the district are following the mandate to provide human trafficking awareness and prevention education by November 1, 2025.
- R4.** Placer County Office of Education should develop a certification/verification system to ensure staff involved with middle and high school students are properly trained in human trafficking identification and prevention by December 31, 2025.
- R5.** Placer County Board of Supervisors should require Health & Human Services to provide a written evaluation and assessment from each of the four non-profit organizations (Stand Up Placer, Crisis Intervention Services, Child Advocates of Placer County, and KidsFirst) to determine if their individual outreach efforts had an impact within the community by December 31, 2025.
- R6.** Placer County District Attorney’s Office should continue its efforts in obtaining funding for Victim Services from the California State Legislature by appropriating critical funds effective July 1, 2026.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County grand jury requires a response from the following governing body:

	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Placer County Sheriff Office Wayne Woo 2929 Richardson Dr Auburn, CA 95603	F1	R1, R2	September 1, 2025
Placer County Board of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Ave Auburn, CA 95603		R5	October 1, 2025
Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire 10810 Justice Center Dr Ste 240 Roseville, CA 95678	F1	R6	September 1, 2025
Placer County Office of Education Gayle Garbolino-Mojica 360 Nevada St Auburn, CA 95603	F6	R3, R4	October 1, 2025
Placer County Health and Human Services Dr. Robert Oldham 11434 B Avenue Auburn, CA 95603		R1, R2, R5	September 1, 2025

Requested Responses

The Placer County Grand Jury requests a response from the following entities:

	Findings Requesting Response	Recommendations Requesting Response	Response Due Date
Roseville Police Department Troy Bergstrom 1051 Junction Blvd Roseville, CA 95678	F1, F2	R1, R2	October 1, 2025
Auburn Police Department 1215 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 95603	F1, F8	R1, R2	October 1, 2025
Lincoln Police Department 770 7th St Lincoln, CA 95648	F1, F8	R1, R2	October 1, 2025
Rocklin Police Department 4080 Rocklin Road Rocklin, CA 95677	F1, F8	R1, R2	October 1, 2025

Copies Sent to:

Placer County Probation Department

Brian Passenheim

2929 Richardson Dr Ste B
Auburn, CA 95603

Stand Up Placer

11985 Heritage Oak Pl Ste 200
Auburn, CA 95603

Crisis Intervention Services (Sierra Community House)

948 Incline Way
Incline Village, NV 89451

Child Advocates of Placer County

1430 Blue Oaks Blvd Ste 260
Roseville, CA 95747

KidsFirst – Child Abuse Prevention Council of Placer County

516 Gibson Drive, Ste 100
Roseville, CA 95678



PLACER COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Residents Code Enforcement Complaints



Photo Credit: Bing.com

Placer County Code Enforcement Services Residents Code Enforcement Complaints

Summary

The mission of Placer County Code Enforcement Services is to promote and maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment. The purpose of this investigation was to determine whether Code Enforcement conducts its investigations in a timely manner, providing complainants with proper notifications, resolving alleged violations in accordance with the code, and reducing its complaint backlog.

Code Enforcement Services claims it is committed to resolving all complaints as quickly as possible. However, information received during the grand jury's investigation indicated the county had been receiving numerous complaints regarding the lack of response or status regarding open complaints. It was noted there were many open complaints being two to three years old. The grand jury reviewed staffing, organizational structure, procedure and policies and the various reporting responsibilities of the unit in order to ascertain its efficiency and effectiveness.

Although Code Enforcement has closed many long-term open cases since June 2024, the grand jury believes Code Enforcement could improve its performance and public image by providing more information on the status of cases. The current reporting structure wherein Code Enforcement reports to the Planning Services Division may need to be re-assessed so delays in the resolution of complaints are reduced.

Glossary

Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA): A Placer County department which oversees and regulates land use and development in the unincorporated area of Placer County through its various divisions including Engineering and Surveying, Building and Planning Services, and Housing.

Code Enforcement Services (CE): Under the Planning Services Division of CDRA, Code Enforcement Services administers regulations related to a variety of land use issues and aids other County departments as needed.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface. GIS can show many kinds of data on one map, such as streets, buildings, and vegetation. This enables people to more easily see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships.

Planning Services Division: A division under the Community Development Resource Agency which assists the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission in planning for growth, enforces the Placer County Zoning Ordinance, maintains

information on land development and zoning reviews, and makes recommendations on land development applications.

Background

The 2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury received information from several sources indicating Code Enforcement was not responding to residents' complaints nor providing satisfactory status updates to the complainants in a timely fashion. Further review indicated this is not a new issue. The 2015-2016 Placer County Grand Jury investigated the operations of Code Enforcement which led to their final report titled "Placer County Code Enforcement, Inconsistency and Confusion".¹ During their investigation, it was determined numerous complaints filed by Placer County residents would take up to twelve months or longer to resolve. There was no mechanism within the unit to determine how many complaints were either being opened or closed. There was insufficient staff to assist residents in addressing their concerns regarding potential violations, the complaint process, or status of a complaint.

The grand jury's findings led to several recommendations which included: allowing the Code Enforcement Services Supervisor sole responsibility to manage the unit, implement a procedure to issue a "Letter of Receipt" to the complainant within ten days of receipt and include general information regarding the complaint process, increase staffing, develop and integrate a complaint tracking system using the agency's Accela software program² as well as train staff in its use.

Although the response by Community Development Resource Agency³ dated September 22, 2016, to this report included commitments to improving the efficiency of the organization, the current grand jury's inquiries into the procedures, practices, and policies of Code Enforcement revealed some of these issues remain unresolved.

Methodology

To better understand the operations of Code Enforcement (CE), its resources, and case management tools, the grand jury conducted interviews with CE staff members, reviewed various county websites, and reviewed CE's current "Procedure and Policy Manual."⁴ The grand jury requested and received documentation from all interviewees.

¹ Placer County Grand Jury 2015-2016. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2015-2016_final_report.pdf. Accessed May 1, 2025.

² Accela Software. www.accela.com/. Accessed May 1, 2025.

³ Placer County Grand Jury 2015-2016 Response. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2015-2016-response-final-report.pdf. Accessed May 1, 2025.

⁴ Code Enforcement Services Manual. "Policy and Procedure Manual" pdf. Accessed January 12, 2025.

Discussion GIS Mapping

As previously indicated, the grand jury became aware of open complaints which had been filed over two years ago. In its research, the grand jury found CE's website originally had an Active Code Cases Geographic Information System (GIS) Map link on its homepage to access the status of complaints. Information provided on the link included: case number, alleged code violation, address, Assessor Parcel Number (APN), case open date and enforcement status. Residents were using this site to track their open cases since CE was not providing any written communication regarding the status of their complaint. It was verified there were several open complaints from 2023 which had not been resolved. CE employees use an internal database to track all code enforcement complaints and it does not appear they were aware the public had access to complaint status via the GIS website. It was their assumption the county's IT division managed the site.

Although the original link found on the CE website is not currently available to directly obtain complaint status, the information is accessible using a more indirect route.⁵ As shown below, this is a recent screen shot of an old complaint which was filed on April 21, 2023, and remains open as of May 2, 2025.

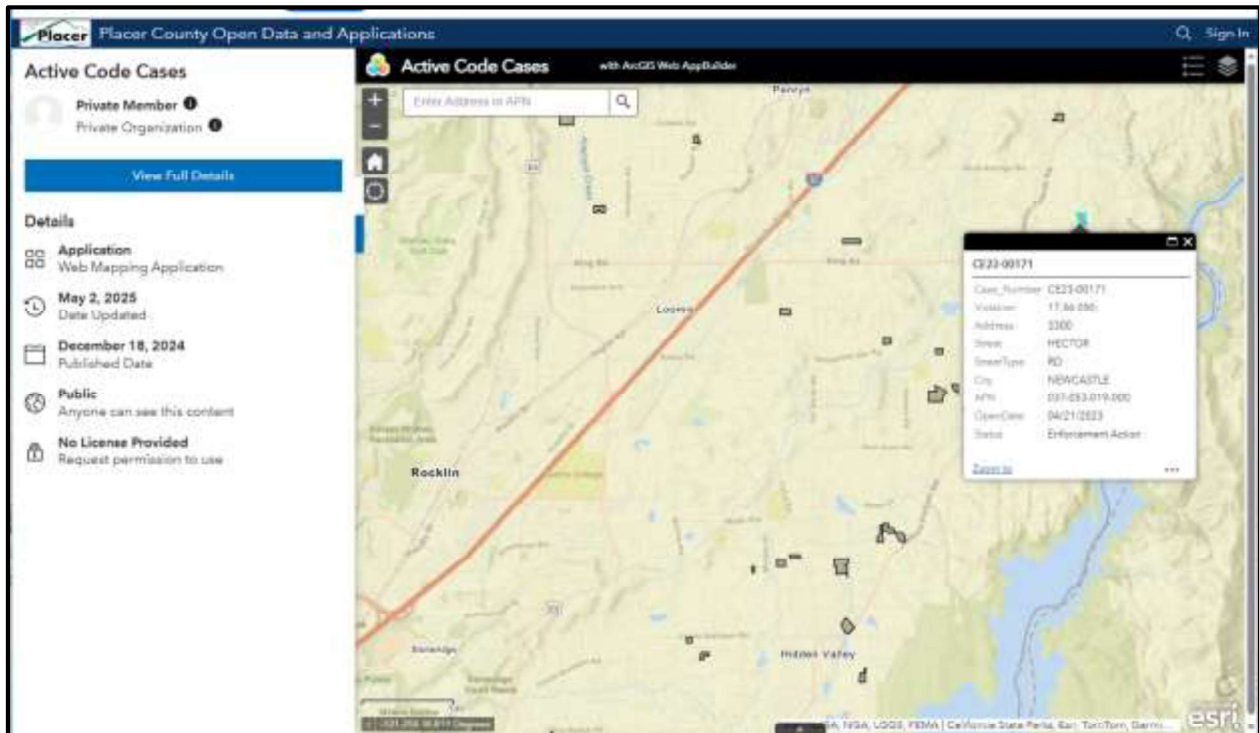


Photo Credit: Placer County Website

⁵ GIS Map. [//gis-placercounty.opendata.arcgis.com/apps/586388a3a2244b559b93aebce992f07b/explore](https://gis-placercounty.opendata.arcgis.com/apps/586388a3a2244b559b93aebce992f07b/explore). Accessed May 29, 2025.

Code Enforcement Services Organization

Code Enforcement is a complaint driven process, with the sole purpose of maintaining established norms and standards for the community. CE stated in their Procedure and Policy Manual their main goals were to:

- Enforce Placer County department directives, interpretations, codes and ordinances in a fair and impartial manner.
- Gain voluntary compliance at the lowest enforcement level possible.
- Maintain public health, safety and welfare.
- Protect community and natural resources.

CE Services (also known as Code Compliance) was originally part of the Planning Department until Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA) was formed in 2005. Prior to 2015, Code Compliance enforced traditional compliance which consisted of municipal, building and zoning codes on private property in the unincorporated area of Placer County. It essentially was a community maintenance program which intended to assure owners maintain their property for safety, overall appearance, avoid public nuisances and preserve property values.⁶

CE commonly investigates allegations of violations for compliance with:

- Zoning Ordinances
- Building Codes
- Grading Ordinances
- Business Licenses
- Vehicle abatement
- Placer County Code Chapters: 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, and 18

Over the years additional programs were added to CE's core enforcement responsibilities to include:⁷

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Mediation Services
- Short-Term Rental Ordinance
- Cannabis cultivation enforcement
- Hazardous Vegetation Ordinances
- Administrative Hearings

CE does not engage in civil disputes regarding encroachments, easements, property lines or right of way.

⁶ Code Compliance Update. www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/51194/07A. Accessed May 1, 2025.

⁷ Placer County Code Enforcement. www.placer.ca.gov/2309/Code-Enforcement-Services. Accessed October 10, 2024.

CE has ten employees with varying lengths of service: one manager, one supervisor, four code enforcement officers, two hazardous vegetation officers, and two administrative employees. The management team is relatively new with just less than two years employment with Placer County.

There are two teams responsible for code enforcement within Placer County. One team regulates code issues for those complaints under the 5,000-foot elevation, while a second team, the Tahoe-Truckee CE, handles code issues over 5,000 feet which includes the Tahoe Basin. The grand jury did not include the Tahoe-Truckee CE team as part of its investigation since it directly reports to CDRA, whereas CE is considered part of the Planning Services Division and reports to their management.

CE enforces code for several divisions within CDRA, not just Planning Services. Since CE regulates code for other divisions within CDRA, the reporting process and direction provided to CE staff may be unclear or complicated at times, which affects the resolution of complaints. Through multiple interviews, the grand jury learned there are different priorities which impacts the effectiveness of CE. It was noted, if CE were to report directly to CDRA in a similar fashion to the Tahoe-Truckee CE team, fewer delays would occur during the complaint process.

Complaint Process

As previously indicated, CE is a complaint-driven program. Residents can submit code compliance complaints in several ways: online, by mail, or in person. The complaint must be supported by letters, photos, or other documentation. All complaints received are kept confidential. Anonymous complaints are not accepted. CE may receive internal complaints from various county agencies such as the Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, Board of Supervisors, Health and Human Services, or CE itself if an imminent safety violation exists.

Voluntary compliance is the primary goal of the CE program. Once a complaint has been received, a case number is assigned. A determination is made as to whether the complaint is valid and within the division's purview. The standard initial process steps are:

1. Determine the priority of the complaint.
2. Officer case assignment within five days from receipt of complaint.
3. On-site inspection within ten days.
4. Code violations confirmed; ten-day Notice of Violation issued.
5. Follow up inspections at the discretion of the assigned office, specific to the verified violation. Typical follow up timeframes are between five to thirty days.

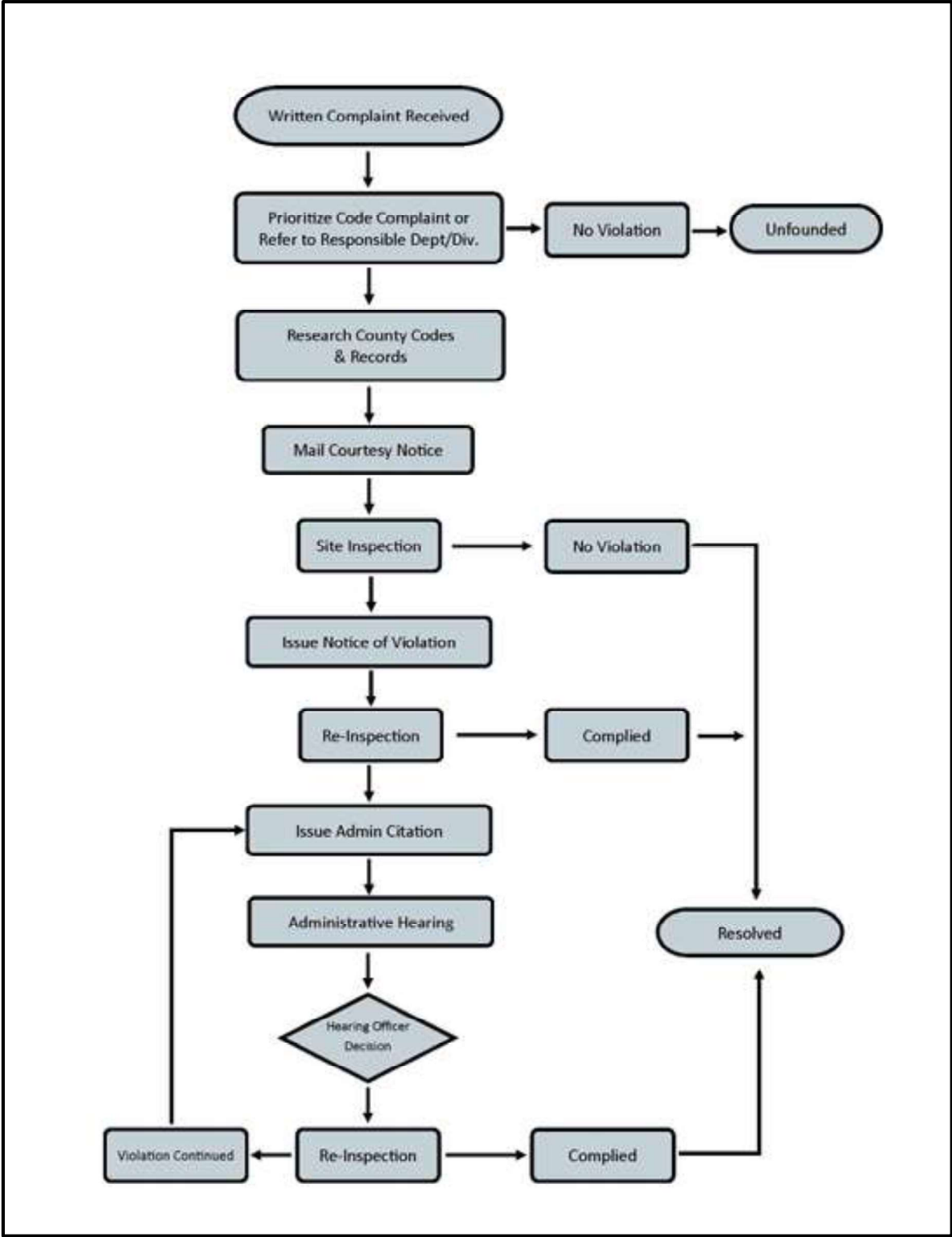
A complaint may be referred to another department depending on the alleged violation and whether it is within the jurisdiction of CE. The complainant is sent a letter acknowledging receipt of the complaint with the assigned case number. The case is then assigned to a CE officer for investigation. After determining if a violation has occurred, the officer will meet with the property owner to seek resolution. If the

violation is not addressed, the owner will be sent a Notice of Violation with the County Code sections violated, requirements for correction and the correction completion date.

Failure to correct the violation(s) or resolve the complaint could result in further action which includes an administrative citation. It is at the discretion of the Code Enforcement Manager and/or their designee when to issue a citation. Administrative citations are issued in accordance with the Placer County Code, depending on the type, frequency, and severity of the violations. Administrative citation fines are \$500 for a first violation, \$750 for a second, and \$1,000 for a third in accordance with Placer County Code Section 17.62.180.⁸

⁸ Placer County Code. [//ecode360.com/43595056#43595183](https://ecode360.com/43595056#43595183). Accessed June 3, 2025.

Below is a copy of CE's workflow chart found in its Policy and Procedure Manual (Page 13).



An administrative citation may be contested by requesting an administrative hearing.

The request for a hearing needs to be in writing, within ten calendar days of the date of the issuance of the citation. A request for an administrative hearing does not stay continued attempts of enforcement, additional citations, nuisance abatement or collection of administrative costs. The property owner may request a hearing to discuss potential damages and the timeline to complete the resolution. The administrative hearing is a process which allows both the County and property owner(s), tenant(s), and/or responsible party a chance to state their case regarding the violation(s). The hearing takes place within thirty calendar days from the date it is received by CE. If the property owner does not correct the issue, progressive measures can be taken with each step leading to additional time required to resolve the complaint.

It should be noted not all complaints can be resolved successfully. Case closure consists of the following types:

1. Resolved Cases - where a violation was determined/identified, and the violation was deemed satisfactorily remedied by Code Enforcement staff.
2. Referred Cases - where the complaint/violation is the responsibility of another department or agency.
3. Unfounded Cases - where the complaint does not contain a violation of the County Code, or violations which could not be substantiated through investigation.
4. Abandoned Cases – complaint may be deemed abandoned and closed when any of the following criteria have been met:
 - a. No action has occurred for twelve months.
 - b. No further complaints have been filed.
 - c. The time to complete an accurate investigation has become “stale”.
 - d. The case type was originally or has become a low priority.
 - e. Approval is received from the Code Enforcement Manager or Supervisor.

For complaint tracking, CE staff currently uses the Accela software system to track cases through the investigative process. Accela is an enterprise software solution with numerous preconfigured packages for private business and government organizations to manage core applications such as land management, licensing, asset management, and public health and safety data. Other county governments also use the Accela platform to track and resolve code enforcement complaints.

Complaint Status

CE does not provide complainants with follow-up information. They do not have a policy for supplying responses to complainants beyond the initial acknowledgement letter. The complaint may be referred to another department for review, but the complaining party is not notified. It is up to the reporting party to take the initiative to learn the status of their complaint. CE staff stated they are actively working on closing older cases.

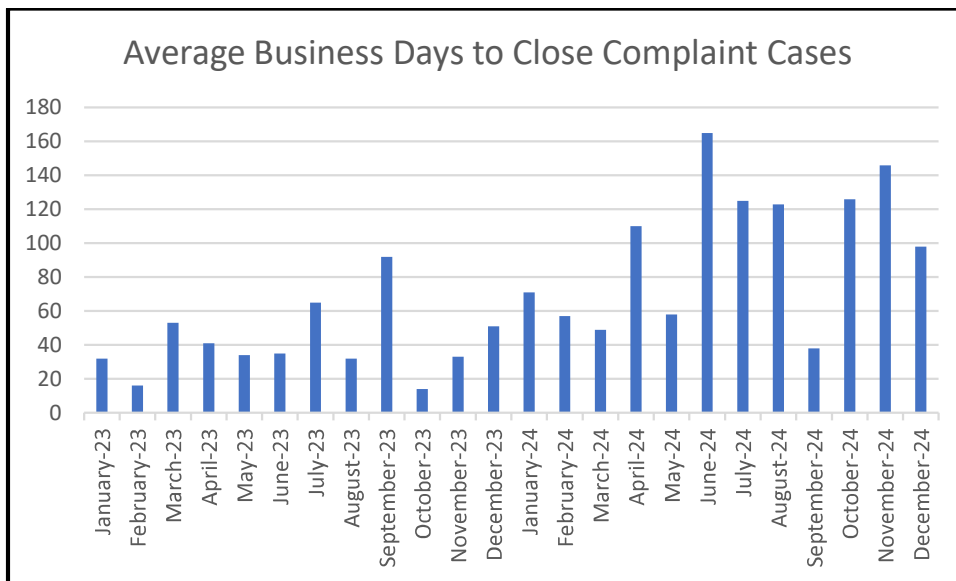
The following tables summarize the data provided by the CE staff on the new cases opened and the cases closed. The tables also provide data on the average business days to close cases and the median business days to close cases. Average business days reflect the sum of the number of business days for all cases divided by the total number of cases. The median number of business days represents the midpoint of the number of business days for each case after arranging the closed cases in ascending order. The median value is less impacted by outliers of quickly closed cases or those cases which took longer to close.

2023 Code Enforcement Statistics

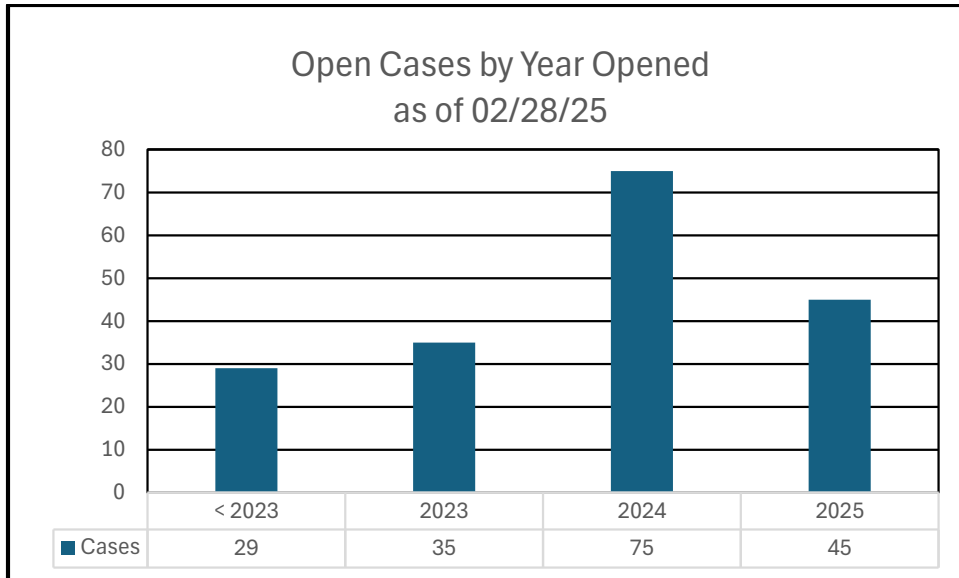
Month/Year Opened	New Cases Opened	Cases Closed	Avg Bus Days to Close	Median Bus Days to Close
Jan-23	17	15	32	16
Feb-23	19	10	16	1
Mar-23	14	23	53	29
Apr-23	20	12	41	33
May-23	39	27	34	8
Jun-23	50	29	35	8
Jul-23	20	20	65	20
Aug-23	26	21	32	25
Sep-23	27	28	92	20
Oct-23	47	14	14	11
Nov-23	31	41	33	8
Dec-23	31	39	51	21
Totals & Averages	341	279	41.5	16.7

2024 Code Enforcement Statistics

Month/Year Opened	New Cases Opened	Cases Closed	Avg Bus Days to Close	Median Bus Days to Close
Jan-24	23	29	71	50
Feb-24	33	25	57	17
Mar-24	24	29	49	10
Apr-24	39	49	110	36
May-24	44	49	58	12
Jun-24	30	39	165	16
Jul-24	21	31	125	17
Aug-24	27	47	123	46
Sep-24	38	33	38	9
Oct-24	35	49	126	12
Nov-24	20	34	146	25
Dec-24	18	35	98	18
Totals & Averages	352	449	97.2	22.3
2023-2024	693	728	69.3	19.5



The data reflects an increase in both the average and median number of business days to close cases. The cause of this increase is the focus on older cases by the CE staff in order to relieve the backlog of older cases. While improvement has been made, there still exists a backlog in aged cases, with twenty-nine cases still open which were initiated prior to 2023.



Out of 2,506 cases (open and closed) from 2020 through 2024, approximately eighty-eight cases were submitted by just six complainants. While chronic complainants are responsible for only 3.5% of cases filed, these individuals create an excessive amount of work for the staff. Once these habitual complainants submit a complaint, they engage in a cycle of submitting amendments to their complaints, updates, and observations. They demand frequent attention with in-person visits, emails, phone calls, and voicemails. They elevate their dissatisfaction with the lack of response being afforded them to their district Board of Supervisor generating inquiries from the supervisor’s staffers. There is no procedure or policy for handling the chronic complainant.

Hazardous Vegetation

Wildfire risk is an ongoing issue in the county. Since mid-February 2025, the hazardous vegetation section of CE has been proactively inspecting areas identified as moderate to high fire risk on Cal Fire’s latest fire risk map and creating new cases. They are educating property owners about their fire risks and what they need to do to come into compliance. This effort is in addition to the work being done by Cal Fire, Placer County Fire Department, and numerous local fire districts.

Preventing wildfires is a critical goal for Cal Fire. Their crews are working to prevent wildfires by reducing overgrown vegetation through prescribed burns, tree trimming, pruning, chipping and roadway clearance. They provide wildfire prevention grants which fund projects in and around fire threatened communities. These projects include hazardous vegetation removal, evacuation planning, and education.⁹

⁹ CalFire Wildfire Prevention. [Prevention | CAL FIRE](#). Accessed April 10, 2025.

Placer County Fire Department and local fire departments provide education and resources for property owners to assist in meeting vegetation management ordinances and fire prevention. With other local governmental agencies providing education and resources, CE may need to reassess its staff assigned to hazardous vegetation enforcement and their duties. Relieving any duplicate efforts in the education and enforcement by the various agencies could allow staff to work on outstanding open complaints.

Conclusion

The grand jury found Code Enforcement is committed to resolving all complaints as quickly as possible. They have closed many older complaints over the last year. They could better serve the community by providing residents with status update information which would alleviate complainant's concerns and reduce violators fears about adverse impacts to their property and neighborhood. A simple method for this would be to restore the link to an updated Geographic Information System map on their website or provide a web-based status of the enforcement action case can be easily accessible by the public. Code Enforcement can reduce the number of inquiries (both phone and email) by providing complaints with written communication in addition to the initial acknowledgment letter, a notice of status and/or closure.

Chronic complainant follow-up calls and emails should be identified as "nuisance" complaints and handled by managers to free the Code Enforcement officers to work their caseload. A review of the organizational structure should be conducted to determine if Code Enforcement might function more effectively as a stand-alone division within Community Development Resource Agency like their colleagues on the Tahoe-Truckee Code Enforcement team.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** Code Enforcement sends a letter when a complaint is received but, does not provide follow up information to complaint filers resulting in community dissatisfaction.
- F2.** The Geographic Information System mapping link needs to be reviewed and updated on the Code Enforcement website and should be made more easily accessible to residents.
- F3.** There is no procedure for handling chronic complainers, causing inefficiencies and could contribute to the chronic complaints.
- F4.** Through multiple interviews, the grand jury learned there are different priorities which impacts the effectiveness of Code Enforcement.

- F5.** There is duplication with other agencies regarding the education and enforcement of hazardous vegetation. Elimination of this function from Code Enforcement could free up staff to handle the caseload backlog.
- F6.** Code Enforcement is committed to resolving all complaints as quickly as possible and reducing the complaint backlog.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** The Placer County Board of Supervisors should request Code Enforcement Services to develop procedures for informing citizens on the status of complaints by October 31, 2025. The Policy and Procedures Manual should be updated to include this procedure which should include the provision of written correspondence to both complainants and violators.
- R2.** The Placer County Board of Supervisors should request Community Development Resource Agency to update its Geographic Information System mapping and make it easily accessible on Code Enforcements' website.
- R3.** The Placer County Board of Supervisors should request Code Enforcement to develop procedures for handling chronic complainers by October 31, 2025. The Policy and Procedures Manual should be updated to include this procedure.
- R4.** The Placer County Board of Supervisors should consider the placement of Code Enforcement directly under the Community Development Resource Agency similar to Tahoe-Truckee Code Enforcement by December 31, 2025. This could reduce the conflicting priorities and increase efficiency.
- R5.** The Placer County Board of Supervisors should ask Code Enforcement to review its hazardous vegetation management services for potential efficiency improvement by December 31, 2025.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing body:

<u>Responding Entity</u>	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Placer County Board Of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Ave Auburn, CA 95603		R1, R3, R4, R5	October 1, 2025
Placer County Community Development Resource Agency Paul Hellman, Director 3091 County Center Drive Auburn, CA 95603		R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	September 1, 2025



Auburn Union School District

Tackling Academic and Financial Challenges



Photo Credit: Internet

Auburn Union School District Tackling Academic and Financial Challenges

Summary

The Auburn Union School District has been in a deficit spending cycle for over 20 years, most notably since 2012. During the 2021-2022 school year, the first interim budget report, the district submitted a “Qualified” budget to the state, indicating the district may not be able to meet its financial obligations over the next three years. This financial report initiated a string of required corrective actions requested by the Placer County Office of Education. These actions included an audit from the California Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance team, the reduction of two active school sites, and the appointment of a new interim superintendent. Additional staffing reductions and school class reconfiguration followed.

During this same time period, there was significant disagreement amongst Board of Trustees in adopting corrective measures to address the financial challenges as well as the overall action plan to address: below 50 percentile student academic performance within the district, and the desire to significantly expand the student wellness services championed by the California Teachers Association, the Auburn Union Teachers Association and two of the Auburn Union School District Board of Trustees.

In June and July of 2024, the District hired a permanent superintendent and hired a new chief business officer. In the November 2024 election, two community members won seats on the Board of Trustees, which shifted the overall balance and political perspectives of the Board of Trustees as a whole. While issues remain, interviews with Auburn Union School District staff, administration and the Board of Trustees have shown there is a new spirit of collaboration and pride within Auburn Union School District and the Board of Trustees.

The year-ending change in the Auburn Union School District Fund Balance trend is budgeted to run negative annually through the 2026-2027 school year. The next three-year-ending fund balance will continue to meet the State standard of a minimum of 3%.

Although many challenges remain for Auburn Union School District regarding long-term financial viability and resolving the strategy to improve student academic performance and student well-being, the district staff, administration, and the Board of Trustees are poised to address the issues.

Strong indicators the district is on the road to meeting their stated mission include:

- The Board of Trustees hired a permanent new superintendent effective July 1, 2024.
- Auburn Union School District hired a new chief business officer.

- The Board of Trustees experienced a smooth transition after adding two new Board members in the November 2024 elections.
- The District Office successfully negotiated a new teacher's contract.
- The Board of Trustees has deployed a 7-11 Committee to review the projected school enrollment and other data as provided by the district to determine the amount of surplus space and real property and means to monetize or sell district lands and buildings.
- District staff and the Board of Trustees have scheduled updating the strategic plan in April 2025.

Glossary

7-11 Committee (Education Code § 17390): must have at least seven members and no more than eleven members representative of the socioeconomic composition of the district, business community, landowners, teachers and administrators, parents of students and people with expertise in environmental impact, legal contracts, building codes, and land use planning.

Auburn Union School District (AUSD): Located in Auburn, CA. This district has three transitional kindergartens through eighth grade schools: Auburn Elementary, EV Cain, and Skyridge Elementary. (This district has also been incorrectly referred to as Auburn *Unified* School District.)

Auburn Union Teachers Association (AUTA): A chapter member of the California Teachers Association, whose mission is to be a unified voice of educators in California's public schools and colleges. The 310,000 California Teachers Association members advocate for teachers and public education.

Auburn Union School District Board of Trustees (BOT): Consists of five representatives from the district serving four-year terms, with elections staggered every two years voting in three on one cycle and two on the next cycle.

California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP): In 2021, the California legislature passed the California Community Schools Partnership Act to encourage the implementation of the Community Schools strategy in public schools.

California Department of Education (CDE): A state agency which manages California's public schools.

Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT): A state agency which helps California's local educational agencies (LEAs) with financial and management tasks.

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF): California's public school funding formula, is based on a need-based approach, providing additional funding to districts with higher proportions of low-income, English learner, and foster youth students. This formula aims to ensure equitable distribution of resources to meet the diverse needs of students.

Placer County Office of Education (PCOE): County department which collaborates with sixteen local school districts and one community college district to provide quality education in the region. The state of California lists the primary purpose of a County Office of Education (COE), to act as a helpful support system for local school districts, offering valuable services, leadership and oversight.

“Qualified” Budget: “Qualified” in government budgets often refers to a situation where a district or agency may not meet its financial obligations in the immediate future, but it has not reached the point of a “negative certification” where it is likely to fail to meet its obligations in the current or next fiscal year.

Transitional (TK) and Traditional Kindergarten: Transitional kindergarten is an early introduction to formal education for children 4 years old. Traditional kindergarten was designed for 5-year-old children.

Unappropriated fund balance: The portion of a school district's fund balance which is not assigned to specific purposes. It can be used for emergencies or other unforeseen needs. The state of California requires a school district to maintain its unappropriated fund balances to meet or exceed 3% of current year's budgeted expenses. The target percentage ranges from 4% to 22%.

Unduplicated student: Refers to a student enrolled in a school district or charter school who is classified as an English learner, low-income eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or is a foster youth, and is counted only once, even if they meet multiple criteria.

Background

The Auburn Union School District has been in a deficit spending cycle for over 20 years, most notably since 2012. Prior to 2012, Auburn Union School District paid a consultant to review finances (approximately 2007) and received the recommendation to close two schools. Since the consultant report, the Board of Trustees focused on increasing district revenue and not on budget reductions. In 12 of the last 13 years enrollment in Auburn Union School District schools has declined. Attendance percentages slowly declined for multiple reasons including: a high percentage of unduplicated students, loss of transportation services for qualified students, the closure of two schools and the transition to a TK-8 grade structure from the more traditional K-6 Grade and 7-8 Grade formats. Enrollment and attendance are the two primary factors to drive district revenue. Both determinants have been in decline simultaneously.

Auburn Union School District Historical Enrollment and Attendance (A)								
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*	2025-26*	2026-27*
	1765	1613	1540	1462	1452	1379	1357	1382
% Change		-8.6%	-4.5%	-5.1%	-0.7%	-5.0%	-1.6%	1.8%
Attendance %: TK - 3rd	88.4%	96.0%	91.0%	88.7%	92.4%	93.0%	93.0%	93.5%
Attendance %: 4th - 6th	96.0%	102.8%	95.7%	90.7%	92.5%	93.0%	93.0%	93.5%
Attendance %: 7th - 8th	95.2%	108.7%	95.0%	90.4%	89.4%	93.0%	93.0%	93.5%
Unduplicated Pupil Count	978	930	796	799	970	965	929	933
Percent of Unduplicated	55.4%	57.7%	51.7%	54.7%	66.8%	70.0%	68.5%	67.5%
(A) From AUSD Office, 3.11.2025								
* Budget/Forecast								

For the 2021-2022 fiscal year (FY), the first interim budget report submitted to the state was a “qualified” budget, indicating the district may not be able to meet its financial obligations over the next three years. The Placer County Office of Education also reviewed the 2021-2022 first interim report and on January 14, 2022, sent a letter to the District outlining the concerns with the “qualified” status. Placer County Office of Education made several recommendations and a requirement for a Fiscal Recovery Plan and Resolution to be adopted by the Auburn Union School District Board of Trustees by March 15, 2022.

The 2022-2023 first interim budget projected deficits for the year. The Placer County Office of Education then requested the California Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team perform a fiscal health risk assessment to determine the district’s risk for insolvency. The 2022-2023 first interim report was used as the financial reporting period for Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team’s analysis.

Following several high-intensity meetings with the public, school representatives and the Board of Trustees, Auburn Union School District did adopt the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team recommendations to close two schools and move to a TK-8 class structure at the remaining three school sites. The district also received a one-time infusion of nearly \$5 million from the State and Federal treasuries. This allowed the district to build up their Unappropriated Fund Balance above \$4 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year-end.

Unappropriated Fund Balance as % Current Year Expenses						
Year	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
FY 2021-2022	9.3%	-5.2%	-18.5%			
<i>21-22 2nd Int</i>	9.5%	9.0%	20.2%			
FY 2022-2023		16.3%	23.5%	25.4%		
FY 2023-2024			1.1%	3.8%	0.4%	
FY 2024-2025				3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Actual Y/E	16.3%	18.7%	24.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Initial multi-year (3) budget generated in July for the ensuing school year. The 1st Interim Budget is presented and reviewed in October and the 2nd Interim Budget is presented and reviewed by the BOT in March.						
Unreported but correct reserve percentage.						
Not meeting State mandated minimum unappropriated reserves						

The unappropriated values for 2024-2027 are based on current and projected total cash fund balance, minus restricted and other appropriated funds. Adding in discretionary reserves decided upon by the district office reveal reserve percentages of 17.3% for FY 2024-25, 14.2% for FY 2025-2026 and 13.8% for FY 2026-2027. As stated in the multi-year 2024-2027 AUSD budget, the discretionary reserves coupled with the forecasted year-end cash balances through FY 2027 indicate a solid financial basis for AUSD beyond 2027.

Methodology

The Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) conducted eight interviews with Auburn Union School District (AUSD) Staff and the AUSD Board of Trustees (BOT) and attended four AUSD Board Meetings from November 2024 through February 2025. The Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) also toured Auburn Elementary classrooms and recreation areas.

The PCGJ reviewed:

- Various BOT meeting minutes and attached documents including budgets, MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding), presentations and other information from 2021 through 2025.
- Budgets for school fiscal years 2020-2021 through 2024-2025.
- April 2023 Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) report.
- School Accountability Report Card (SARC) (most current data was 2022).¹
- Local newspaper accounts.

¹ School Accountability Report Card. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/> . Accessed April 16, 2025.

Discussion

AUSD was in financial hardship 20 years ago and is working to recover. From 2006-2007 the district experienced well documented declining enrollment.²

Approximately 15 years ago the district paid a consultant to review finances and received a recommendation to close two schools. Up until the 2021-2022 school year, previous Boards focused on increasing revenue and not on budget reductions.

In working with the AUSD at each interim budget report, the PCOE has continuously recommended the district consolidate school campuses and address the structural deficit in the annual budget.³ On December 15, 2021, AUSD submitted a budget as qualified for the fiscal year 2021-2022 first interim reporting period. A qualified certification means the district may not meet its financial obligations for the current or the subsequent two years. PCOE cautioned AUSD about budget shortfalls due to deficit spending. These shortfalls would result in the district being unable to meet its minimum required reserve levels in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 unless reductions were made.

The 2023-2024 first interim oversight letter issued by PCOE identified concerns regarding financial inaccuracies, pre-pandemic attendance, and a large increase in the contribution to special education. The County cited, “concerns have grown over time and continue to grow with no corrections.” The district’s fiscal solvency risk level was rated high by the State Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team’s (FCMAT) Fiscal Health Risk Analysis for K-12 School Districts.⁴

In December 2022, three new board members elected in November 2022 were sworn in for the 2022-2026 term. The BOT were immediately faced with fiscal issues which had been ignored and passed on to future AUSD boards. With assistance from FCMAT and PCOE, the BOT formulated a required Fiscal Recovery Plan and Resolution to be adopted by March 15, 2022. The BOT and District office began evaluating site options for consolidation and grade re-configuration at the end of fiscal years 2021-22 and through the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. In November 2023, the BOT adopted a plan to consolidate schools in the district to be implemented for the next school term. This plan included the difficult task of closing two schools, Rock Creek Elementary and Alta Vista Community Charter, with the adoption of a TK-8 configuration. Budget reduction and staff position cuts were necessary to keep the district solvent.⁵

²AUSD. [EdData - District Profile - Auburn Union Elementary](#), Accessed March 26, 2025.

³ Proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan-Revised 3-16-2022. [AUSD-Fiscal-Recovery-Plan-2022-Revised-031622.pdf](#). Accessed March 27, 2025.

⁴ Fiscal Health Analysis for K-12 School Districts. [auburnuesd-fhra-final.pdf](#). Accessed March 26, 2025.

⁵ Proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan-Revised 3-16-2022. [AUSD-Fiscal-Recovery-Plan-2022-Revised-031622.pdf](#). Accessed March 27, 2025.

Fiscal Year	Student Enrollment	Certified Teachers
2020-2021	1622	111
2024-2025	1391	88
Change	-231	-23
% Change	-14.2%	-20.7%

In January 2023, the BOT had a limited amount of time to research, discuss and finalize the Fiscal Recovery Plan and Resolution as required by the March 15, 2023, FCMAT deadline. In November 2023, the BOT made the difficult yet fiscally responsible decision to implement the Recovery Plan.

Many community members, including parents, teachers, students, and members of the BOT were dissatisfied and vocal with the decision to close schools and adopt TK-8. In 2021 a recall effort was made to recall two members of the BOT. A Notice of Intent to Recall was filed in April of 2024. No vote was taken in 2024, and the recall effort was suspended by the recall supporters.⁶ Two newly elected board members were sworn in for the 2024-2028 term in December 2024.

The culture of the BOT, prior to the current board, was divisive with differences in ideology. Numerous interviews were conducted with PCOE administrators and BOT members. Several interviewees expressed support for the Community School concept,⁷ however, could not articulate a specific academic performance plan which would increase academic achievement. Several interviewees were opposed to the “Whole Child” concept⁸ as it exists, specifically because it has no academic achievement component. Community schools support the needs of the whole child by strengthening family and community foundations with approaches which sustain mental and behavioral health through healing-centered practices, social-emotional learning, and restorative justice. Interviewees stated it appeared the “Whole-Child” concept and student emotional wellness had taken precedence over academic achievement.⁹ ¹⁰ Although there are differences in opinion, based on investigation and interviews with district staff and the AUSD BOT, the current board has been cooperative with a mind to move forward as a cohesive team.

⁶ Recall, AUSD 2024. [Auburn Union Elementary School District, California \(2024\) - Ballotpedia](#). Accessed March 26, 2025.

⁷ Community Schools Fact Sheet. [Microsoft Word - CS fact sheet final](#). Accessed May 15, 2025.

⁸ The ASCD Whole Child Approach to Education. www.ascd.org/whole-child. Accessed May 19, 2025.

⁹ Public School Review for AUSD, discussing statistics and rankings. [Auburn Union Elementary School District \(2025\) - Auburn, CA](#). Accessed March 26, 2025.

¹⁰ California School Dashboard. www.caschooldashboard.org/reports/3166787000000/2024. Accessed April 30, 2025.

PCGJ’s investigation revealed parents, teachers and students are loyal to Rock Creek School and opposed the closure. Many were vocal at numerous board meetings over the closure of their school. Some teachers resigned their positions or were reassigned to different AUSD schools. Students were transferred out of the district by parents opposed to the TK-8 configuration. Numerous sources, including interviewees, stated the culture at AUSD had turned toxic.^{11 12} Attrition numbers also reflected concern over wages and the culture within the AUSD.

SALARIES & STUDENT PROFICIENCY:	Average Salary	1st Year Teachers	READING Proficiency	MATH Proficiency
Rocklin	\$101,114	18.5%	66	58
Roseville	\$92,309	1.3%	60	50
Western Placer County	\$90,849	0.3%	57	41
Newcastle	\$89,644	25.0%	63	54
AUSD	\$88,087	29.2%	41	28
Placer Hills	\$78,154	5.3%	47	44

AUSD Teacher Turnover	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	24%	23%	17%
Total AUSD Turnover 2023-2024: 23%, 35 new employees.			

Other issues addressed by the district are safety, behavior, academics, and attendance. School safety is a priority for AUSD. The district has addressed these issues by instituting a professional development program for all teachers. The district superintendent will install leadership programs for teachers and an effort will be made to place teachers with unique skills in positions matching those skills.¹³

The district instituted a new safety plan in 2024. A safety plan for each school is being provided for the police and fire departments. These plans provided by the district include planning for active shooters, opioid prevention and response and training on behavioral issues. Also included in the safety plan is an adaptation of evacuation routes for students with disabilities. The safety plan will discuss distance learning in the event of disaster, fire and future pandemics. AUSD plans on training

¹¹ Parents speak out on potential closures, cuts and more at AUSD Town Hall. [Gold Country Media](#). Accessed March 27, 2025.

¹² Epitropoulos, Alexa, 10 Signs of a Toxic School Culture. www.ascd.org/el/articles/10-signs-of-a-toxic-school-culture. Accessed April 29, 2025.

¹³ AUSD BOT meeting Agenda item 10A attachment, Retention and Training. simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings. /ViewMeeting. Accessed May 3, 2025.

staff in discipline and bad student behavior.¹⁴ Teachers are to be trained on the De-Escalation Cycle, a Personalized De-Escalation Strategizing for Students with High Intensity Behavior.¹⁵ AUSD will also introduce a mentor program to assist less experienced teachers.

Student safety and bad behaviors are currently being analyzed by the district through feedback and data points. Analysis revealed bad behaviors by students are occurring more frequently, involves younger students with the severity of the behaviors increasing. AUSD has applied for a California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) grant to fund a full time licensed or certified behaviorist on staff.¹⁶ A behaviorist is someone who applies the principles of behaviorism to practical situations. A behaviorist will compile a root cause analysis, and plans will be made to address declining academic performance and behavioral issues. A behaviorist will also produce individual engagement programs for students with bad behavior. Multiple studies have shown a staff behaviorist, through engagement and intervention with students displaying bad behaviors, will increase academic performance for all in the classroom.^{17 18}

In general, the CCSPP grants are not a priority for the AUSD. The BOT believes the grant program comes with too many caveats with restrictions on how the grant money may be spent. Future commitments to adopt other CCSPP programs such as the Multi-payer Fee Schedule are also a concern.

The stated objective of the Multi-Payer Fee Schedule is to create a sustainable funding mechanism which increases access to school-linked behavioral health services for children and youth. It allows schools to apply to multiple payers, including Medi-Cal, Managed Care Plans, commercial health plans, and disability insurers. Concerns raised by the community include loss of parental control and misuse or leaks of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data. This concern was heightened by the January 2025 exposure of an actual PCOE breach during a Multi-payer Fee Schedule training session.¹⁹

¹⁴ Board of Trustee meeting agenda item 9A. simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030515&MID=26355&Tab=Minutes. Accessed April 20, 2025.

¹⁵ Reduce Negative classroom behavior. missouristate.edu. Accessed April 30, 2025.

¹⁶ Form A: Applicant Info Sheet 2023-2024 California Community Schools Partnership Program Implementation Grant, Cohort 4, AUSD Superintendent's Office February 7, 2025. Accessed March 27, 2025.

¹⁷ Behavioral Intervention Strategies and Supports. www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/behavioralintervention.asp. Accessed April 20, 2025.

¹⁸ Barlow, Tami, How Do Behavioral Specialists Help Children and Schools? charlestonpromise.org/how-do-behavioral-specialists-help-children-and-schools/. Accessed April 16, 2025.

¹⁹ Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda February 4, 2025. www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/85792/2025-020425-Correspondence-Item-06A. Accessed February 10, 2025.

A new Strategic Plan will be developed, beginning in April 2025, with fiscal viability, academics (focus on math and reading), and increasing attendance as priorities. Next year the district will begin phasing in a new phonics-based reading curriculum replacing the Guided Studies approach. The math curriculum will become more aligned with the current high school curriculum and will comply with California state law.

Factors involved in yearly lower attendance were compounded by the COVID pandemic. Pre-COVID, attendance for AUSD students was 98%. Post-COVID the percentage is 95%. This drop can be attributed to the closing of two schools and the transition to a TK-8 configuration. Parents have opted to enroll their students into Charter, private and home schools. A loss of transportation services, terminated at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, has also contributed to lower attendance. Per analysis, the district has a possible student pool of approximately 3000 individuals within the district boundaries. The current 2024-2025 student population is approximately 1400. AUSD will formulate plans to reach out to the individuals in the student pool who are not currently enrolled. District staff and the BOT have discussed transportation services for the district.

AUSD, with guidance from PCOE, has made great strides in returning the district to fiscal solvency. The culture of the district is slowly changing to one of cooperation and cohesiveness. AUSD believes the TK-8 configuration will be beneficial to young students. While some studies have shown students, who move to a middle school experience steeper declines in academic achievement than those who remain, other research has found few differences between the groups.²⁰ The research comparing outcomes of students at K-8 and middle schools remains inconclusive. Although there is ongoing debate on the subject, AUSD and PCOE administrations believe the TK-8 configuration will be beneficial to young students. The AUSD implementation plan has outlined numerous benefits to the students participating in the TK-8 configuration.²¹

Financial Overview

The grand jury investigation into the financial history of AUSD was cumbersome as there are four distinct budget and reporting cycles:

- 1) Proposed Budget for the ensuing school year.
- 2) 1st Interim budget review and revision in October each year.
- 3) 2nd Interim budget review and revision in March.
- 4) Fiscal Year report typically in July.

²⁰ Do Middle Schools Make Sense?. [Harvard Graduate School of Education](#). Accessed March 27, 2025.

²¹ TK-8 Implementation Plan page 5. [2024 AUSD Presentation PPT](#), Accessed March 27, 2025.

Between the proposed budget, the revised, the adopted budget, and the final fiscal year-end reports, the variability of the budgets was significant.

The following charts demonstrate the variability of the annual multi-year budgets as submitted in October (1st Interim Report) and March (2nd Interim Report) each school year. Other than 2021-2022, the charts reflect the latest interim report for each year. The fiscal year-end (Y/E) line is directly from the published reports found in the BOT meeting agendas.

REVENUE						
Year	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
FY 2021-2022	\$25,626,123	\$20,177,564	\$20,472,905			
21-22 2nd Int	\$24,886,553	\$22,381,814	\$22,186,159			
FY 2022-2023		\$30,087,386	\$24,024,705	\$23,738,496		
FY 2023-2024			\$25,221,317	\$21,209,963	\$21,766,940	
FY 2024-2025				\$25,613,808	\$25,348,092	\$25,902,739
Actual Y/E	\$25,697,021	\$28,876,747	\$24,306,520			

Other than the State and Federal one-time infusion in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, revenues have remained fairly constant at \$25 million a year. The three revenue shortfalls in 2023-2024 vs Budgeted revenue were Supplemental Taxes (-\$647.5K), Federal Reserve Funds (-\$1,188.5K), and Other State Revenue (-\$823.9K).

EXPENSES						
Year	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
FY 2021-2022	\$27,182,857	\$23,816,346	\$23,560,408			
21-22 2nd Int	\$25,924,570	\$20,181,244	\$17,897,129			
FY 2022-2023		\$25,944,819	\$21,066,543	\$19,853,948		
FY 2023-2024			\$27,675,307	\$24,596,499	\$24,382,807	
FY 2024-2025				\$28,166,147	\$26,976,819	\$26,260,990
Actual Y/E	\$24,081,860	\$23,675,435	\$22,524,687			

Both revenue and expenses ran well below budget in 2023-2024. Major reductions in spending were noted in Tuition Payments to Placer County (-\$1,089.3K), Certificated Salaries Benefits (-\$949.2K), Land Improvements (-\$549.9K), Non-Capitalized Equipment (-\$535.0K), Materials and Supplies (-\$514.6K), and Professional Services (-\$504.9K).

Multi-Year Budgets Net Surplus /(Deficit)						
Year	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
FY 2021-2022	-\$1,556,734	-\$3,638,782	-\$3,087,503			
21-22 2nd Int	-\$1,038,017	\$2,200,570	\$4,289,030			
FY 2022-2023		\$4,142,567	\$2,958,162	\$3,884,548	\$0	
FY 2023-2024			-\$144,813	-\$3,386,536	-\$2,615,867	
FY 2024-2025				-\$2,552,339	-\$1,628,727	-\$358,251
Actual Y/E	\$1,615,161	\$5,201,312	\$1,781,833			

There are numerous factors affecting the variability in the budgets and year-end results. In addition to the specific explanations for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, Federal funds are adjusted based on the prior year's actual spend of Federal funds and are not received until December of the school calendar year. State funds tend to be received quarterly and may fluctuate based on state actual revenue received vs budgeted receipts. These changes are reflected in the multi-year 1st and 2nd Interim budget reports. As noted in the 2024-2025 2nd Interim budget, deficit spending has been necessary to expense one-time funds and is not directly tied to ongoing expenditures. Despite the current year and future projected deficit spending, the projected year-end cash flow balances support the District's projection to meet its financial obligations for the current and subsequent two years (Positive Certification).

Operationally, excluding the prior three years where revenue and/or expenses ran unpredictably highly favorable to budget, the 2nd Interim 2024-2025 Multi-year budgets continue to show a slow drain on the Fund Balance. While this trend is a concern, another component of measuring financial soundness is net cash available. The 2nd Interim 2024-2025 Cash Flow report shows a February 2025 ending balance of \$10,543,476. Outstanding liabilities of \$3,819,669 are noted, which leaves a net of \$6,723,807 in the treasury account. While the FY 2024-2025 budget just met the state minimum fund balance requirement of 3% of current annual spend, the district chose to allocate additional funds to the reserve account. Taking the cash position into consideration, the district appears to have time to identify additional revenues. This should result in the budgeted annual financials having a positive balance before facing future scrutiny from PCOE and the California Department of Education.

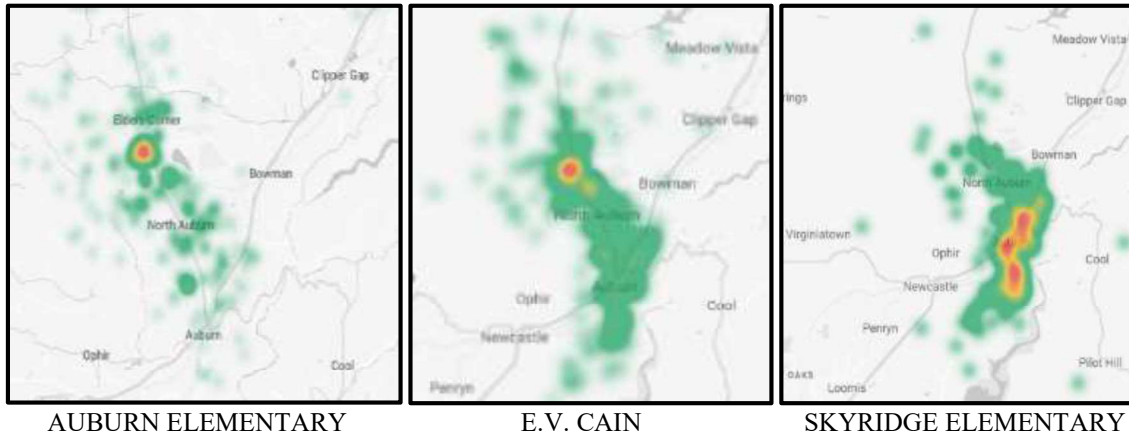
Path to Equilibrium

The numbers tell the story of what has been and provide a projection for the future. But they do not tell the full story. There are several factors contributing to higher costs and lower revenues beyond salary increases and declining enrollment. The school closures and mergers were expected to result in a loss of students leaving for other schools. The elimination of busing in 2022 increased the rate of absenteeism. Both have an impact on revenue.

Enrollment figures have been declining since 2006-2007. The multi-year FY 2024-2025 budget projects a slight increase by the 2026-2027 school year. In addition to the enrollment challenge, the absenteeism rate has increased over the past three years which reduces the funds received from the state.

A heat map (a representation of data in the form of a map or diagram in which data values are represented as colors) reveals where the absentee students resided within the district. The density maps for Auburn Elementary and E.V. Cain are centered around the Auburn Greens development. The "hot areas" for Skyridge Elementary range from the Auburn downtown areas, down through Sacramento Street and Shirland Tract neighborhoods. The AUSD BOT discussed applying for a

busing grant through the CCSPP at their January 16, 2025, meeting. Additionally, due diligence by staff indicated the request would not meet CCSPP qualification requirements. The Auburn Union School District Transportation Plan 2024-2025, originally approved on March 16, 2024, and renewed at the March 13, 2025, BOT meeting, expands home to school transportation currently required only for students with IEPs to include unduplicated students.²²



The green shaded areas represent all AUSD students enrolled at each school shown above. The yellow and orange coloration indicates where the unduplicated student population resides.²³

²² Transportation Plan. [Regular Board Meeting in Person and via ZOOM](#). Accessed April 20, 2025.

²³ Board of Trustees meeting January 16, 2025. Community Schools presentation, attendance data. docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vR-6DaiMoba4B-HSYzY1S5oHK1sDErajY3gLoaRfoRafhbpRC3aHfN_ZZpnGJ-fhdjFxdbFPo33ncEZ/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g32ad97ca94b_0_87. Accessed May 5, 2025.

Auburn Union School District Historical Enrollment and Attendance (A)								
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*	2025-26*	2026-27*
	1765	1613	1540	1462	1452	1379	1357	1382
% Change		-8.6%	-4.5%	-5.1%	-0.7%	-5.0%	-1.6%	1.8%
Attendance %: TK - 3rd	88.4%	96.0%	91.0%	88.7%	92.4%	93.0%	93.0%	93.5%
Attendance %: 4th - 6th	96.0%	102.8%	95.7%	90.7%	92.5%	93.0%	93.0%	93.5%
Attendance %: 7th - 8th	95.2%	108.7%	95.0%	90.4%	89.4%	93.0%	93.0%	93.5%
Unduplicated Pupil Count	978	930	796	799	970	965	929	933
Percent of Unduplicated	55.4%	57.7%	51.7%	54.7%	66.8%	70.0%	68.5%	67.5%
(A) From AUSD Office, 3.11.2025								
* Budget/Forecast								

As noted in the summary table above, the high percentage of unduplicated students, presently at 67.5%, has contributed to approximately 15% of the student population requiring special individual education plans (SEIP) which may require costly daily one-on-one instruction.²⁴

AUSD Asset Utilization

In addition to four vacant lands parcels addressed below, AUSD owns Rock Creek School and Alta Vista facilities which provide current and future revenue opportunities for the district. There are currently four active lease agreements and one under negotiation:

Alta Vista Campus:

Bluedoor Community Center Incorporated has a five-year lease with AUSD ending on May 30, 2028. This lease has a rate of \$5,687.50 per month, generating \$68,250 annually.

Rock Creek Elementary School:

Placer County Sheriff's Department has a monthly lease with AUSD ending on June 30, 2025. This lease has a monthly rate of \$1,833 per month generating \$21,996 annually. The district and the Sheriff's office are in discussions to extend this lease and potentially lease additional space for a training academy. Additionally, AUSD has agreements with First 5 Placer, \$6,000 annually and a preschool operating out of Rock Creek Elementary with an annual lease of \$2,400.

Another lease is in process for the Rock Creek site on the corner of Education and Highway 49. A construction firm working on a Hwy 49 project would like to use the site for equipment storage. The proposed rate is \$2,000 per month and would run through September 2026.

AUSD's major asset category is real property which includes land and school facilities discussed above. The BOT and AUSD have undergone a detailed review of

²⁴ Auburn Union Elementary. www.ed-data.org/district/Placer/Auburn-Union-Elementary
Accessed April 15, 2025.

the district's surplus real properties which have been underused for numerous years. In May 2024, the BOT established a 7-11 Committee to review property assets and evaluate potential monetization of these assets.²⁵ The board minutes stated:

It is our fiduciary responsibility to maximize these assets, ensuring they are utilized efficiently and effectively so we can continue to provide exceptional learning opportunities for all students. Given our decades-long trend of declining enrollment and intent to maximize facilities, it has become an action item to review the prior findings of a District 7-11 Committee and confirm findings to sell surplus properties or designate other uses.

Under California law (Education Code § 17389), the Committee must have at least seven (7) members and no more than eleven (11) members and contain persons who shall be representative of each of the following:

- a. The ethnic, age group, and socioeconomic composition of the district;
- b. The business community, such as store owners, managers, or supervisors;
- c. Landowners or renters, with preference to be given to representatives of neighborhood associations;
- d. Teachers;
- e. Administrators;
- f. Parents of students;
- g. Persons with expertise in environmental impact, legal contracts, building codes, and land use planning, including, but not limited to, knowledge of the zoning and other land use restrictions of the cities or cities and counties in which surplus space and real property is located.

²⁵ 7-11 Committee. www.auburn.k12.ca.us/Departments/Business-Services/Auburn-Union-School-District-Property-7-11-Committee/index.html. Accessed April 15, 2025.

California law also designates the specific duties of a 7-11 Committee (Education Code § 17390) as follows:

- a. Review the projected school enrollment and other data as provided by the district to determine the amount of surplus space and real property;
- b. Establish a priority list of use of surplus space and real property which will be acceptable to the community;
- c. Cause to have circulated throughout the attendance area a priority list of surplus space and real property and provide for hearings of community input to the Committee on acceptable uses of space and real property, including the sale or lease of surplus real property for childcare development purposes pursuant to Education Code § 17458;
- d. Make a final determination of limits of tolerance of the use of space and real property;
- e. Forward to the Board of Trustees a report recommending the use of surplus space and real property.

The appointed 7-11 Committee presented their recommendations for three AUSD property segments at the March 13, 2025, AUSD BOT meeting. A summary of their report and recommendations follows.

Rock Creek Property

The Rock Creek property is zoned as Office and Professional use within Placer County limits. Given the allowance within this type of zoning the committee has outlined tolerable uses with exceptions and intolerable uses by each subgroup.

Recommendations: The committee recommends the district continues to own the land and investigate leasing the property to create an income stream until such time the district can decide what to do with the entire Rock Creek school site. The top recommended ideas based on the current Placer County Zoning Ordinance are based on the desire to create an income stream for the district. The Committee has selected service uses, mixed use and/or retail trade as their top tolerable uses, such as leasing the land to food truck operators.

Atwood – Kemper Road Property

The Atwood property is zoned as a Residential Single Family within Placer County limits. Given the allowance within this type of zoning the committee has outlined tolerable uses with exceptions and intolerable uses by each subgroup.

Recommendation: The committee recommends selling the property for development like the surrounding well-established community.

Shirland Tract Property

The Shirland Tract property consists of four parcels.

- Parcel One: 38.49-acre parcel located off Shirland Tract within Placer County Limits and Zoned RA (Rural Residential). This property consists of unimproved land.
- Parcel Two: 0.44-acre parcel located within the Vintage Oaks Community and within the City of Auburn. This property is Zoned R1 (Residential Single-Family).
- Parcel Three: 4.25-acre parcel adjacent to the Vintage Oaks Community and currently only accessible via Parcel One. This property is Zoned A-1 (Exclusive Agricultural District).
- Parcel Four: 4.21-acre parcel adjacent to the Vintage Oaks Community and currently only accessible via Parcel One. This property is Zoned A-1 (Exclusive Agricultural District).

Unlike the other two properties, the Shirland Tract property has several zoning areas due to the parcels being both within County and City limits. Given the allowance within this type of zoning between the City and County limits, the committee has outlined tolerable uses with exceptions and intolerable uses by each subgroup per the zoning.

Recommendations: Parcels One, Three and Four: These parcels lend themselves to agricultural use, such as a school farm. The committee recommends this use since the parcels are one continuous area of land to which the school district can devote a designated use. If a school farm is not feasible, the Committee recommends leasing opportunities to generate revenue such leasing the land to Green Acres or other commercial nurseries or local farmers. Parcel Two: The committee recommends this property be sold as a single-family residential lot and incorporated into the existing Vintage Oaks community.

No action was taken on the recommendations as the recommendations were not included in the consent agenda.

Other Considerations

The district staff, administration and BOT have all experienced significant change since June 2024. A new superintendent was hired in June with a start date of July 1, 2024. A new chief business officer was hired in July 2024. Two new board members were elected to the board in November 2024.

The ongoing encouragement from PCOE and the Auburn Union Teachers Association (AUTA) to pursue the child wellness, “Whole-Child” concepts of the CCSPP will have unknown effects on district schools staffing and associated expenses and requirements if CCSPP programs are applied and accepted. The current strategic plan lists a plethora of twenty objectives with limited metrics and organized in a manner where prioritization of scholastic improvement strategies and student wellness were comingled but favoring student wellness initiatives. Given the enrollment driven revenue limitations of AUSD and the demand on revenues needed to address the additional educational requirements of the 67.5% unduplicated student population, developing a cohesive and collaborative strategy for the district, staff and administration with clearly defined priorities remains a formidable task.

Conclusion

The Placer County Grand Jury finds historical multi-year budgets do not carry over ending balances to subsequent years budgets beginning balances. The district office hired a new chief business officer in July 2024. Subsequent budgets and interim budget reviews were appropriately linked with a more thorough explanation of the variances experienced in revenues and expenses as well as a clearer understanding of future restricted funds and allocations.

The 2024-2025 District multi-year budget shows steady improvements in reducing deficit spending and maintaining a healthy cash balance in the treasury. The grand jury has confidence present financial reporting validates Auburn Union School District’s ability to operate the districts educational obligations for TK-8 students through the 2026-2027 school year and beyond.

The district has made a concerted effort to strengthen the staff and administration. The leadership team has executed a favorable collective bargaining agreement with the California School Employees Association and its Auburn Union Elementary School District Chapter #171. They are actively pursuing monetizing Auburn Union School District assets and building a positive culture throughout the district. The current Board of Trustees has a mix of perspectives on the goals and objectives for their school district but has shown a high capacity to listen to all points of view and seek a positive and collaborative action plan.²⁶

²⁶ Board of Trustee minutes Dec 2024-March 2025. [Meetings Listing: eBoardsolutions](#). Accessed April 15, 2025.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** The current strategic plan from 2021 does not align with the thinking and priorities of the community, newly elected (November 2022 and 2024) Auburn Union School District Board of Trustees and the recently hired (July 2024) Superintendent.
- F2.** Beginning balances for multi-year budgets do not match or align with prior years.
- F3.** The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 multi-year budget appropriately reflects Auburn Union School District financial health.
- F4.** Auburn Union School District is facing budget deficits over the next three years.
- F5.** Auburn Union School District treasury account is stated at \$10,543,476 as of March 31, 2025.
- F6.** Auburn Union School District administration, staff and Board of Trustees demonstrate transparency, collaboration, commitment and passion in their job responsibilities.
- F7.** Auburn Union School District has additional opportunities to monetize district assets.
- F8.** There is concern within the Board of Trustees regarding accepting funding from the California Community Schools Partnership Program.
- F9.** Heat map data suggests expanded busing could improve overall attendance, favorably impacting student performance and increased revenue from the state.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** The Board of Trustees and Auburn Union School District Superintendent should complete a strategic plan which aligns with the community values and expectations for student education and well-being.
- R2.** The Board of Trustees should direct the Auburn Union School District to footnote any Auburn Union School District submitted budget where the subsequent year end beginning balances which do not match prior year's ending balances for all multi-year budgets by September 1, 2025.
- R3.** The Board of Trustees for Auburn Union School District should respond and implement the recommendations of the 7-11 Committee to generate additional revenue from district assets by December 31, 2025.

- R4.** The Board of Trustees for Auburn Union School District should actively communicate to the Auburn community specific plans and concerns regarding pursuit of California Community Schools Partnership Program funds. Include this information in the strategic plan and Board of Trustee minutes by September 1, 2025.
- R5.** The Board of Trustees for Auburn Union School District should continue to pursue additional funding to expand on existing district transportation services by December 31, 2025.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing body:

	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
AUSD Board of Trustees 255 Epperle Ln Auburn, CA 95603	F1, F2, F5	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	September 1, 2025

Requested Responses

The Placer County Grand Jury requests a response from the following entities:

	<u>Findings Requesting Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requesting Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
AUSD Chief Business Officer Jeremy McReynolds 255 Epperle Ln Auburn, CA 95603	F2, F5		October 1, 2025
AUSD Superintendent Dr. Brittaney Meyer 255 Epperle Ln Auburn, CA 95603		R1, R4	October 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Placer County Office of Education
Gayle Garbolino-Mojica
Superintendent of Schools
1400 W Stanford Ranch Rd.
Rocklin, CA 95765



Conflict of Interest Code, Form 700, Ethics Training Compliance

Are Cities in Placer County Compliant?

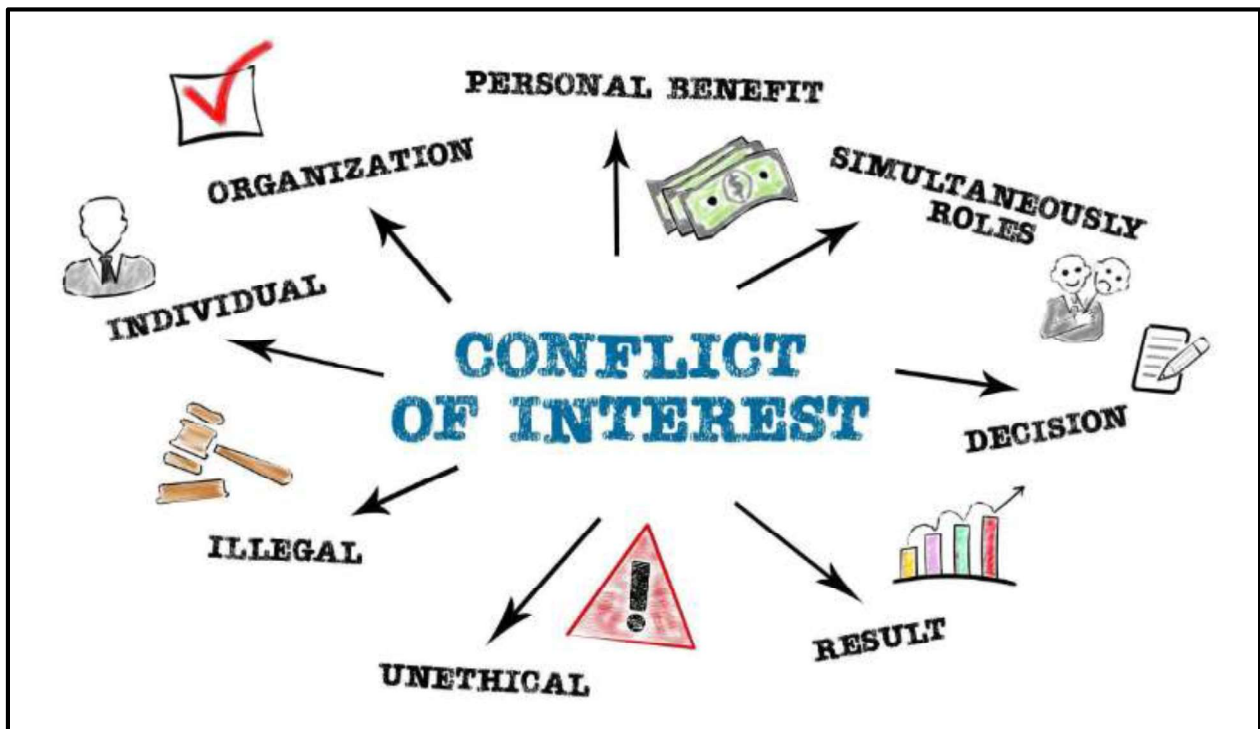


Photo Credit: San Diego State University website

Conflict of Interest Code, Form 700, Ethics Training Compliance Are Cities in Placer County Compliant?

Summary

Good governance requires public officials to act in the best interests of their constituents rather than in their own. It is imperative the public trust their elected officials to act in an ethical manner. As a result, California law requires certain elected and appointed local agency officials, known as statutory filers, file a Statement of Economic Interests known as Form 700. California law also requires local public agencies to enact a Conflict of Interest Code. The Conflict of Interest Code requires certain officials, identified as designated filers, file Form 700. California law also requires certain officials complete ethics training.

Placer County Grand Jury investigated the five incorporated cities; Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Rocklin, and Roseville, and one incorporated town, Loomis, in Placer County to determine whether those local agencies enacted the necessary components of a Conflict of Interest Code, and whether the officials timely filed Form 700 and timely completed ethics training.

Collecting and compiling the data from local agencies which were investigated proved to be a difficult task for the Placer County Grand Jury. California law regarding Form 700 filings recently changed. In most cities, the city clerk was the filing officer responsible for all Form 700 filers. As of January 1, 2025, the state requires the statutory filers to e-file Form 700 directly with the Fair Political Practices Commission. City clerks now notify the individuals filers via email the filing date is upcoming, and when necessary, send out additional reminder emails of the upcoming deadlines. The responsibility for filing Form 700 is on the individual mandated by statute or designated by each city in its Conflict of Interest Code. If Form 700 is not filed in a timely manner the Fair Political Practices Commission can impose fines against the statutory filer for noncompliance. The designated filers continue to file with the city clerk. However, Placer County Grand Jury learned most local agencies do not have provisions in their Conflict of Interest Codes to enforce the filing of Form 700 or require ethics training.

Glossary

California Code of Regulations (CCR): Regulations adopted by state agencies pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. For purposes of this report, the state agency in question is the Fair Political Practices Commission.

California Government Code (GC): The sections of the GC applicable to this report include powers and duties extended by the State of California to cities and other agencies requiring ethics training for certain public officials (GC §§ 53234 – 53235.2) and prohibition of conflicts of interest by certain public officials (GC §§ 87100 – 91014).

Conflict of Interest Code (COIC): GC section 87300 requires local agencies to adopt a COIC which serves to identify those positions within the agency involving participation of decisions which may have a material effect on the person's financial interests, such as investments, interests in real property, and other sources of income.

Designated Filer: An official designated in a local agency COIC to file Form 700. These include certain employees, consultants, and appointed officials not identified in GC section 87200.

Ethics Training: GC sections 53234 – 53235.2 requires certain local officials receive ethics training for two hours every two years. This training is commonly referred to by its Assembly Bill, AB 1234. New hires, or those newly appointed to a position requiring ethics training, must receive training within one year.

Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC): Created by the California Political Reform Act to administer and enforce governmental ethics law, as well as inform and assist public officials, employees, and candidates to comply with its provisions.

Form 700: Form 700 is a State of California document, known as a "Statement of Economic Interests", to be completed and filed by elected, appointed, designated employees and other individuals who perform work for the local agency and whose decisions may have a material effect on their financial interests. Form 700 filers are required to file their disclosures 30 days after assuming or leaving a position or office. In addition, there is an annual April 1st deadline for filing.

State of California Political Reform Act of 1974: This Act (GC §§ 87100-91014) and its amendments deal with ethics in state and local government service. Certain elected and appointed officials and employees must disclose their personal financial interests which may be affected by their decisions.

Statutory Filer: A local agency elected, or appointed official identified in GC section 87200 who is required to file Form 700. These include the mayor, city manager, city treasurer, chief administrative officer, city council members, public officials who manage public investments, and members of the planning commission. As of January 1, 2025, statutory filers must file Form 700 directly with the FPPC.

Background

There are three interrelated components which apply to this report. California Government Code (GC) section 87300 requires local agencies to enact a Conflict of Interest Code. Among other provisions, the COIC must designate local officials to file Form 700. Certain officials representing cities are now required by GC sections 87200 and 87500 to e-file their Form 700 directly with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). Further, GC sections 53235 and 53235.2 mandate local agencies require certain officials receive two hours of ethics training every two years and retain documentation evidencing compliance for a period of five years.

Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Rocklin and Roseville are cities. Loomis is an incorporated town. For purposes of compliance with Conflict of Interest Code/Form 700/Ethics Training, Loomis has the same responsibilities as a city and is treated as such. This report will refer to them collectively as “local agencies.”

This report does not include information from other agencies such as the County of Placer, Special Districts, Joint Powers Authorities, or Municipal Advisory Commissions, as it is limited solely to the six local agencies listed above. It also excludes filings submitted by candidates for public office, any analysis of the information contained within the financial disclosures, and any other types of training which local agencies may be required to provide, including but not limited to, harassment prevention, discrimination awareness, environmental compliance, or OSHA safety regulations.

Methodology

Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) interviewed at least one representative from each of the six agencies in order to assess compliance with Conflict of Interest Code (COIC)/Form 700/Ethics Training. During the interviews, PCGJ requested copies of each agency’s COIC for the past five years and a list of the statutory and designated Form 700 filers, the date the filing was due, and the actual date filed for a period of five years. The person responsible for recordkeeping was also identified. The PCGJ also requested records from the previous five years of those who were required to receive ethics training, the date it was received, and whether the training was timely.

Numerous websites were accessed which included the FPPC, city, town and various applicable California code section websites. Eleven interviews were conducted with the local agencies.

Discussion

This section of the report will begin with a brief discussion of the COIC requirements. The local agencies will be compared as a group because the State of California requirements for COIC apply to all local agencies.

Following the COIC section, this report will address the efforts of each local agency to comply with state-mandated deadlines for Form 700 filings and ethics training.

Conflict of Interest Code (COIC)

Each local agency provided its current COIC, either upon request after an interview, or obtained by PCGJ from its website. GC section 87312 allows the FPPC to assist local agencies in drafting provisions for a COIC. This aid can be accessed via the FPPC website under the “Advice” heading.

The local agency must incorporate by reference the FPPC Model Conflict of Interest Code found in Title 2 CCR section 18730. The local agency’s COIC shall designate those positions which are involved in decision making, which may have a material

effect on personal financial interests. The local agency code shall require those position holders to file Form 700 with the filing officer, usually the local agency clerk. Each local agency must conduct a biennial review every even numbered year to address any changes in circumstances, such as newly created positions. 2024 was the last even-numbered year in which a review should have been conducted. The next statutory review shall take place in 2026.

The COIC for each of the six local agencies is reflected in the table below. Most of the local agencies complied. PCGJ could not locate evidence Colfax conducted a biennial review of its COIC in 2024. None of the local agencies, except for Roseville, mandated AB 1234 ethics training in their respective COIC's.

City Conflict of Interest Reporting Summary						
Does Current Code Include:						
Location	Current Date	Model Code?	Biennial Review?	Designate Form Filers?	Filing Officer?	Ethics Training?
Auburn	2/12/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Colfax	8/6/2022*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lincoln	6/11/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Loomis	8/13/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Rocklin	10/22/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Roseville	1/17/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
* Does not include 2024						

Form 700 and Ethics Training

The next section of this report will address the performance of the local agencies regarding the timeliness of Form 700 filings and ethics training. PCGJ was unable to craft a single table for the six local agencies regarding Form 700 filings or ethics training, as each local agency kept track of who filed and when in their own particular way. PCGJ will provide a table for each of those local agencies, if the information provided was sufficient to create a table. All Form 700 filings (assuming office, annual, and leaving office) are included in the filing year they were made.

**Auburn
Form 700**

Auburn submitted reports combining statutory filers with designated filers for filing years 2020-2024.



Photo Credit:Internet

Auburn Form 700 Filing Summary – All Filers			
Filing Year	Timely	Untimely	Total
4/2/2020 - 4/1/2021	28	3	31
4/2/2021 - 4/1/2022	34	4	38
4/2/2022 - 4/1/2023	38	7	45
4/2/2023 - 4/1/2024	47	3	50
4/2/2024 - 4/1/2025*	25	12	37
*Through 12/18/2024.			

Ethics Training

The ethics training program is currently facilitated by the Director of Human Resources. Auburn offers ethics training online through Vector Solutions, webinars and the FPPC training portal. Human Resources keeps a list of employees who have taken the training and tracks completion of the same through an internally generated spreadsheet. The City Clerk had previously scheduled an ethics training class in early 2024; however, the training was canceled, and no ethics training was scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Auburn produced forty-two certificates showing completion of ethics training for the period 2021 through 2024. Thirty-two of the certificates were from 2022. Since training is required every two years, cancellation of ethics training in 2024 meant Auburn did not comply with GC section 53235(b). PCGJ was unable to craft a meaningful chart showing ethics training by Auburn.

**Colfax
Form 700**

Statutory Filers

Colfax submitted copies of the computer-generated report bearing the FPPC logo for the statutory FPPC filers. The timeliness of the filings is listed in the table below.



Photo Credit: Internet

Designated Filers

Colfax did not produce a printout for those designated to file Form 700 like the FPPC printout for statutory filers. The list produced shows a total of twenty-three designated filings from 2020 through 2024. The list is not broken down on an annual basis. There is no deadline for filings on the list. Therefore, PCGJ is unable to determine whether those who assumed office and those who left office filed on time. Most of the annual filings appear to be on time. PCGJ cannot accurately assess the overall performance of those designated to be filed by the Colfax COIC.

Colfax Form 700 Filing Summary – All Filers			
Filing Year	Timely	Untimely	Total
Statutory Filers			
4/2/2020 – 4/1/2021	8	1	9
4/2/2021 – 4/1/2022	8	0	8
4/2/2022 – 4/1/2023	13	2	15
4/2/2023 – 4/1/2024	12	2	14
4/2/2024 – 4/1/2025*	4	1	5
Designated Filers			
4/2/2020 – 1/29/2025	Insufficient Information		

*Through 1/29/2025.

Ethics Training

The list provided by Colfax was similar to the list for the designated Form 700 filers. The list was not an annual report. There were no deadlines listed so it could not be determined whether the training was timely.

Colfax provided seventeen Certificates of Completion from nine different individuals who took ethics training from 2019 through 2024. Three individuals started ethics training but did not finish the two-hour course, and therefore did not receive certificates of completion. One official submitted an acknowledgement of training to Colfax showing two hours of training was received. Colfax contacted the vendor and was told the official did not complete the required two hours of training. Currently, one person is overdue for ethics training. Two other officials had five-year gaps between training sessions. Without any records showing date of hire or the deadline for receiving training, PCGJ could not create a table which would accurately assess overall timeliness for those receiving ethics training on an annual basis.

Lincoln Form 700

Statutory Filers

The City of Lincoln produced statutory Form 700 filings for filing years 2019-2023. The FPPC filings provided by Lincoln show a total of thirty-two filings for nine different filers. All thirty-two were timely.



Photo Credit: Internet

Designated Filers

The 2022 conflict of interest code listed forty-eight designated position holders to file Form 700 with the city clerk. The 2024 review determined no changes were needed. Some positions have multiple personnel, such as multi-member commissions, so the actual number of individuals may be higher.

Lincoln did produce a document entitled “Annual Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 2022 Distribution Log”. The document refers to a distribution date of March 2, 2022. The document identifies twenty-eight designated filers. There were no entries for when, if ever, Form 700’s were filed with the city clerk.

Lincoln Form 700 Filing Summary – All Filers			
Filing Year	Timely	Untimely	Total
Statutory Filers			
4/2/2019 - 4/1/2024	32	0	32
Designated Filers	Timely	Untimely	Total
Prior to 3/2/2022	Data Unavailable		
3/3/2022 - 2/28/2025	Data Unavailable		

Ethics Training

As part of its “Personnel Rules and Regulations” (PR&R) (dated October 25, 2022), Section 23 addresses “Conflicts of Interest”. The purpose of the policy is to “establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct which shall govern City employees in the performance of City business and the duties of their respective jobs” (Section 23.1). AB 1234 mandates certain local agency officials receive ethics training for two hours every two years, but there is no indication the Lincoln Personnel Rules and Regulations contain AB 1234 training requirements.

The current COIC designates approximately fifty-four positions to file Form 700. Lincoln believes a designated Form 700 filer does not need to receive ethics training.

Lincoln issues an Advisory Body Handbook (February 2021) to all advisory body members, which consists of non-employee appointed positions. Lincoln has determined “most of the city advisory bodies are solely advisory”, and appointees need not file a Form 700. The Lincoln Planning Commission has “limited decision-making authority”, and Lincoln concludes only members of the Planning Commission must file Form 700. Lincoln does require Planning Commission members receive state mandated AB 1234 ethics training.

While the Advisory Body Handbook states certain advisory bodies are solely advisory and need not file Form 700, GC section 53234(a) defines “legislative body” to have the same meaning as defined in GC section 54952. GC section 54952(b) provides “legislative body” includes “commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, “whether...decision making or advisory”. In addition to the Planning Commission, the Lincoln website lists five other boards, commissions, or committees.

The PCGJ requested AB 1234 ethics training documents for the past five years. Lincoln submitted an undated AB 1234 Ethics Training log for Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, Councilmembers, and Treasurer. Six officials are listed. One official is current for ethics training and the other five are overdue.

Lincoln submitted another document showing ethics training from 2020 to 2024. For the 2024 filing year, three city council members received ethics training. No other elected or appointed positions are documented to have received ethics training. No ethics training was shown to have been received in 2020-2024, although the document referred to in the paragraph above shows one certification in 2020 and one in 2022.

Loomis Form 700

Statutory Filers

Loomis produced a document listing officials who filed Form 700 with the FPPC. It clearly states the name of the individual, the position held, the type of filing, the due date, and filed date. From this information, PCGJ was able to prepare a table showing the performance of Loomis.



Photo Credit: Internet

Designated Filers

Loomis produced a list of those who are designated to file Form 700 during the 2022-2023 filing year. Ten individuals were listed. The other four did not contain a due date or filing date. PCGJ cannot create a table on a yearly basis for designated Form 700 filers.

Loomis Form 700 Filing Summary – All Filers			
Filing Year	Timely	Untimely	Total
Statutory Filers			
4/2/2020 - 4/1/2021	15	0	15
4/2/2021 - 4/1/2022	14	1	15
4/2/2022 - 4/1/2023	13	1	14
4/2/2023 - 4/1/2024	17	6	23
Designated Filers			
4/2/2020 - 4/1/2025	Insufficient Information		

Ethics Training

Loomis approved a Statement of Ethical Principles Applicable to Local Government on March 13, 1990. The Town of Loomis Employee Handbook (updated July 25, 2017) contains a provision advising all employees are to avoid financial interests which could put them in conflict with the interests of Loomis.

Loomis submitted thirty-nine certificates of completion of AB 1234 ethics training between 2020 and February 14, 2025. Loomis supplied a list of nineteen current personnel who have been designated to receive AB 1234 ethics training going back to 2022. Seventeen personnel received the training within the one-year time frame after assuming duties or within the ongoing two-year requirement. Two individuals did not receive the training within the time frame established by the state. The information was not provided on an annual basis so PCGJ could not create a table showing annual performance.

Rocklin Form 700

The Form 700 documents produced by Rocklin combined statutory and designated filers. For the 2021 to 2025 period, roughly 21% of the individuals required to file did not file timely, either when assuming office, submitting their annual filing, or when leaving office. The clerk’s office is responsible for Form 700 filings.



Photo Credit: Internet

Rocklin Form 700 Filing Summary – All Filers			
Filing Year	Timely	Untimely	Total
4/2/2021 - 4/1/2022	83	16	99
4/2/2022 - 4/1/2023	108	39	147
4/2/2023 - 4/1/2024	113	33	146
4/2/2024 - 4/1/2025*	63	11	74
*Through 2/7/2025			

Ethics Training

Administrative Services/Human Resources is responsible for ethics training in Rocklin. Revised Personnel Rules were adopted by Rocklin City Council Resolution No. 2024-024 on January 23, 2024. Section 206 refers to a “Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest” policy. This section applies to all employees of Rocklin. Elected officials are not considered employees (Section 122). Rocklin identified individuals it required to take ethics training going back to 2021. All Form 700 designated filers are required to take ethics training.

In 2021, forty-nine designated personnel received ethics training at various times. It is unknown whether the training was received within the two-year time frame, because the records reviewed only go back to 2021.

In 2022, sixteen designated personnel received ethics training at various times. PCGJ was unable to determine whether the training occurred within two years because there were no records prior to 2021.

In 2023, twelve designated personnel received ethics training at various times: two were timely and two were late. PCGJ could not determine whether the remaining eight had received timely training by the one-year deadline. If new hires received ethics training within one year of assuming service, the training was timely.

In 2024, forty-nine designated officials received ethics training, but none of the training received by the individuals listed was within the two-year time frame. For the fifteen additional officials who received training for the first time, the PCGJ could not identify whether the training was timely or untimely.

In 2025 (as of February 14), two officials received on-time training, while four were late. PCGJ could not tell whether the training was timely for three officials, because the initial date of service was not shown on the document.

The number of different officials on the list total ninety-one. Sixty-one officials did not receive timely ethics training.

Rocklin submitted a total of 151 certificates of completion of ethics training from 2021 to February 14, 2025, for all individuals who completed ethics training.

Roseville Form 700

Roseville produced Form 700 filing records going back to the 2020 filing year. The earliest year contained many untimely filings. As shown in the table below, Roseville has gained and maintained control of its Form 700 filers to ensure timely filings.



Photo Credit: Internet

Roseville Form 700 Filing Summary – All Annual Filers			
Filing Year	Timely	Untimely	Total
4/2/2020 - 4/1/2021	244	37	281
4/2/2021 - 4/1/2022	304	1	305
4/2/2022 - 4/1/2023	329	2	331
4/2/2023 - 4/1/2024	376	6	382

Ethics Training

Roseville provided a document of ethics training from 2021 through 2024. A total of 611 officials received AB 1234 ethics training. Out of the 611 officials, 101 did not receive training within the one-year or two-year time frame. Of concern, 70 of those 101 officials who were noted for untimely training occurred during the 2024 calendar year. Also, one individual was 1,354 days late, while another was 1,196 days late. Several were late up to two years.

Roseville was the only local entity to expressly require ethics training in its COIC. Their COIC provides in pertinent part “failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.” Given the foregoing compliance concerns, it is unclear whether or not this provision is, either in its form or implementation, sufficient to ensure compliance.

Conclusion

Each of the local agencies adopted a Conflict of Interest Code as required by the State of California. The local agencies designate Form 700 filers as part of their Conflict of Interest Code. They also offer ethics training. Many officials do not file Form 700 or receive ethics training by the deadline. One problem is poor record keeping. The Placer County Grand Jury found it was difficult to identify the number of people required to file Form 700 or receive ethics training and whether there was compliance with the applicable deadline.

The Fair Political Practices Commission has a database which identifies the necessary information to track filings by the statutory filers. The local agencies should create similar tracking programs for designated filers as well as those required to receive ethics training. The Form 700 document should be based on the Fair Political Practices Commission filing year (for example, April 2, 2024 – April 1, 2025). The document should list: the name of the official, the position, the date of hire or the date assuming the position, the date leaving the position, the deadline for filing, the date Form 700 was filed, and whether the filing was timely.

For ethics training, the document should be based on the calendar year. The information should include: the name of the official, the date of hire or date of initial service, the one-year deadline following the date of hire or date of initial service, the two-year ongoing deadline date, the date ethics training was received, and whether the training was timely. The Government Code requires the training certifications be maintained for a period of five years.

The local agencies should include a compliance requirement in their respective Conflict of Interest Codes. While statutory filers are subject to fines levied by the Fair Political Practices Commission, the designated filers and those required to receive ethics training are not regulated by Fair Political Practices Commission. Placer County Grand Jury suggests the local agencies follow Roseville's lead and include in their Conflict of Interest Codes enforcement authority over untimely Form 700 filings and ethics training. Roseville's enforcement authority should be more specific.

Findings

The grand jury found:

Conflict of Interest Code

- F1.** Auburn, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville reviewed, amended, and/or adopted conflict of interest codes in 2024, in compliance with Government Code 87306 and 87306.5.
- F2.** Since Colfax did not provide a resolution showing its Conflict of Interest Code was reviewed in 2024, the Placer County Grand Jury was unable to determine whether Colfax conducted a biennial review of its Conflict of Interest Code in 2024.
- F3.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville have incorporated the State of California Model Code into their conflict of interest codes, bringing them into compliance with State law.
- F4.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville designate Form 700 filers in their conflict of interest codes, ensuring compliance with State law.
- F5.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville identify the city clerk as the filing officer for Form 700 filers.
- F6.** Roseville includes Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training in its Conflict of Interest Code.
- F7.** Roseville assigns responsibility to the city clerk for Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training.
- F8.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, and Rocklin do not include Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training requirements in their conflict of interest codes.
- F9.** Roseville does address enforcement authority in its Conflict of Interest Code, which states there may be consequences if a designated individual fails to timely file Form 700 or complete Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training.
- F10.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, and Rocklin do not include enforcement authority in their conflict of interest codes, leaving no defined consequences

if a designated individual fails to timely file Form 700 or complete Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training.

Form 700

- F11.** Across all local agencies, most of the individuals who did not timely file Form 700 were designated filers.
- F12.** For Colfax, Lincoln and Loomis, incomplete information in recordkeeping for designated Form 700 filers prevented the grand jury from accurately assessing the timeliness of the filings.
- F13.** As a general matter, insufficient oversight by the local agencies has contributed to untimely Form 700 filings for designated filers.

Ethics Training

- F14.** Auburn and Rocklin currently place responsibility for Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training on their Human Resource/Administrative Services staff.
- F15.** Across all local agencies, insufficient oversight resulted in many individuals not receiving ethics training by the deadline set by State law.
- F16.** Across all local agencies, overreliance on the individual to schedule and receive ethics training resulted in untimely training.
- F17.** All local agencies' recordkeeping was difficult to review and often failed to contain necessary information.
- F18.** A lack of enforcement authority within all local agencies led to failures to receive timely ethics training.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, and Rocklin review, amend, and/or adopt their conflict of interest code to specify those positions who shall receive Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training pursuant to Government Code section 53234-53235.2 by October 1, 2025.
- R2.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, and Rocklin review, amend, and/or adopt their conflict of interest code to specify the city clerk is the responsible official to administer the Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training program, and function as the recordkeeper for ethics training records by October 1, 2025.
- R3.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville should specify in their conflict of interest code actionable enforcement authority against individuals who fail to timely file Form 700 and/or fail to timely receive Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training by October 1, 2025.

- R4.** Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, and Roseville should create and maintain an annual database for all designated Form 700 filers in alignment with the FPPC filing year by December 31, 2025. The Placer County Grand Jury recommends the database include: the name of each Form 700 filer, the date of hire or initial service, the type of filing (assuming, annual, leaving), the deadline for filing, the date the form was filed, and whether the filing was timely.
- R5.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, and Rocklin should create and maintain a database of all individuals required to receive Assembly Bill 1234 Ethics Training by December 31, 2025. The Placer County Grand Jury recommends the database include: the name of each individual required to receive ethics training, the date of hire or the date the position was assumed which required ethics training, the deadline for receiving ethics training (one year/two years), the date ethics training was received, and whether ethics training was timely. The training records should be maintained for five years.
- R6.** Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville should create a plan to increase oversight with a goal to achieve 100% timely Form 700 filings and ethics training, by November 1, 2025.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing bodies:

<u>Responding Entity</u>	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Sandy Amara, Mayor Auburn City Council Auburn City Hall 1225 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 95603	F8, F10, F17, F18	R1, R2, R3, R5, R6	September 1, 2025
Sean Lomen, Mayor Colfax City Council P.O. Box 702 Colfax, CA 95713	F2, F8, F10, F12, F17, F18	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6	September 1, 2025
Holly Andreatta, Mayor Lincoln City Council 600 6th Street Lincoln, CA 95648	F8, F10, F12, F17, F18	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6	September 1, 2025
David Ring, Mayor Loomis City Council P.O. Box 1330 Loomis, CA 95650	F8, F10, F12, F17, F18	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6	September 1, 2025

Jill Gayaldo, Mayor
Rocklin City Council
3970 Rocklin Road
Rocklin, CA 95677

F8, F10, F17, R1, R2, R3, R5, R6
F18

September 1, 2025

Krista Bernasconi, Mayor
Roseville City Council
311 Vernon Street
Roseville, CA 95678

F17, F18 R3, R4, R6

September 1, 2025

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Bibliography

1. California Government Code, Title 9, Political Reform, Chapter 7, Conflicts of Interest, Article 1, General Prohibition, Article 2, Disclosure, Article 3, Conflict of Interest Codes, Article 4, Disqualification of Former Officers and Employees, Article 5, Filing. (Sections 87100-87505).
2. California Government Code, Title 5, Local Agencies, Division 2, Cities, Counties, and Other Agencies, Part 1, Powers and Duties Common to Cities, Counties, and Other Agencies, Chapter 2, Officers and Employees, Article 2.4, Ethics Training (Sections 53234 – 53235.2; 54952.
3. Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 18730, Provisions of Conflict of Interest Codes.
4. 2024/2025 Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests Reference Packet.
5. California Fair Political Practices Commission, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, CA 95811, Toll-free advice line: (866) ASK-FPPC; (866) 275-3772; Telephone: (916) 322-5660 Email advice: advice@fppc.ca.gov; Website: www.fppc.ca.gov.
6. FPPC Documents from Website:
 - a. 2025 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) – Form 700 Filing Officer Informational Fact Sheet Cities and Counties. E-filing: Form700@fppc.ca.gov. Advice E-mail: advice@fppc.ca.gov, FPPC Toll-Free Helpline: (866) 275-3772
 - b. Form 700 Electronic Filing for an Agency's Internal Filers.
 - c. 2024 Conflict of Interest Code Biennial Notice Instructions for Local Agencies.
 - d. Local Government Agencies-Adopting & Amending Conflict of Interest Codes.
 - e. Conflict of Interest Codes for State & Local Agencies.



Community Schools

Examining Community Schools



Photo Credit: California Department of Education

Community Schools

Examining Community Schools

Summary

Over the past few years, tension has been escalating between schools and parents over a wide range of concerns, including curriculum and school-based services such as physical and mental healthcare. A major source of resident concern has been Placer County's implementation of the community school strategy and associated school-based mental health initiatives.

The Placer County Grand Jury found a notable lack of consistent, public facing communication on how the community schools' model is being implemented across the county through Placer County Office of Education and several county school districts. This created a gap in the public's understanding of community schools, a spread of misinformation, and a lack of trust. While there are positive aspects of the Community School framework, there are areas of concern, particularly about school-based mental health initiatives closely associated with this framework.

The Placer County Office of Education, as lead advocate for community schools, needs to be transparent about community schools, the California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, and the Multi-payer Fee Schedule. There are concerns about parental rights to make health decisions for their children and the privacy of sensitive health information.

It is imperative local district Board of Education members fully understand the advantages and risks associated with community schools, the California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and the Multi-payer Fee Schedule.

Glossary

Auburn Union School District (AUSD): Located in Auburn, this district has three transitional kindergarten through eighth grade schools: Auburn Elementary, EV Cain, and Skyridge.

California Community School Partnership Program (CCSPP): In 2021, the California legislature passed the California Community Schools Partnership Act to encourage the implementation of the community schools strategy in public schools.

California Department of Education (CDE): State level department which oversees school standards and performance.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI): Consulting services and grants offered by the California Department of Health and Child Services to strengthen school-linked behavioral health support in California public K-12 schools.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Federal law that affords parents the right to have access to their children's educational records, the right to

seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): 1996 legislation established Federal standards protecting sensitive health information from disclosure without patient’s consent. The United States Department of Health and Human Services issued the HIPAA Privacy Rule to implement HIPAA requirements. The HIPAA Security Rule protects specific information covered under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP): The LCAP is a tool for local educational agencies to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to meet those goals to improve student outcomes.

Local Education Agency (LEA): A public authority, like a school district or county office of education, which has administrative control or direction of public elementary or secondary schools within a specific area, ensuring the implementation of education policies.

Multi-payer Fee Schedule (MPFS): The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative multi-payer fee schedule is a California state reimbursement system that allows schools and community organizations to bill Medi-Cal and private insurers for mental and behavioral health services provided to youths up to age 25.

Placer County Office of Education (PCOE): County department which collaborates with sixteen local school districts and one community college district to provide quality education in the region.

Regional Transformational Assistance Center (R-TAC): Regional organizations tasked with providing professional development, models of practice, coaching, and related support to Local Education Agencies concerning the California Community Scholl Partnership Program.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL): The concept that individuals learn and develop a set of skills, attitudes, and behaviors which enable them to understand and manage their emotions, build positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and achieve personal goals.

Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD): The LEA for schools in Lincoln, CA serving transitional kindergarten through 12th grade.

Background

A Community School, according to the California Department of Education’s website, is defined as:

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development along with

community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Community Schools are centers of the community, open to everyone – all day, every day, evenings and weekends. Using public schools as a hub, community schools bring together a wide variety of partners to offer a range of services and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities.¹

In 2021, the California Legislature enacted the California Community Schools Partnership Act, codified in California Education Code sections 8900–8902, establishing the California Community Schools Partnership Program to support the development and expansion of community schools across the state. The following year, the Legislature allocated an additional \$1.1 billion to the program, extending its funding through June 2031.²

The California Community Schools Partnership Program aims to address barriers to learning and development, particularly those exacerbated by poverty and the COVID-19 pandemic, by integrating services such as health care, mental health support, and family engagement into the school setting. The program emphasizes four key pillars: integrated student supports, family and community engagement, collaborative leadership and practices, and extended learning time and opportunities.³

The California Department of Education has established several grant programs to facilitate implementation of this concept. The Placer County Office of Education applied for and received California Community Schools Partnership Program funding for implementing this program. Announcement of the grant created several questions within the community. There was concern because the county office received a grant, all schools within Placer County would be required to adopt the concept without community input. The grand jury was unable to find information about this grant on the Placer County Office of Education website when checked in October 2024. The grand jury explored how Placer County Office of Education is using these funds and what is being implemented.

Methodology

For this investigation, the Placer County Grand Jury:

- Conducted interviews with Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) personnel, employees of school districts within the county, and members of various school boards.

¹ Community Schools Fact Sheet. [Microsoft Word - CS_fact_sheet_final](#). Accessed April 20, 2025.

² California Budget and Policy Center. calbudgetcenter.org/resources/californias-community-schools-initiative-progress-and-impact/. Accessed April 14, 2025.

³ CCSP. [California Community Schools Partnership Program - High School \(CA Dept of Education\)](#). Accessed August 9, 2024.

- Reviewed documents provided by PCOE and other school districts within the county.
- Researched multiple internet sites.

Discussion

Community Schools

California established a grant program, California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP), to fund Community Schools planning and implementation. Community schools emphasize the Whole-Child framework, which integrates Social Emotional Learning and mental health services into education. The grants prioritize schools with a high number of unduplicated students.⁴ These are students who are low income, English learners, homeless or in the foster care system. Each student can only be counted once regardless of how many of these categories apply, hence unduplicated. The education construct “Community School” has been found to be successful in turning around struggling schools in low-income communities.⁵

The California legislature defined and provided \$5.8 million to a support structure for the CCSPP. In addition to a state support group, there are several regional teams referred to as Regional Technical Assistance and Coaching Centers (R-TAC).⁶ These are regional organizations tasked with providing professional development, models of practice, coaching, and related supports to Local Education Agencies (LEA), generally the county or district office. PCOE has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sacramento County Office of Education to provide support to other counties as part of the Sacramento area R-TAC. The LEA is responsible for building a sustainable community school effort across the district and community. To ensure the approach is responsive and focuses on serving high need populations, the LEA can establish a collaborative LEA team which is representative of all interested voices (including students and families, as well as community partners, educators, and administrators) to share in making decisions about how to implement the community schools initiative. The LEA has a key role in organizing resources to ensure supports and services are efficiently and effectively provided. Rather than each school trying to coordinate all the elements on its own, the LEA should help to vet and formalize partnerships with Community Based Organizations (CBO) and local government agencies on behalf of their schools. PCOE collaborates with sixteen local school districts and one community college district to provide quality education in the region. It is the district agency or LEA for two schools.⁷

⁴ Capital Area R-TAC Frequently Asked Questions. [Capitol Area R-TAC - Frequently Asked Questions](#). Accessed March 13, 2025.

⁵ Learning Policy Institute. [Community Schools: An Evidence-Based Strategy for Equitable School Improvement | Learning Policy Institute](#). Accessed August 10, 2024.

⁶ Capitol Area R-TAC Home Page. [Capitol Area R-TAC](#). Accessed May 5, 2025.

⁷ CCSPP Framework. [ccsppframework.docx \(live.com\)](#). Accessed August 9, 2024.

The announcement of the grant program created several questions and concerns within the community about Community Schools. PCOE took a leadership role in encouraging the use of this strategy. PCOE's involvement in the R-TAC led to public concern all schools within Placer County would be required to implement this program, which is not the case. Each district makes the decision on whether to participate. Community Schools have included services, such as onsite physical and mental health clinics, inconsistent with the values of many Placer County residents. There is no set model for a Community School. Creating a Community School starts with a local needs assessment and is based on local values.

PCOE has been involved in several grant-funded initiatives, yet detailed information about these programs is not always readily available on its official website. Despite PCOE's involvement in the Community School Initiative, comprehensive details about these grants, including objectives, implementation strategies, and outcomes, are not extensively detailed on the PCOE website. For more in-depth information, stakeholders may need to consult specific program partners or external sources.

The board of trustees for each district which pursued grants received information concerning CCSPP at public board meetings. The district websites do not address the grants or their implementation. The schools receiving the implementation grants do not include this information on their individual websites as required by the California Education Code section 8902. Community outreach strategies, including parent involvement and engagement efforts, are not widely publicized or standardized across all districts.

The 2021-22 CCSPP Grant funds were to be used to support LEA in the development of a community school implementation plan.⁸ Grant funding could be used for a variety of purposes including the following:

- Staffing costs for a community school coordinator.
- Conducting comprehensive school and community needs and asset assessment.
- Grant application support.
- Service billing development, and other administrative costs necessary to launch a community schools model at scale.
- Providing training and support to LEA to plan for submission of an implementation plan to the governing board of the LEA and to the CDE.
- Preparing a community school implementation plan.

The application deadline for these grants has passed and they are no longer available. Three districts within Placer County received CCSPP planning grants: Auburn Union School District (AUSD), Rocklin Unified School District (RUSD), and

⁸ Requests for application CCSPP: Planning Grants. [CCSPP Planning Grant FAQs \(CA Dept of Education\)](#). Accessed March 13, 2025.

Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD). AUSD received a grant of \$180,000, RUSD received \$200,000, and WPUSD received \$197,177.⁹

The CCSPP Implementation Grant funds are to support the establishment of new community schools and/or the expansion or continuation of existing community schools. Grant funding to LEAs supporting community schools may be used for: staffing, providing support services to pupils and families through childcare, expanded learning time, training for LEA personnel, designing community engagement strategies, ongoing data collection and program evaluations, or establishing sustainable community school funding sources. These grants are no longer available as the application deadline has passed.¹⁰

Two Placer County districts received implementation grants: PCOE and WPUSD. These districts received implementation grants for specific schools which met the threshold for unduplicated students. PCOE received \$356,500 for their Court School. WPUSD received \$1.9 million for First Street and Sheridan Elementary schools. RUSD applied for an implementation grant but was denied as they did not have the required number of unduplicated students. AUSD filed an implementation grant application in February 2025. The district should receive a status update around June 2025.

WPUSD was transparent about their CCSPP implementation plans. They provided copies to the grand jury immediately upon request. AUSD did not apply for an implementation grant until February 2025. They provided the grand jury with a copy a few weeks later. PCOE was originally asked for information on their implementation plan in late October 2024. Each PCOE employee interviewed stated they did not have access to the plan. The grand jury found a copy of the plan through a link from the PCOE website in early February 2025. It had been posted a few weeks prior.

PCOE received grant funds for one school in their district, The Placer County Court School. The Placer County Court School is onsite at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). It serves students while they are held in the JDF. This school serves a uniquely high need population. As a result, many of the services and programs associated with Community Schools are already in place. The CCSPP grant is largely to fund a Community Schools Coordinator “to implement the Community School Plan, expand existing services, and strengthen home-to-school connection with students and families.” Ongoing funding once the grant is gone will come from existing funding

⁹ Capitol Area R-TAC. [Capitol Area R-TAC](#). Accessed October 3, 2024.

¹⁰ California Department of Education Request for Application CCSPP: Implementation Grant. www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r17/ccsppig22rfa.asp. Accessed March 13, 2025.

streams, from California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) grants, and from participation in the Multi-payer Fee Schedule (MPFS).¹¹

WPUSD received grants for First Street School and Sheridan Elementary School. Both are elementary schools with a high number of unduplicated students. The CCSPP grant is to fund, or partially fund, three positions. The first is a Community Schools Coordinator. WPUSD sees this position as crucial to maintaining the Community Schools model. This position will serve both First Street and Sheridan schools. In addition, the position will also act as the Foster/Homeless Liaison for the district. Each school will get a full-time, onsite counselor who will also act as the community school facilitator. The existing bi-lingual Parent Liaison position at each site will be funded for additional hours. Ongoing funding will come from Local Control and Accountability Plans and other funding and grant programs. The district is exploring the use of the MPFS.¹²

AUSD has submitted a CCSPP grant application for its three schools. They are requesting funding for a full-time district behavioralist, three registered behavioral technicians, and counselors for each of their wellness centers when PCOE funding for these centers expires in August 2026. If this grant is approved, the Board of Trustees will vote on whether to accept it. The district will also consider the MPFS once it is fully designed.¹³

Members of various district boards of education were interviewed. Most thought there were some positive uses for CCSPP grant funds. The ambiguity in the Education Code sections 8900-8902 covering the Community Schools Partnership Program and the grant application was a concern. All board members interviewed expressed their reservations about the CYBHI, which is not part of the CCSPP, but is widely associated with it. They were particularly concerned about the potential for loss of parental control over mental health care.

California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and the Multi-payer Fee Schedule

PCOE aligns their work on CCSPP with CYBHI, a related program funded through the California Department of Health and Child Services and encourages participation through the R-TAC educational webinars. CYBHI promotes school-based mental health services. Mental health services provided without parental consent are a consistent theme in the concerns expressed by the community. In California, minors aged 12 years or older may consent to certain medical and mental health services

¹¹ Placer County Office of Education CCSPP Implementation Grant. www.placercoe.org/PCOEDocuments/PCOE/Educational-Services/Student-Services/CCSPP%20Grant%20Application.pdf#search=ccspp. Accessed February 22, 2025.

¹² WPUSD CCSPP Implementation Grant Application, 2023-2024 California Community Schools Partnership Program Implementation Grant, Cohort 3 signed. Accessed January 27, 2025.

¹³ AUSD CCSPP Implementation Grant Application, 2023-2024 California Community Schools Partnership Program Implementation Grant, Cohort 4 signed. Accessed February 7, 2025.

without parental involvement, depending on the type of care and specific legal criteria. For instance, minors can consent to services related to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, as well as outpatient mental health counseling, provided they are deemed mature enough to participate intelligently in the treatment.^{14 15}

Under this system, services like therapy or crisis intervention may be provided at school without notifying parents, even as schools collect and use family insurance information to bill for them. This disconnect between who consents and who pays can sideline parents from critical decisions, reduce transparency, and pressure families to share sensitive insurance data, ultimately undermining parental authority over their child's health care. However, not all healthcare services are included under these provisions, and parental consent may still be required for treatments such as psychotropic medications or certain procedures. Additionally, confidentiality rules vary, and in some cases, healthcare providers may be obligated to inform parents or guardians.¹⁶

The effectiveness of school-based mental health initiatives on academic performance varies and is influenced by factors such as program design, implementation quality, and the specific needs of the student population. While some school-based mental health programs have demonstrated positive effects on academic performance, outcomes are not universally consistent or documented. Effectiveness often hinges on factors such as the quality of program implementation and alignment with student needs. Therefore, it's essential to consider these variables when evaluating or designing such initiatives and to conduct a comprehensive data collection and validation process to substantiate the findings. The data is mixed on whether they improve student mental health. Some studies indicate a slight improvement while others suggest a negative impact. School-based mental health programs are designed to support student well-being, but concerns have been raised about potential overdiagnosis and unnecessary medication.

Overdiagnosis: Research indicates some mental health interventions may inadvertently lead to overdiagnosis. A systematic review found misdiagnosis, particularly of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), can occur due to factors such as reliance on heuristics by diagnosticians, ambiguous symptom descriptions, and systemic pressures to assign diagnoses for treatment approval.

¹⁴ Family Code 6924. [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FAM§ionNum=6924](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FAM§ionNum=6924). Accessed May 7, 2025.

¹⁵ Family Code 6926. [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FAM§ionNum=6926](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FAM§ionNum=6926). Accessed May 7, 2025.

¹⁶ English, Abigail, Minor Consent and Confidentiality. [NCYLMInorConsentCompendium2024-California.pdf](#). Accessed April 21, 2025.

Additionally, studies have shown children who do not meet full diagnostic criteria for ADHD are sometimes treated with psychostimulants.^{17 18}

Risks of Unnecessary Medication: The overdiagnosis of mental health conditions in schools can lead to unnecessary medication, exposing students to potential side effects without clear benefits. For example, the Massachusetts Center for Adolescent Wellness highlights overdiagnosis of ADHD has resulted in unnecessary treatments for adolescents and children, often involving medications with side effects.¹⁹ Furthermore, a study published in the British Journal of Psychiatry Bulletin notes some school-based mental health interventions can cause iatrogenic harm, including increased distress or clinical symptoms, relative to control activities.²⁰

Considerations for Implementation: While school-based mental health initiatives aim to provide accessible support, it's crucial to implement them thoughtfully to avoid unintended consequences. Ensuring accurate diagnoses, providing comprehensive assessments, and considering non-pharmacological interventions when appropriate can help mitigate the risks associated with overdiagnosis and unnecessary medication.

Diagnosis can be made by school staff other than professional mental health providers or MDs.²¹ This can have a lifelong negative effect. For example, if a student has an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) identifying them as ADHD, he/she may not be eligible to serve in the military.²²

Although CCSPP grants do not require these services, the state has various grants and programs which encourage this type of service, such as the CYBHI²³ offered by the Department of Health and Child Services.

¹⁷ Simons, Peter, "School Culture May Contribute to Overdiagnosis." www.madinamerica.com/2017/10/diagnosis-focused-school-culture-observes-social-factors-contributing-childrens-behavior/. Accessed May 24, 2025.

¹⁸ Overdiagnosis of mental disorders in children and adolescents.

[Overdiagnosis of mental disorders in children and adolescents \(in developed countries\) - PMC](#). Accessed April 21, 2025.

¹⁹ Overdiagnosis of ADHD. [Overdiagnosis of ADHD | Massachusetts Center for Adolescent Wellness](#). Accessed April 21, 2025.

²⁰ Do No Harm. [Do no harm: can school mental health interventions cause iatrogenic harm? | BJPsych Bulletin | Cambridge Core](#). Accessed April 21, 2025.

²¹ Are We Talking Too Much About Mental Health? www.nytimes.com/2024/05/06/health/mental-health-schools.html. Accessed February 7, 2025 (This Article is behind a paywall).

²² Akers, Alicia, Does ADHD Disqualify a Person from Joining the Military?, www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/can-you-join-the-military-with-adhd. Accessed March 8, 2025.

²³ Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. [CYBHI](#). Accessed December 30, 2024.

An additional program associated with the community school partnership is the Multi-payer Fee Schedule for School-Linked Behavioral Health Services,²⁴ an initiative under CYBHI. This program aims to enhance access to behavioral health services for students by establishing standardized reimbursement rates for services provided in schools. It mandates both Medi-Cal and commercial health plans to reimburse LEAs and affiliated providers at set rates, regardless of their network status. This program is in development. Some districts are piloting an early version, including PCOE. Other Placer County districts are participating in a cohort discussing what the final design should be.

The fee schedule covers a range of services, including psycho-educational screening and assessment, therapy and case management. Those who qualify to provide billable services include school employees with differing levels of education and training such as Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, Pupil Personnel Services credentialed providers (including school counselors, social workers, and psychologists), and Certified Wellness Coaches. The fee schedule is designed to charge family health insurance for these services, many of which are currently provided by school personnel.

The stated objective of the MPFS is to create a sustainable funding mechanism which increases access to school-linked behavioral health services for children and youth. It allows schools to apply to multiple payers, including Medi-Cal, Managed Care Plans, commercial health plans, and disability insurers. Concerns raised by the community include loss of parental control and misuse or leaks of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data. This concern was heightened by the January 2025 exposure of an actual PCOE breach during a MPFS training session.²⁵ A Power Point presentation during this training included a link called “Carelon spreadsheet” with real student data connected (see Placer County Board of Supervisors Agenda for February 13, 2025, agenda item 11.B).^{26 27} The breach of information concerned eleven students at a Placer County school. It included columns of data titled: ²⁸

²⁴ Multi-payer Fee Schedule for School Linked Behavioral Health Services.
www.schoolhealthcenters.org/funding/cybhi/fee-schedule/. Accessed December 30, 2024.

²⁵ Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda February 4, 2025.
www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/85792/2025-020425-Correspondence-Item-06A. Accessed February 10, 2025.

²⁶ AUSD Board Meeting Agenda February 13, 2025.
simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030515&MID=36480. Accessed February 21, 2025.

²⁷ PCOE Unauthorized Disclosure of Student Data Letter Agenda Item 11.B.
simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=36030515&AID=1010627&MID=36480. Accessed April 21, 2025.

²⁸ AUSD School Board Recording 53:30 Agenda Item 11.B February 13, 2025.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXfKuCGC8HY. Accessed April 21, 2025.

- Clinician Name.
- Date of Student Referral.
- Service Code.
- Minutes of Service.
- Student First and Last name.
- Student DOB.
- Student Homelessness.
- Street Address.
- Insurance Policy Number.
- Insurance Subscriber First and Last name.
- Insurance Policy Member ID.

This breach of data follows a December 2024 cyber security incident with PowerSchool, a software package and database used by several Placer County school districts. This breach also exposed private student data.²⁹ These data breaches beg the question of whether LEAs are properly set-up to collect and secure students' personal information at a level complying with HIPAA and other potentially applicable state and federal privacy regulations. Non-Compliance concerns with the HIPAA, the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA),³⁰ and FERPA puts the County, PCOE and LEAs at risk for lawsuits.

PCOE recently negotiated an MOU with Placer County Behavioral Health to work in a consortium of counties on defining the implementation process for the Multi-payer Fee Schedule including "universal screening" for mental health issues. The description of the MOU on the Agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 4, 2025, was unclear and suggested it was to implement universal screening, generating lively community response. The MOU was approved by the Board of Supervisors by a vote of 4-1 despite written and verbal community opposition. Three letters to the BOS opposing the MOU were received from school board members for Placer County districts, plus additional letters were received from concerned parents and community members. The Board Chair admonished PCOE for not providing clearer communication on this program to the public but did not require them to do so.³¹

²⁹ Notice of Data Breach for individuals in the United States, www.powerschool.com/security/sis-incident/notice-of-united-states-data-breach. Accessed March 15, 2025.

³⁰ Civil Code sections 56 *et seq.* leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=CIV&division=1.&title=&part=2.6.&chapter=2.&article=. Accessed May 7, 2025.

³¹ Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting February 4, 2025. www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/86025/2025-020425-FINAL-Summary. Accessed February 5, 2025.

Conclusion

While Placer County Office of Education emphasizes partnerships to equip every child with a first-class education, specific public information detailing their community engagement efforts regarding the community school model is limited. Details of the California Community School Partnership Program grant funding and the commitments made when receiving it are not shared. The goals and objectives along with metrics showing effectiveness of this strategy are not made available to the wider community. While the application deadline for the current grant funding has expired, there are allocated funds still available which may lead to a new round of grants. The community needs to understand this program prior to any future applications being considered.

There is a notable lack of consistent, public facing communication on how the community school model is being implemented across the county. This gap has led to a lack of awareness, trust and involvement from parents who might not fully understand the program or how they can get involved in influencing the decisions made for their children's education. Despite this, the implementation of California Community School Partnership Program in Western Placer Unified School District and Placer County Office of Education's Court School appears to be appropriate given the demographics of those students. With more transparency, these schools could be used as model of how this program can be of value.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative is a separately funded initiative but is philosophically linked to California Community School Partnership Program. They are based on the whole child approach to education which seeks to address all challenges impacting the child's ability to learn. The California Department of Education and Placer County Office of Education encourage all districts to adopt both along with the Multi-payer Fee Schedule. Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative funded school-based mental health services create concern about whether these services will be provided without parent involvement and have been the driver behind most opposition to the California Community School Partnership Program. Placer County Office of Education has not been forthcoming in identifying the academic value of these services. Nor have they communicated the potential benefits and risks of school-based care. Auburn Union School District is planning to move away from the wellness centers run by Placer County Office of Education, preferring to fund their own approach which more closely matches their educational goals.

The primary objective of the Multi-payer Fee Schedule is to create a sustainable funding mechanism for school-linked behavioral health services. Placer County Office of Education has received grant funding to participate in the development of this program. Parents need to be actively involved in this process and the wider community must be kept aware of the implementation plans. Parental involvement needs to start before services are provided, not after the Explanation of Benefits is received.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** Placer County Office of Education has not clearly communicated the plans for community schools effectively. Community outreach strategies, including parent involvement and engagement efforts in local schools, are not widely publicized or standardized across all districts.
- F2.** Information provided by the Placer County Office of Education has not sufficiently addressed the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative's objectives and implementation strategies.
- F3.** Community Schools is an educational strategy encouraged by, but not mandated, by the California Department of Education. Adoption is up to each school district and their board of education.
- F4.** California Department of Education is encouraging, but not mandating, the implementation of wellness centers and school-based mental health services using Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative grants funded by the Department of Health and Child Service and the Multi-payer Fee Schedule.
- F5.** The California Community Schools Partnership Program grant corresponded with the demographics and socioeconomic characteristics of Western Placer Unified School District students and families in specific schools within the district.
- F6.** Some mental health disorders can be diagnosed by certain school based personal such as credentialed school counselors or wellness staff with appropriate training or licensure even if they are not licensed to provide mental health services.
- F7.** Students can access school-based behavioral health services through Medi-Cal or the Multi-payer Fee Schedule without real time parental notification. Parents are informed later through an insurance statement, which may exclude specific service details due to FERPA/HIPPA regulations for students 12 years and older.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** Placer County Office of Education should develop and implement transparent and broader communication about their involvement in the Community Schools program and associated initiatives (Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, Multi-payer Fee Schedule) which reaches not just the educational community, but the wider community they serve by October 31, 2025.
- R2.** Placer County Office of Education should put all Memorandums of Understanding for community schools on their website, so the community understands what Placer County Office of Education is agreeing to by taking the grant funding. by October 31, 2025.
- R3.** Placer County Office of Education should develop a dedicated, comprehensive Community School page on their website with a section linking to Regional Transformational Assistance Center, Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and any other organizations which has access to children’s data by December 31, 2025.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing body:

	Findings Requiring Response	Recommendations Requiring Response	Response <u>Due Date</u>
Gayle Garbolino-Mojica Superintendent of Schools Placer County Office of Education 1400 W Stanford Ranch Rd. Rocklin, CA 95765	F1, F2, F6	R1, R2, R3	September 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Human Services Division

Greg Geisler, Deputy Director

11434 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Board of Trustees

Ackerman (Bowen) Charter School District
13777 Bowman Rd.
Auburn, CA 95603

Board of Trustees

Alta Dutch Flat School District
34050 Alta Bonny Nook Rd.
Alta, CA 95701

Board of Trustees

Auburn Union School District
255 Eppenle Lane
Auburn, CA 95603

Board of Trustees

Colfax Elementary School District
24825 Ben Taylor Rd.
Colfax, CA 95713

Board of Trustees

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District
8849 Cook Riolo Rd.
Roseville, CA 95747

Board of Trustees

Eureka Union School District
5455 Eureka Rd.
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Board of Trustees

Foresthill Union School District
22888 Foresthill Rd.
Foresthill, CA 95631

Board of Trustees

Loomis Union School District
3290 Humphrey Rd.
Loomis, CA 95631

Board of Trustees

Newcastle Elementary School District
645 Kentucky Greens Way
Newcastle, CA 95658

Board of Trustees

Placer Hills Union School District
1680 Placer Hills Rd.
Meadow Vista, CA 95722

Board of Trustees

Placer Union High School District
13000 New Airport Rd.
Auburn, CA 95604

Board of Trustees

Rocklin Unified School District
2615 Sierra Meadows Dr.
Rocklin, CA 95677

Board of Trustees

Roseville City School District
1050 Main St.
Roseville, CA 95678

Board of Trustees

Roseville Joint Union High School District
1750 Cirby Way
Roseville, CA 95661

Board of Trustees

Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District
11603 Donner Pass Rd.
Truckee, CA 96161

Board of Trustees

Western Placer Unified School District
600 6th Street
Lincoln, CA 95648

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- Parents Defending Education, “School-Based Health Centers,” Parents Defending Education, March 2024, Accessed March 20, 2025, https://defendinged.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/240412_PDE_SchoolBasedHealthCenters_Doc.pdf
- Parent’s Defending Education, “School-Based Health Centers Investigations,” Parents Defending Education, March 7, 2024, Accessed September 9, 2024, <https://defendinged.org/investigations/school-based-health-centers/>
- Williamson M. Evers, “Beware the ‘Community Schools’ Trojan Horse,” Independent Institute, August 24, 2023, Accessed January 17, 2025, <https://www.independent.org/news/article.asp?id=14644>

FORESTHILL PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

Transparency and Governance

Can a Newly Elected Board of Directors
Recharge Confidence?

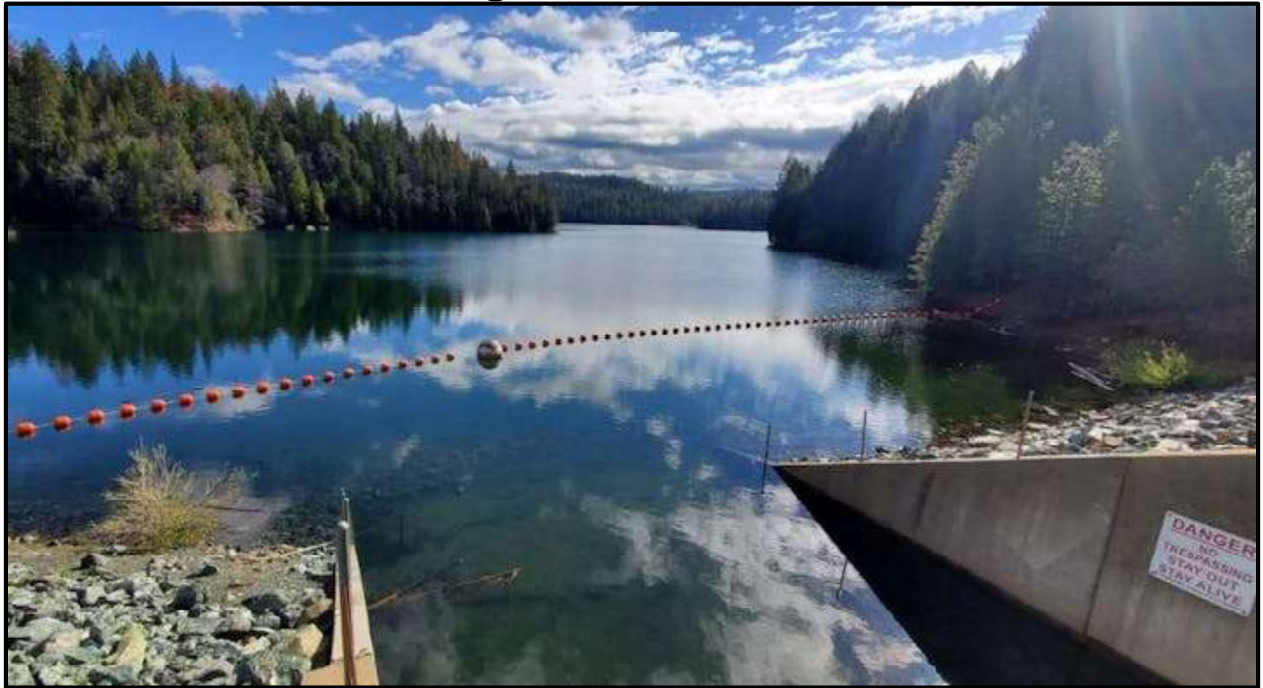


Photo Credit: Foresthill Public Utility Website

Foresthill Public Utility District Transparency and Governance Can a Newly Elected Board of Directors Recharge Confidence?

Summary

Under the governance of an elected Board of Directors and a General Manager, the Foresthill Public Utility District provides water and related services to a community of approximately 2,050 customers. Foresthill Public Utility District is considered an independent special district under the oversight of the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission and its governance guidelines. In addition to the Foresthill Public Utility District and its employees, elected Board members are entrusted with financial and governance responsibilities for this public utility district serving the community of Foresthill.

Foresthill Public Utility District is fortunate to have a stable revenue stream with Sugar Pine Reservoir providing a dedicated water supply. Administratively, Foresthill Public Utility District is highly dependent on the General Manager and until recently, the General Manager created the monthly board agenda and served as Board Secretary. With annual operating revenue in excess of \$2.7 million, accounting activities are outsourced (engagement partner out of state) and Foresthill Public Utility District does not have an in-house finance staff member (Finance or Business Manager).

In board meetings attended prior to the election of new board members in November 2024, members of the Placer County Grand Jury observed contentious rather than unified leadership. Challenges for the newly elected Board of Directors include demonstrating behaviors their community can be proud of, performing their duties in a collaborative manner and tackling legacy and strategic issues to provide a foundation beyond the current Board of Directors and Foresthill Public Utility District's leadership team's tenure.

Glossary

District Website: Includes a menu for customers and the public. In addition to 'Quick Links' for most searched topics, the site contains information of services available and District governance (transparency).

Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC): Creates, administers, and enforces ethics laws for public officials, employees and candidates.

Form 700: Also referred to as Statements of Economic Interests. Form 700 is a filing requirement for every elected and local agency official who makes or influences governmental decisions in California. The overarching intent of Form 700 is for transparency and accountability with respect to financial interests and conflicts of interest.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO): A regional (county) planning agency of the State of California. LAFCOs are in all fifty-eight counties and exercise regulatory and planning powers for Special Districts providing services to meet current and future community needs.

National Forest Service (NFS): A Federal agency within the United States Department of Agriculture responsible for administering the nation's national forests and grasslands.

Policy Handbook: A searchable document on the district website with a stated publication date of January 16, 2025. Content is grouped in the following sections: General, Personnel, Operations, Board of Directors, Board Meetings and Facilities Development.

Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ): Members of the 2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury.

Special District: A political subdivision of the state, established to provide a single public service within a specific geographic area. Governance guidelines include a wide range of requirements such as by-laws or charters, elections, transparency, revenue, and spending.

Sugar Pine Reservoir: The source of water for residents and commercial customers (ratepayers) and is located off Foresthill road northeast of the city of Auburn.



Photo Credit: Family Adventures

Background

Foresthill Public Utility District was formed in 1950 with its stated mission “*To provide the Community of Foresthill with the highest quality of drinking water at affordable rates with courteous and professional service. To manage District resources responsibly for future generations.*”¹ Foresthill Public Utility District was created in accordance with the Public Utility District Act, which is codified at Sections 15501 *et seq.* of the Public Utilities Code, for the purpose of operating a water system.

This water system, referred to as Sugar Pine Reservoir, is located approximately seven miles north of Foresthill. The reservoir was flooded in 1982 after construction of Sugar Pine Dam over Shirttail Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the American River. The reservoir provides multiple purposes, including flood risk reduction, irrigation, recreation and water supply for the community of Foresthill. In 2003, Foresthill Public Utility District purchased Sugar Pine Dam, its conveyance system, and certain assets in a purchase agreement with the Federal Government through the issuance of bonds. In August of 2014, Foresthill Public Utility District refinanced Sugar Pine debt (bonds) with repayment projected to be completed in 2028.

Foresthill Public Utility District’s service area includes the unincorporated community of Foresthill, California, located in Placer County approximately sixty miles northeast of Sacramento. Geographically, Foresthill is located on a ridge between the North and Middle Forks of the American River and Foresthill Public Utility District provides water service to approximately 2,050 residential and commercial customers (or ratepayers). Foresthill Public Utility District revenue is derived from the following sources:

- Water sales to customers.
- Service connections and repair fees.
- Grants.
- Property tax assessments.
- Interest and investments.
- Campground related concessions.
- Sales of surplus water (stored water in excess of expected customer consumption).

Methodology

To understand and review the Foresthill Public Utility District (District), its operations and governance, information sources included the following: a wide range of interviews with Board members and various Placer County agencies, attendance at multiple² monthly Board meetings, a review of the District’s website

¹ Foresthill Public Utility Website. www.foresthillpud.com/. Accessed March 26, 2025.

² Board Meetings were attended by members of the PCJG on the following dates: October 9, 2024, December 11, 2024, January 8, 2025 and February 12, 2025.

including published materials, requests for information and guidance for Special Districts from the California Special Districts Association.³ Other resources were accessed to gather background information and review requirements for Special Districts such as the Brown Act⁴ and the Public Utilities Act.

Discussion

Staffing

As provided by the District, current staff members total nine in the following job classifications:

- General Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Customer Service Representative (two)
- Chief Operator
- Operations Supervisor
- Other Treatment Plant Operations Staff (three)

The District's Policy Handbook includes job descriptions with many showing revision dates in 2014 and 2015. The Policy Handbook also includes the position of Finance Manager, a position outsourced since May of 2023.

Governance

Elections and Board Appointments - The District is governed by five locally elected Board members serving in staggered four-year terms. On an annual basis, the Board nominates then appoints individuals to serve as President, Vice-President and Treasurer. Position appointments are for a one-year term and based on Board members receiving the majority of votes for their respective position. Other Board members not in appointed roles are referred to as Directors. The General Manager is not a voting member for either Board appointments or decisions requiring Board approval.

Board Meetings – The District generally holds regular Board meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. During the calendar year 2024, eight meetings were held and four were cancelled. Board meetings consist of a closed session (for legal and/or personnel matters) beginning at 4:00 p.m. followed by a regular board meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. which is open to the public. Special meetings may be held as required.

³ Special District Laws Reference Guide.

sacramento.saccounty.gov/Resources/Documents/SpecialDistrictLawsGuide.pdf. Accessed March 26, 2025.

⁴ The Brown Act. oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/the-brown-act.pdf. Accessed April 15, 2025.

Committees and Committee Meetings - In addition to appointed Board positions, the District has two standing committees referred to as the Finance and Planning committees. Committee appointments are made annually, and meetings occur on an as needed basis. Ad-hoc committees may be formed to address subject matter issues.

The District's Policy Handbook policy No. 4060.41 states "*All meetings of standing committees shall conform to all open meeting laws (The Brown Act) that pertain to regular meetings of the Board of Directors.*" The Brown Act requires commissions, boards, councils, and other public agencies in California to conduct their deliberations and actions openly. (Government Code § 54950).

District Board – Meetings and Administrative Functions

District Board meetings were attended by the grand jury both prior to and after new directors were appointed at the December 2024 Board meeting. In Board meetings prior to the November 2024 election, the PCGJ observed rude and dismissive behaviors with heated discussions on relatively minor matters. Unfinished business was often deferred to the next meeting with Board minutes reflecting "*Recommended action: Discuss and direct staff accordingly.*"

The December 2024 Board meeting welcomed the addition of two new Board members and new directors were appointed for the upcoming year. Following these changes, both the tone of Board meetings and attention to efficiently conducting business showed a noticeable change and improvement. While there may be differences of opinion, the current Board leadership is demonstrating a resolve to conduct and finish business in a collaborative manner. The PCGJ has noted the change in tone and Foresthill residents should be encouraged for their District.

Policy Handbook – District operations are governed by the Foresthill Public Utility District Policy Handbook. Many of the documents (policies and position descriptions) in the Policy Handbook show effective dates in 2014 and 2015 and as needed, revisions have been made on a case-by-case basis after Board discussion and approval. Additionally, some of the policies have no date and a review and update should be done for any changes in day-to-day operations or business practices.

Conflict of Interest Code - Special Districts are required to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code⁵ (or policy). The District has adopted a model conflict of interest code approved by the FPPC found in Policy Handbook policy No. 1020, most recently revised November 17, 2020.⁶ The code reviewing body of the District is required to

⁵ Conflict of Interest Code- codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/gov-sect-87300/. Accessed March 31, 2025.

⁶ Foresthill Policy Handbook. www.foresthillpud.com/files/ebd1063c7/2025+05+14+Foresthill+Public+Utility+District+Policy+Manual+Links.pdf. Accessed June 9, 2025.

review its Conflict of Interest Code by July 1st of each even numbered year and determine if a change is necessary. If a change is necessary, the District head (General Manager) submits an amended Conflict of Interest Code to the Board for their approval. If there is no change, the local agency head shall submit a written statement to the code reviewing body no later than October 1st.⁷

Form 700 – Individuals Filers – Filings are made with the Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office for transparency regarding personal financial interests. Form 700 is due thirty days after an individual assumes or leaves the office and annually by April 1st for each year when in office.

Filing information for District individuals is shown below as received from the Placer County Clerk for the period of January 1, 2020 to February 12, 2025:

- Total filings 56
- Timely filings 47
- Late filings 9

One individual was noted as never completing a timely Form 700 filing during this timeframe.

Finance – Staffing, Span of Control and Business Systems

Finance Function Staffing – Prior to April 2023, the District employed a Finance Manager to perform functions including bookkeeping, accounts payable, payroll, account reconciliations and other in-house finance related duties. Following the death of this staff member in March 2023, the District engaged an accounting firm (engagement partner located out-of-state) to perform finance-related functions of this former staff member. This engagement was sole sourced on an emergency basis with no competitive bidding or request for quotation. The position of an in-house Finance Manager remains vacant, and the recommended Board action was to “discuss and direct staff accordingly.”⁸

Delegations and Span of Control – Both operationally and administratively, the General Manager⁹ is highly involved in day-to-day operations, business affairs and operational responsibilities. With the loss of the in-house Finance Manager and this effort now outsourced, the District has greater dependence on the General Manager to run the business, coordinate board meetings and

⁷ Biennial Review Requirement.

[leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=87306.5.&lawCode=GOV](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=87306.5.&lawCode=GOV). Accessed May 7, 2025.

⁸ Request to Discuss Hiring a Business Manager.

www.foresthillpud.com/files/a3515f343/2024+03+14+Regular+Board+Packet.pdf. Accessed April 29, 2025.

⁹ General Manager Employment Agreement.

www.foresthillpud.com/files/f982e15f8/2024+10+09+Regular+Board+Packet+UPDATED.pdf. Accessed April 29, 2025.

act strategically. Given the favorable financial health of the District, the Board should review the current staffing compliment for both span of control and internal controls.

In the fall of 2024, the Board held extensive dialogue on ownership of the Board agenda. With discussion spanning several meetings, the Board revised its Policy Handbook to include the Board President in 'setting or creating' the agenda. Prior to a new Board convening in December 2024, the General Manager was the creator of the Board agenda. In August 2024, the Board agenda created by the General Manager included a recommendation for an employment agreement extension for the General Manager through 2029. Additionally, the General Manager was tasked with taking meeting minutes of Board meetings, which did not include public comments with minutes reflecting "The Board received public comments, and those comments will be taken into consideration."

Accounting Consulting Services Agreement (engagement letter) - In May 2023, the District signed an agreement for accounting consulting services with a cost estimate of \$25,000 with no defined period of performance. This accounting consulting services firm continues to provide services and no subsequent agreements (engagement letters) have been executed since May of 2023. This agreement was signed by the General Manager with Board approval over a year later in October 2024. For the period of June 2023 through June 2024, expenditures for these outsourced accounting services totaled approximately \$157,000.¹⁰

Both the initial agreement and subsequent services were provided without any competitive bidding actions being reflected in Board minutes. Given Policy Handbook guidance and the materiality of expenditures, a request for quotation and an executed engagement letter is warranted. Expenditures Exceeding Policy Handbook Amounts - The District's Policy Handbook, policy No. 3082 (dated November 2012) titled '*Purchasing Professional, Consulting and Other Services*' specifies a monthly maximum of \$15,000 for approved services (single transaction). The Policy Handbook further states '*For any purchase of services that would exceed the employee's maximum monthly expenditure authorization, the employee must obtain authorization from the Board of Directors prior to issuing a purchase order for such services*'. A review of disbursements (expenditures) for October 2023 through

¹⁰ Accounting Services includes both transactional and advisory services with approximately 90%+ transactional.

November 2024¹¹ noted instances where the Policy Handbook policy amount^{12 13} was exceeded without Board approval, either before or after the transaction (expenditure).

Enterprise Systems Catalog and Business Systems – SB 272 requires Special Districts publish a list of certain software used by the District.^{14 15} Additionally, a Special District must post the list in a prominent location on their website and update annually.¹⁶ The District Enterprise Systems Catalog reflects a date of 2015 and should be updated for the current business environment and system applications. During interviews, the grand jury was advised a current business application (QuickBooks) has not been upgraded to a newer version of the software. The District should discuss best practices with their accounting service provider with continuing changes in system security, to determine if a change is warranted.

LAFCO - Placer County's LAFCO maintains a comprehensive database of Special Districts including an agency profile with summary financial and organizational information. LAFCO information for this District is not current.

Financial Resources and Business Strategy

Financial Resources - Utilizing the benefits of a purchased and dedicated water supply in Sugar Pine Reservoir, the District and its customers share in cost advantages and prospects for longer-term benefits. The District enjoys healthy financial resources (cash and investments) more than \$6.1 million as of June 30, 2024. Financial highlights for the past five years include:

- Increase in cash and investments, \$2.0 million.
- Grants received, \$2.7 million.
- Capital Expenditures, \$4.5 million.

¹¹ PCJG Review reflects a review of District disbursements from financial transaction registers included in monthly Regular Board Meeting Packets.

¹² Purchasing Professional, Consulting or Other Services – Policy Number 3082. www.foresthillpud.com/files/ebd1063c7/2025+05+14+Foresthill+Public+Utility+District+Policy+Manual+Links.pdf. Accessed June 9, 2025.

¹³ Foresthill Public Utility District – January 8, 2025 – Monthly Board Packet – Cash Disbursements Register – November 2024. www.foresthillpud.com/files/b75762614/2025+01+08+Regular+Board+Packet.pdf. Accessed May 12, 2025.

¹⁴ Defining “Enterprise system.” [codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/go v-sect-7922-700/](https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/go-v-sect-7922-700/). Accessed March 29, 2025.

¹⁵ Enterprise Website Requirement. codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/gov-sect-7922-715/. Accessed May 6, 2025.

¹⁶ Enterprise Software -Annual Updating. codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/gov-sect-7922-710/. Accessed April 23, 2025.

- Favorable changes in net position, \$3.3 million.¹⁷

To manage investments and banking, the District maintains a relationship with a national financial services provider. While the grand jury did not expressly review banking and investments, a brief review of income from investments and cash balances reflects returns below 1% in the aggregate over the past five years. The District should evaluate its investment strategy and determine if realized returns are competitive for a Special District.

Shown below is a recap of results from audited financial statements published on the District website:

Foresthill Public Utility District							
Fiscal Years 2020-2024							
(\$ In K's)							
	Fiscal Year Ending June 30 (1)					Five Yr Total	%
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Operating Revenue							
Water	\$ 2,017	\$ 1,982	\$ 2,642	\$ 2,701	\$ 2,699	\$ 12,041	70%
Related Services	29	25	34	28	31	147	1%
Surplus Water		675				675	4%
Sugar Pine Surcharge	215	214				429	2%
Rehab & Sys Charges	547	544				1,091	6%
Other	70	70				140	1%
Sub-Total	2,878	3,510	2,676	2,729	2,730	14,523	84%
Other Revenue							
Grants	30	8	67	1,202		1,307	8%
Investment income	132	39	(206)	38	298	301	2%
Property Taxes	104	107	107	131	125	574	3%
Other Income/(Exp's)	114		290	42	(10)	436	3%
Interest Expense		174		(28)	(22)	124	1%
Sub-Total	380	328	258	1,385	391	2,742	16%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,258	\$ 3,838	\$ 2,934	\$ 4,114	\$ 3,121	\$ 17,265	100%

(1) Source - Foresthill Public Utility District Financial Statements

Strategic Plan – The District prepares several stand-alone financial plans but lacks a comprehensive strategic plan encompassing key elements, including its annual operating budget, capital expenditures, grants, and other sources of income. In response to a grand jury request for a District strategic plan, a Water System Master Plan dated January 2008 was provided. A strategic plan provides a roadmap both for the current year and future years (such as a five-year outlook). Strategic plans look beyond the numbers and crystallize strategy, risks, opportunities, succession planning and much more. Given the strategic asset of Sugar Pine Reservoir and

¹⁷ Net Position Definition fFor this comparison, reflects the sum of total revenue (all sources) minus total expenditures (Note: The term “Net Position” may be used differently for financial reporting and the grand jury has used a simplified definition).

water rights extension issues,¹⁸ the District and the community would benefit with a well-defined look at risks and opportunities beyond the current year.

Sugar Pine Reservoir – In conjunction with the purchase of Sugar Pine Reservoir in 2003, the District was granted use with fiduciary responsibilities. Those responsibilities include operation and maintenance responsibility for Sugar Pine Reservoir and related equipment. In 2011, the District requested a forty-nine-year extension for its current water rights permit 15375 through 2060. This petition was filed with the State Water Resources Control Board and the State Board must examine impacts associated with extending the permit. In conjunction with this request, the District prepared environmental documents to facilitate the State Board's review of the petition including impacts associated with completing construction of the Sugar Pine Dam Project. If completed, the project would include installation of radial gates in the dam's spillway and radial gates were a part of the original design of the dam.

Shown below are project milestones¹⁹ as appended from the District's website related to the District's petition:

Project Milestones	
Milestone	Date
NOI in Federal Register	September 2, 2016
DEIS NOA in Federal Register	June 26, 2021
FEIS NOA in Federal Register	March 30, 2022
Objection Period Start	March 30, 2022
Decision	July 2025 (Estimated)
Implementation	August 2025 (Estimated)

The cost, schedule and technical issues associated with this petition are complex and should be included in a Strategic Plan and the District's longer-term vision. The fiduciary responsibilities of managing Sugar Pine Reservoir impact the entire Foresthill community today and will continue to do so in years to come.

¹⁸ The appendix includes a more extensive discussion of Sugar Pine Reservoir.

¹⁹ Sugar Pine Water Rights Permit 15375 Extension. www.foresthillpud.com/sugar-pine-project-water-right-permit-15375-extension. Accessed May 16, 2025.



Photo Credit: Vortexhydradams

Conclusion

Changes in Board members and appointed positions have resulted in positive improvements addressing transparency and accountability. These improvements include a resolve to conduct meetings in a collegial manner, publication of the Policy Handbook on the District website and the recording of Board meetings for greater community transparency.

While these changes are encouraging for the community, the Board should address staffing, governance, span of control and strategic issues to create a foundation for the future.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Finance Manager position has been vacant since April 2023.
- F2.** An outside service provider (accounting firm) is providing services previously handled by the Finance Manager, a position described in the Foresthill Public Utility District Policy Handbook.

- F3.** The Foresthill Public Utility District General Manager has assumed certain financial and administrative roles previously assigned to the Finance Manager.
- F4.** The Foresthill Public Utility District does not have a comprehensive strategic plan outlining future years including risks and opportunities.
- F5.** Foresthill Public Utility District job descriptions (excluding pay scales) were last revised in 2014.
- F6.** Prior to the election of the new Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors and during interviews with multiple stakeholders, individuals expressed a lack of cohesion, and disunity amongst the Board members hampered the effectiveness and public trust of the Board of Directors.
- F7.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Enterprise Systems disclosure posted on the district website was last updated in 2015 and is outdated.
- F8.** Foresthill Public Utility District information contained on the Local Agency Formation Commission website is outdated.
- F9.** A review of Foresthill Public Utility District expenditures noted deviations from the Policy Handbook requiring Board of Directors approval.
- F10.** The Foresthill Public Utility District water right permit 15375 extension expired in 2011.
- F11.** The Foresthill Public Utility District has not filed all Form 700 filings on a timely basis.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors should evaluate the benefits of staffing the vacant Finance (or Business) Manager position in-house or execute an engagement letter with an accounting services provider no later than September 30, 2025.
- R2.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors should prepare and approve a strategic plan at the next fiscal planning cycle (2025-2026) and update annually.
- R3.** Foresthill Public Utility District job descriptions should be updated and approved by the Board of Directors no later than September 30, 2025.
- R4.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors should develop a plan (timeline and milestones) to update its Policy Handbook no later than September 30, 2025.

- R5.** The Foresthill Public Utility District General Manager responsibilities should be decoupled from minute taking no later than September 30, 2025.
- R6.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Enterprise System(s) disclosure on the District website should be updated for current business systems no later than September 30, 2025.
- R7.** The Foresthill Public Utility District should provide the Local Agency Formation Commission with updated information no later than September 30, 2025.
- R8.** Foresthill Public Utility District expenditure approvals should adhere to stated amounts in the Policy Handbook immediately, with acknowledgement to the Placer County Grand Jury no later than September 1, 2025.
- R9.** The Foresthill Public Utility District should review its investment strategy and realized asset returns at the next review cycle or no later than December 31, 2025.
- R10.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors should update the status of securing its water right permit expired in 2011 no later than September 30, 2025.
- R11.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors should review Form 700 filing requirements for district and board individuals no later than September 30, 2025, and review annually thereafter.
- R12.** The Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors should schedule a meeting to establish performance goals and objectives for the General Manager no later than September 30, 2025, and for each fiscal year thereafter.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand jury requires a response from the following governing body:

<u>Responding Entity</u>	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors 25540 Main Street Foresthill, CA 95631	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R12	September 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission

110 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Water Agency

Board of Directors
4500 Pacific Street
Rocklin, CA 96777

Appendix

Sugar Pine Reservoir

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) constructed the 160-acre Sugar Pine Project, which includes a 7,000 acre-feet reservoir, dam and water supply pipeline in 1983 as part of the Central Valley Project (CVP). Water rights for the reservoir were obtained by a permit from the California State Water Resources Control Board in 1967. The reservoir was constructed to provide the town of Foresthill with a reliable source of drinking water for current and future users. The Sugar Pine Reservoir is the primary source of raw water for the District. Stored water in excess of customer needs may be sold and transferred to CVP contractors.

The National Forest Service (NFS) is responsible for administering resources at the Sugar Pine Project including recreation facilities. Under public law²⁰ in 2003, the United States Government granted use of the Sugar Pine Reservoir to the District in conjunction with purchase by the District. The District has operation and maintenance responsibility for Sugar Pine Reservoir and equipment and the NFS retained ownership of land and is responsible for operations and maintenance of the recreational facilities including the campground, day use facilities, trails and boat ramp.

The dam was designed and constructed to allow for future installation of twenty-foot-tall radial gates to increase the storage in the reservoir from 6,922 acre-feet to 10,658 acre-feet. In 2011, the District requested a forty-nine-year extension for its current water rights permit 15375 through 2060.²¹ The extension would allow the District to complete the original project by installing radial gates, if financially feasible. In 2022, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the District for installation of radial gates and measures to mitigate impacts to the habitat and recreation facilities surrounding the reservoir due to an increased water level elevation.

Existing storage capacity at Sugar Pine Reservoir is adequate to meet current consumption demand within the current service area. However, the District has proposed to increase water storage to mitigate a potential decline in water supply due to climate change and potential increases in releases due to regulatory changes and environmental concerns for future development. Although the District believes a need exists for additional storage, the timing when additional storage will be needed and when the radial gates should be installed is uncertain and should be addressed in a comprehensive strategic plan.

²⁰ Title V - Sugar Pine Dam and Reservoir Conveyance. [uscode.house.gov/statutes/pl/106/566.pdf](https://www.uscode.house.gov/statutes/pl/106/566.pdf). Accessed March 30, 2025.

²¹ Sugar Pine Water Rights Discussion – District Website. www.foresthillpud.com/sugar-pine-project-water-right-permit-15375-extension. Accessed May 6, 2025.

Transient Occupancy Tax

Understanding TOT and TBID



Photo Credit: Placer County

Transient Occupancy Tax Understanding TOT and TBID

Summary

Placer County has a program in place to generate revenue through a Transient Occupancy Tax, applicable to short-term rentals in unincorporated Placer County. Transient Occupancy Tax revenue, nearly \$30 million a year for the last three years, can help support a variety of projects and improvements for Placer County, such as parks, trails, infrastructure improvements, workforce housing and transportation. Transient Occupancy Tax funds are an added source of non-property tax revenue for Placer County.

The county also has a program supporting Tourism Business Improvement Districts to fund tourism promotion and activities. Placer County currently has two Tourism Business Improvement Districts in place, both in the North Lake Tahoe region: the North Lake Tahoe Tourism Business Improvement District and the Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Microtransit District.

The grand jury wanted to learn how these programs work, how revenue is collected, and how dollars are spent in support of the intended purpose of these programs. This report provides information on current processes in place and the benefits provided to the residents and visitors to Placer County.

Glossary

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT): A rental tax collected by owners/management companies from guests for short term rentals up to 30 days. Examples of subject rentals include hotels, motels, inns, other lodging, tourist homes or houses and rooms for rent. TOT also applies to rentals from all internet based rental services, such as Airbnb and VRBO.

Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID): A TBID is a method of funding tourism promotion and economic development activities with the specific aim of increasing overall revenue for assessed businesses in the local area. TBID charges are an assessment, not a tax, an important distinction as this type of assessment does not require voter approval.

TOT Certificate: Short term rental businesses subject to TOT must register the business and receive a TOT Certificate to be displayed at the business site within 30 days of starting the business or making a unit available to rent.

Short-Term Rental Permit: Short-term rentals which are defined as any unit, or portion thereof, permitted for residential use and rented for occupancy, dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes for a period of not less than one night and not more than 30 days must apply for a Short-Term Rental permit. Commercial lodging use (hotel, motel, condo-hotel, or timeshare) is not subject to the ordinance requiring a short-term rental permit.

Airbnb: Airbnb is an American company operating an online marketplace for short- and long-term rentals. Many homeowners operating a short-term rental business use Airbnb for advertising and management of their business.

VRBO (Vacation Rental by Owner): VRBO is an American company operating an online marketplace for short- and long-term vacation rentals. Similar to Airbnb, homeowners use VRBO for advertising and management of their vacation rental business.

Background

The Placer County Grand Jury performed a review of the Transient Occupancy Tax program for unincorporated Placer County. The grand jury sought to have a full understanding of the Transient Occupancy Tax program for the county, including the amount of the tax levy, when the tax applies, how the tax is collected and how the funds are used.

The Placer County Transient Occupancy Tax is a tax on lodging and short-term rentals within unincorporated Placer County. The assessment is 8% on the western slope of the county (Western Slope Transit Occupancy Tax Area), with an additional 2% tax for properties located in the North Lake Tahoe Transient Occupancy Tax Area (commonly referred to as the eastern slope). This additional 2% tax was authorized by county voters in 1996, and has been reauthorized in 2002, 2012, and 2022. For the western slope, the 8% tax is divided evenly between Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the county's general fund. For the eastern slope, 60% of the 10% tax goes toward Transient Occupancy Tax funds, and the remaining 40% goes to the general fund. Details of the specific territory definitions are available in the Uniform Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance for Placer County.¹

While all properties subject to Transient Occupancy Tax must obtain and display a Transient Occupancy Tax certificate, specific types of short-term rentals in the eastern slope territory are also required to have a short-term rental permit. For the permit program, a short-term rental unit means any unit, or portion thereof, permitted for residential use and rented for occupancy for a period of not less than one night and not more than 30 days. The county enacted a cap for the Short-Term Rental Permit program in 2022, limiting the total number of residential short-term rental properties in the eastern slope territory to 3,900 per year. The intent of the cap is to help protect the safety and health of residents as well as protect the local environment. A Short-Term Rental Permit is issued for one year and requires a payment fee of \$306.

¹ Uniform Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance Booklet Placer County.
www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/79814/Transient-Occupancy-Tax-Ordinance-Booklet---2024-
Accessed February 11, 2025.

Tourism Business Improvement Districts are a mechanism for funding tourism promotion and economic development activities to increase revenue opportunity for affected businesses. An assessment is placed on businesses within a designated geographic area, and funds raised through the Tourism Business Improvement Districts are used only for specific purposes as defined in an approved management district plan.

Methodology

The grand jury reviewed official Placer County websites for information on the application rules for Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and Tourism Business Improvement Districts (TBID) in the county, the mechanics of both, and how TOT and TBID funds are used. The grand jury reviewed news articles from various sources highlighting voter approvals in the past and the benefits of expenditures within the county. The grand jury interviewed Placer County employees knowledgeable in the TOT and TBID programs, including collection and expenditure. Additionally, the grand jury reviewed website information specific to TBID programs from websites maintained by organizations with TBID oversight. The grand jury also interviewed individuals involved in specific TBID program management to enhance the grand jury's understanding of those programs.

Discussion

TOT

Transient Occupancy Taxes are utilized by municipalities and governments throughout the country, creating a notable source of added revenue for the governing body which can be used for general fund needs, specific programs, or a combination of both. Placer County's Transient Occupancy Tax is consistent with municipalities in the county, as each incorporated city within the county also has a TOT in place, ranging from 8 to 12%.

Historically, TOT revenue collection was the responsibility of Placer County Revenue Services. In February 2024, the Placer County Auditor-Controller's Office issued a report on their audit of the Revenue Services Division for fiscal year 2021-2022.² Several findings from this audit related to TOT revenue collection, as well as TBID assessment issues. One of their findings addressed the department responsibility for TOT and TBID collection, and recommended this function be transferred from Revenue Services under the County Executive Office to the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. Revenue Services agreed with this recommendation and the collection of TOT and TBID revenue moved to the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office in July 2024.

² Placer County Auditor-Controller's Office Revenue Services Audit. www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/78458/CEO---Revenue-Services-Division-Audit---Feb-2024-PDF. Accessed April 1, 2025.

In addition to the audit finding on the department responsibility for TOT collection, the internal audit also identified concerns regarding the low number of TOT audits being completed for verification of proper payments and non-compliance of short-term rental property owners with TOT certificate requirements. There were also a number of findings relating to TBID concerning non-compliance issues, delinquency issues, collection costs for TBID collection and proper handling of late payment penalties. Now that TOT and TBID collection have transferred to the Treasurer-Tax Collector's office, they are reviewing all of the audit findings to confirm proper resolution of each item.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office is also working to develop improvements in TOT and TBID revenue collection. The current process relies on outdated data management systems and an intensive hands-on protocol which lacks efficiency. The department has identified software solutions they believe are a good fit for their needs and will be working to finalize approval from the Board of Supervisors by year end 2025 to move forward with a new solution.

Several municipalities throughout California and across the United States partner with Airbnb for TOT collection and remittance to the municipality for rental properties which use Airbnb for advertising, management, and revenue collection. Airbnb controls over 40% of the U.S. market for short-term and vacation rentals. The grand jury learned the county has previously investigated the use of Airbnb for these properties. The county found using Airbnb for TOT collection and remittance has a downside, as Airbnb does not provide a municipality with detailed accounting of the TOT revenue source properties. While the county could potentially see cost savings by outsourcing the TOT revenue collection, they would not be able to determine the amount of TOT revenues for individual properties. VRBO offers a similar service for municipalities, covering TOT collection and remittance but again lacking in full accounting disclosure. VRBO's market share is estimated to be near 20% in the U.S.

TOT Challenges

Several years ago, Placer County recognized they had a challenge to identify businesses subject to TOT requirements. The county employed a third-party vendor, Host Compliance, who identified roughly 1,500 properties previously unknown to the county with operations subject to TOT compliance. The county continues to use a third-party vendor (Deckard, Inc.) to identify properties subject to TOT compliance.

In addition to working to overcome the challenge of identifying properties subject to the Transient Occupancy Tax, the county also faces a challenge of effectively auditing properties for accurate remittance. The county currently has a contract with a third-party vendor, HdL Companies, to perform audits on subject properties within the county. Through multiple interviews the grand jury learned the County is not satisfied with the performance of HdL Companies for the audit process. Reviews of completed HdL Companies’ audits for the TOT program have found the auditors are not taking the time to familiarize themselves with applicable Placer County codes and audits are lacking in-depth review of subject properties’ operations. In addition, the audit reports contain multiple careless errors, such as referring to Placer County as a city, and raising concern about the overall quality of the final audit product. The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s office is seeking a better audit solution and is working with the Placer County Auditor-Controller’s Office to perform the audit function in the future.

TOT Revenue

The unique geography of Placer County creates an imbalance in TOT revenue sourcing, as nearly all the county’s TOT revenue is generated from operations on the eastern slope. This chart shows the total TOT revenue for the past five years, and the split between eastern and western slope territories.

Placer County TOT Revenue					
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Eastern Slope	\$18,894,800	\$19,288,710	\$27,525,346	\$28,058,806	\$27,139,216
Western Slope	\$861,253	\$877,639	\$1,388,460	\$1,439,600	\$1,485,030
Total Revenue	\$19,756,053	\$20,166,349	\$28,913,806	\$29,498,406	\$28,624,246

TOT revenue is divided between TOT funds and the county general fund, with the tax split determined by the location of the revenue source. TOT funds derived from eastern slope properties are reinvested to benefit eastern Placer County, in accordance with long-standing county policy. TOT revenue from the western slope properties, which is roughly 5% of the total TOT revenue, are slotted for promotion and marketing for the county’s Economic Development Department, specifically defined within the general fund budget. For example, past revenue from the western slope has been used to support the Placer County Visitors Bureau.

The following chart shows the breakdown of territory revenue for specific TOT fund purposes and the amount allocated to the county’s general fund.

Placer County TOT Revenue Distribution					
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Eastern Slope	\$18,894,800	\$19,288,710	\$27,525,346	\$28,058,806	\$27,139,216
TOT Funds	\$11,336,880	\$11,573,226	\$16,515,208	\$16,835,284	\$16,283,530
General Fund	\$7,557,920	\$7,715,484	\$11,010,138	\$11,223,522	\$10,855,686
Western Slope					
Western Slope	\$861,253	\$877,639	\$1,388,460	\$1,439,600	\$1,485,030
TOT Funds	\$430,627	\$438,820	\$694,230	\$719,800	\$742,515
General Fund	\$430,627	\$438,820	\$694,230	\$719,800	\$742,515

For the Eastern Placer County area, TOT funds are used in a variety of ways to benefit the region, including:

- Transportation projects.
- Workforce housing.
- Trail construction and improvements.
- Community Art and Gathering Space.
- Park improvements.
- Infrastructure improvements.
- Historical preservation.
- Environmental preservation.

In partnership with the North Lake Tahoe TBID, the county and TBID work together in a framework known as TOT-TBID Dollars at Work. Through this program, the North Lake Tahoe TBID provides advisory input on projects which meet the purpose and intent of the eastern slope communities' needs. Recommendations for use of TOT funds are developed for the Board of Supervisors for projects they believe align with TOT funding priorities. Placer County CEO Office relays these recommendations and any staff recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for final consideration for funding allocation.^{3 4}

³ North Lake Tahoe TBID Agreement with Placer County re TOT Committee Amended Five Year agreement – July 2023. [item_20230718020729866.pdf](https://www.placercounty.com/2023/07/20/20230718020729866.pdf). Accessed April 15, 2025.

⁴ Board of Supervisors meeting July 25, 2023 minutes. [Board of Supervisors Agenda - PLACER COUNTY](#). Accessed April 15, 2025.

TBID

The California Legislature enacted the Property and Business Improvement Law of 1994, effective January 1, 1995, which governs the creation and function of business improvement districts in California. Several steps are involved in the formation and approval of a TBID, beginning with petitions from affected businesses. Businesses which will pay greater than 50% of the proposed assessment must sign petitions to start the TBID formation process. In turn, the signed petitions are then turned in to the Placer County Board of Supervisors, who will then initiate the formal process of creating the TBID during a Board hearing. The Board drafts a resolution to create the TBID and follows this with a process of notification to affected businesses, allowing businesses an opportunity to protest the formation of the TBID. The Board of Supervisors will conduct a public meeting and hearing to allow businesses to share their voice and can then adopt the TBID resolution if no majority protest exists.

When a TBID is formed, the improvement district has an initial term of five years. A TBID can be renewed for an additional five-year term, to a maximum term of ten years. The renewal process for a TBID mirrors the initial formation process. There are currently over one hundred TBIDs in place in California.

Placer County has two TBIDs in place. The North Lake Tahoe TBID was created in 2021, expires in 2026, and is eligible to be renewed for an additional five-year term. The Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Microtransit District Management District Plan was created in 2018, renewed in 2023, and will expire in 2028. Both TBIDs have varying assessments between 1 and 2%, depending on the location and type of the business within the district.

The North Lake Tahoe TBID is managed by the North Tahoe Community Alliance (NTCA). Representatives of businesses within the district paying the assessments serve on a managing committee created by the NTCA. The TBID is operated in accordance with a Management District Plan,⁵ which was prepared by affected businesses during the formation process. The Management District Plan includes specific information such as the assessment rates, collection process, budget, and activities to be funded. The TBID resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors also includes these provisions.

The NTCA is required to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors detailing the TBID budget and activities for the upcoming year. The NTCA is required to hold public meetings to conduct TBID business, and TBID records are kept in compliance with the California Public Records Act. The money raised through the TBID assessment must be used in accordance with the provisions of the

⁵ North Lake Tahoe Tourism & Business Improvement District.
www.northtahoecommunityalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/HERE-1.pdf. Accessed April 1, 2025.

Management District Plan and cannot be diverted to other uses or the County's general fund.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the North Lake Tahoe TBID generated \$6,545,956 through TBID assessments. The TBID paid Placer County \$127,998 in administration fees, per their agreement with the county.⁶

North Lake Tahoe TBID dollars fund the following:

- Environmental Stewardship and Tourism Impact Mitigation
- Community Enhancement
- North Tahoe Chamber of Commerce Activity
- Destination Marketing Efforts
- Business Advocacy

North Tahoe Community Alliance has a TOT Advisory Board, which supports the TOT-TBID Dollars at Work program described above. The North Tahoe Community Alliance sees the TOT-TBID Dollars at Work as a crucial component for the successful development of the local region and an effective partnership for the TBID.

The Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Microtransit District is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of local stakeholders. One of the Board seats is held by a representative of Placer County. The Board has a part time Executive Director responsible for ongoing district oversight and Mountaineer service administration and operations. Mountaineer Transit Company (MTC) operates a complimentary Mountaineer transit service during the winter months for guests and residents of Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows. The TBID funds are used exclusively for this microtransit service. MTC submits an annual report to the Placer County Board of Supervisors. The annual report includes improvements and activities to be funded in the coming year, a cost estimate of those improvements and activities, and information relating to assessment levies. The TBID operates in accordance with their Management District Plan⁷ as well.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, the Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Microtransit District generated \$1,229,654 through TBID assessments. The district paid Placer County \$13,050 for assessment collection expenses, per their agreement with the county.

⁶ NTCA FY 2023-2024 Annual Report. www.northtahoecommunityalliance.com/who-we-are/annual-report/. Accessed March 5, 2025.

⁷ Mountaineer Olympic Valley / Alpine Meadows Microtransit District. www.mountaineertransit.org/files/ugd/ebbec7_71bff949b8f64a529f9d453d3ba6cfe3.pdf. Accessed April 1, 2025.

Conclusion

The Transit Occupancy Tax for Placer County is a significant source of revenue, bringing in nearly \$30 million a year for the last three fiscal years. This revenue has allowed the county to invest in a variety of projects benefitting the North Lake Tahoe area residents and visitors. Transit Occupancy Tax revenue also results in a sizable addition to the county's general fund, roughly \$11 million a year, which benefits residents throughout the county, not just the North Lake Tahoe region.

The Tourism Business Improvement District programs also play a key role for the Lake Tahoe region, an additional benefit for the county. The revenue for the North Lake Tahoe Tourism Business Improvement District is vital for the region and contributes to both promotion and preservation in the area. While the Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Tourism Business Improvement District is a lower revenue program, the funding of free transit services during the ski season for the area is key for both businesses and visitors.

Two issues stand out as needing attention, and county leadership has shared both their concern and thoughts on finding solutions. The audit program for Transit Occupancy Tax compliance needs work, as both the audit volume and confidence in the vendor are lacking. Transit Occupancy Tax revenue collection also needs an overhaul, both in terms of technology and staff direction.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** Placer County uses a third-party vendor to identify properties subject to Transit Occupancy Tax compliance. Since moving to third party vendors for this process, more than 1,500 properties have been identified which were previously unknown to the county and have operations subject to Transit Occupancy Tax compliance. Identification of such properties improves compliance and Transit Occupancy Tax revenue for Placer County.
- F2.** Audits of individual properties for Transit Occupancy Tax compliance are not effective; audit volume is low, and the third-party vendor audit reports lack professionalism. The Treasurer - Tax Collectors Office is investigating the benefits of discontinuing the contract with HdL and using the Placer County Audit Department to better meet audit needs.
- F3.** The Transit Occupancy Tax remittance process is not efficient. The Treasurer's office is reviewing software vendors to allow property owners to easily remit Transit Occupancy Tax dollars online.

- F4.** The Placer County Auditor-Controller's Office internal audit report of Revenue Services for fiscal year 2021-22 identified several recommendations regarding the Transit Occupancy Tax and Tourism Business Improvement District programs, including Transit Occupancy Tax oversight, Transit Occupancy Tax audit, and Tourism Business Improvement District agreement compliance.
- F5.** The Placer County website has extensive information on the North Lake Tahoe Tourism Business Improvement District, managed by the North Tahoe Community Alliance. However, the website has very limited information on the Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Microtransit District, only addressing the lodging Tourism Business Improvement District rate on one webpage.
- F6.** The Transit Occupancy Tax and Tourism Business Improvement District programs have provided a significant boost to funds available for investment in the North Lake Tahoe region, benefiting both Placer County residents and visitors.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** The Treasurer-Tax Collector should develop Transit Occupancy Tax audit expectations and an audit solution which are both effective and cost-wise by November 1, 2025.
- R2.** The Treasurer-Tax Collector should pursue approval and installation of new technology solutions to revamp the Transit Occupancy Tax and Tourism Business Improvement District collection process by December 31, 2025.
- R3.** The Treasurer-Tax Collector should complete the follow-up review of the fiscal year 2021-22 internal audit and report on any corrections or additional action to be taken by October 31, 2025.
- R4.** The Treasurer-Tax Collector should oversee an update to the Placer County website to include detailed information on the Olympic Valley Alpine Meadows Microtransit District Tourism Business Improvement District by November 1, 2025.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County grand jury requires a response from the following governing body:

<u>Responding Entity</u>	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Tristan Butcher Treasurer-Tax Collector Placer County 2976 Richardson Drive Auburn, CA 95603	F2, F3, F4, F5	R1, R2, R3, R4	September 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Board of Supervisors
Placer County
175 Fulweiler Avenue, Suite 206
Auburn, CA 95603

Stephanie Holloway, PE, TE
Deputy County Executive Officer
County Executive Office | Tahoe
775 N Lake Boulevard
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Placer County Jails, Holding Facilities, Coroner's Office and District Attorney's Office

Annual Inspections for Jails 2024-2025
Community Updates on Coroner & District Attorney Services

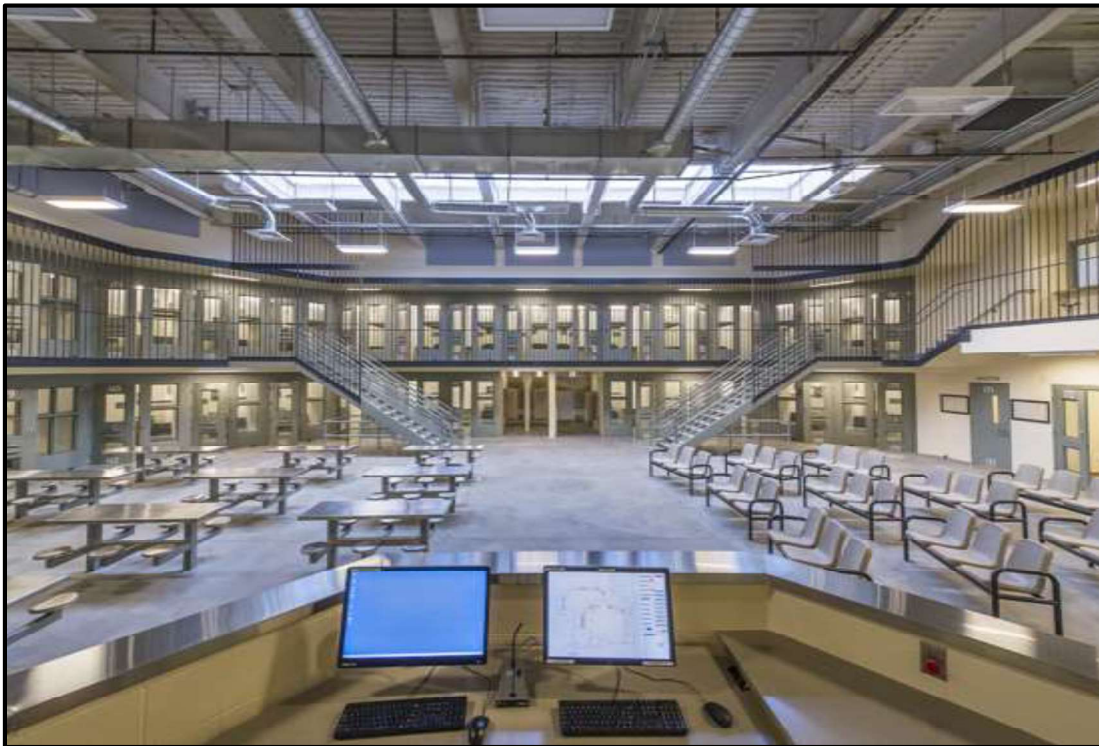


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Placer County Grand Jury 2024-2025 Report: Inspections of Jails and Holding Facilities, Community Update on Coroner's and District Attorney's Offices

Summary

This report provides an in-depth review of the Placer County Grand Jury's inspections of three county jails and three holding facilities. The Placer County Grand Jury also visited the Placer County Sheriff's Coroner's Office and the Placer County District Attorney's Office for the 2024-2025 term.

As part of its statutory responsibility, the grand jury conducted comprehensive on-site evaluations of each facility to assess their condition, operations, and adherence to state and local standards. The inspections included detailed observations of cleanliness, maintenance, safety protocols, and the overall treatment of detainees. The grand jury found each facility to be clean, well-maintained and compliant with safety protocols and the proper treatment of detainees is actively taking place.

Jails

- Placer County Main Jail in Auburn
- South Placer Adult Correctional Facility in Roseville
- South Placer Minimum Security Facility in Roseville

Holding Facilities

- Historic Auburn Courthouse
- Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse in Roseville
- Burton Creek Tahoe Substation in Tahoe City

Coroner's Office

District Attorney's Office

Glossary

Bill Santucci Justice Center: This complex consists of the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility, Placer County Minimum Security Facility, Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse, Placer County Probation Department, Placer County Vocational Training Center, Placer County Mental Health Facility, Coroner's Office, and the District Attorney's office.

California Assembly Bill 109: A legislative bill which realigned prison inmate population by shifting the responsibility of housing lower-level offenders from the state to the counties.

Forensic Pathologist: A medical doctor qualified as an expert in determining manner and cause of death.

Holding Cell: A small, secure room in a courthouse in which an inmate is held temporarily pending charge, trial, or sentencing.

Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse: A courthouse containing a holding facility as part of the Bill Santucci Justice Center.

Placer County Corrections Officers: Non-sworn officers employed by the Sheriff's Office which work within the detention facilities.

Placer County Deputy Sheriff: A Placer County sworn officer employed by the Sheriff's Office and also serves as a deputy coroner.

Placer County District Attorney's Office: The Placer County District Attorney's Office prosecutes crimes, conducts investigations, supports victims, and works to safeguard the community.

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility: A medium-security county jail located in Auburn, California. It serves as a secure environment for youth who have been arrested within Placer County.

Placer County Main Jail: The county's primary jail located in Auburn.

Placer County Sheriff's Office: The county agency responsible for all corrections facilities and staff.

Placer County Sheriff's Coroner's Office: This office's responsibility is to conduct a complete and objective medicolegal investigation surrounding "reportable" deaths within Placer County, the purpose being to determine the circumstances, cause, and manner of death. The Placer County Sheriff is also the County Coroner.

Placer County Tahoe Substation: A small holding facility located in Tahoe City, also known as Burton Creek Sheriff's Substation

Respiratory Personal Protection Equipment (PPE): Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards which may cause workplace injuries and illnesses.

The Americans with Disabilities Act: A federal law which protects people with disabilities in many areas of public life.

Background

Section 919(b) of the California Penal Code mandates, "*The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within the county.*" The state defines public prisons as jails, holding facilities, and detention centers for temporary, medium, or long-term confinement.

Methodology

The Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) undertook a comprehensive evaluation of Placer County correctional facilities by conducting on-site visits, engaging in interviews, and making detailed observations. The grand jury visited each facility in the county, including jails, holding facilities, coroner's office, and district attorney's office ensuring thorough coverage of its investigative responsibilities.

During these visits, members of the grand jury interviewed correctional officers, administrative staff, medical personnel, coroner's office employees and district attorney staff to gain insights into daily operations, challenges, and overall conditions. Interviews were also conducted with inmates to understand their experiences, including concerns about living conditions, meals, treatment, and available resources.

The grand jury observed inmates in their housing units, monitoring interactions among the incarcerated population and between inmates and staff. They also observed structured activities in communal day rooms, such as recreational programs, educational initiatives, or other supervised activities designed for rehabilitation and engagement.

To ensure a balanced and accurate representation of operations, the PCGJ conducted several visits to both the Bill Santucci Justice Center and the Auburn Main Jail.

Through this systematic approach, the PCGJ gathered critical information to evaluate the overall efficiency, safety, and compliance of these facilities.

Key Observations:

- **Jails:** All three Placer County jails were inspected thoroughly, with the grand jury noting areas were clean, orderly, and well-maintained. Specific findings related to capacity, inmate services, and any areas of concern or improvement are detailed in individual sections of this report.
- **Holding Facilities:** Inspections of the three holding facilities focused on their functionality, compliance with holding standards, and readiness for short-term detention. While most facilities met expectations, this report highlights any deficiencies or noteworthy practices within each location.
- **Sheriff's Coroner's Office:** A visit to the Coroner's Office allowed the grand jury to review its operations, including procedures for case management, evidence handling, and autopsy protocols. Although the grand jury is not required to report on the coroner's office, observations from this visit are included in a dedicated section.

- **District Attorney’s Office:** The Placer County District Attorney’s Office is responsible for prosecuting crimes, supporting victims, and ensuring public safety through fair and ethical legal practices. They work closely with law enforcement agencies, conduct thorough investigations, and engage with the community to promote transparency and justice. Although the grand jury is not required to report on the district attorney’s office, observations from this visit are included in a dedicated section.

This report aims to provide transparency and accountability by documenting the findings and offering recommendations to address any identified issues. The detailed analysis within each section reflects the grand jury’s commitment to ensuring Placer County facilities uphold the highest standards of safety, sanitation, and efficiency.

Discussion

Placer County Main Jail (Auburn)

Facility Overview

The Placer County Main Jail (PCMJ) in Auburn has been in operation since July 1985, originally constructed at a cost of \$4.5 million. Initially designed to house 108 inmates, the facility quickly exceeded capacity, reaching 148 inmates within two months and 272 by 1990. A federal court mandate limiting the population to 148 inmates led to a 260-bed expansion in 1992, increasing the facility’s total capacity.¹

Currently, PCMJ has a maximum capacity of 646² inmates. The facility was originally intended for short-term housing, but changes in state legislation, such as AB 109,³ have resulted in significantly longer stays for inmates in Placer County jails, including one individual currently serving a fifteen-year sentence.

Inspection Details

On September 24, 2024, the PCGJ conducted an inspection of PCMJ, accompanied by command staff from the Placer County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO) and two Placer County Correctional Officers (PCCO).

At the time of the inspection, the jail housed 389 men and 69 women, totaling 458 inmates. Since the last grand jury inspection, there have been two reported suicide attempts.

¹ Auburn Jail - Construction. www.placer.ca.gov/2482/Auburn-Jail. Accessed January 3, 2025.

² Auburn Jail – Minimum Security. www.placer.ca.gov/2482/Auburn-Jail. Accessed March 4, 2025.

³ Assembly Bill 109. oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/recidivism/realignment-factsheet.pdf. Accessed February 20, 2025.

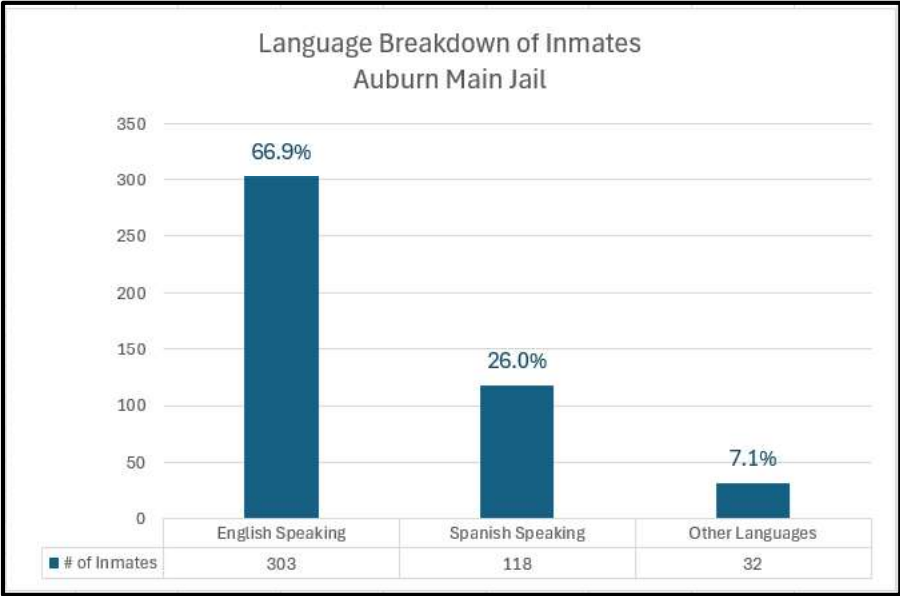
The facility has undergone several routine inspections in recent years, including:

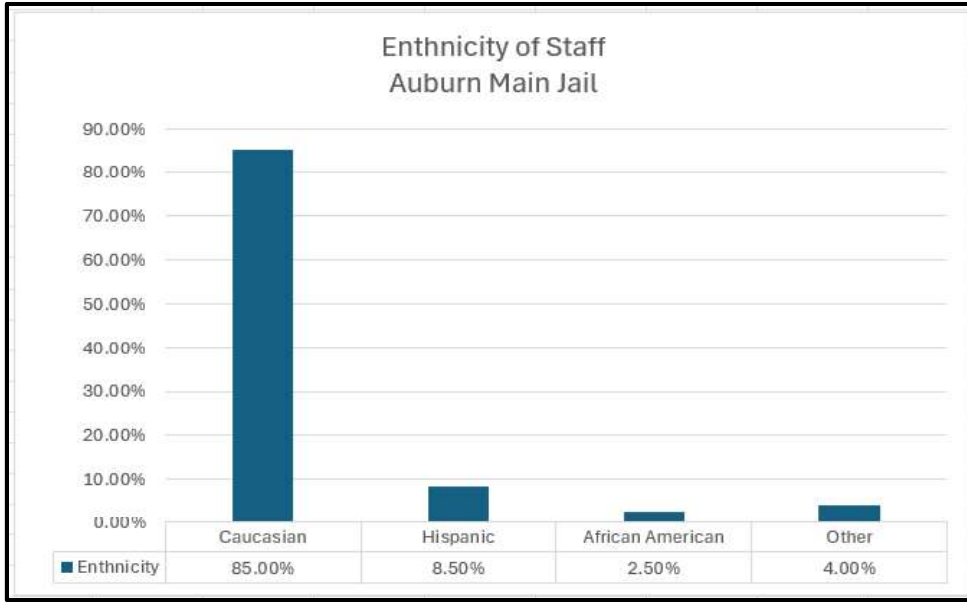
- Correctional Standards Authorization Inspection: October 26, 2023.
- Environmental Health Inspection: December 14, 2023.
- Mental Health Inspection: February 20, 2024.
- Nutritional Health Inspection: February 20, 2024.
- Fire Inspection: September 9, 2024.
- Board of State and Community Corrections: November 12, 2024.

Inmate Classification & Staffing

Inmate classification follows an objective classification system, ensuring inmates are appropriately housed based on risk level, behavior, and security needs. Classification officers engage with inmates regularly as part of this process.

The staff-to-inmate ratio is 1:31, covering both day and night shifts. The language breakdown of the inmate population is as follows:





Inmate Living Conditions

Hygiene policies allow inmates to shower daily, except those on disciplinary status, who are permitted to shower every other day. Clothing is separately provided for men and women with adequate sizing.

Laundry services are provided once per week, complying with Title 15 requirements. Inmates are supplied with twice the required amount of clothing, and damaged clothing is replaced as needed.

Disciplinary Policies & Grievances

The facility has a written policy for disciplinary actions, which is communicated to inmates upon entry. Each inmate receives a Rules of Inmate Conduct pamphlet, outlining jail policies, disciplinary procedures, and behavioral expectations. Accommodations are available for non-English speaking detainees to ensure full access to the policy for disciplinary action.

The most common types of inmate grievances include medical concerns and classification disputes.

Educational Programs

Educational opportunities are available within the facility. As of the September 24, 2024, inspection, 212 of the inmates were enrolled in educational programs at the start of the new school year.

The program is staffed by twelve personnel, including five teachers. However, PCMJ does not employ full-time teachers, instead relying on instructors provided through Placer School for Adults (PSA).

Facility Conditions & Safety Concerns

Facility improvements are ongoing, with new touchscreen control panels being installed in all housing unit control centers. On February 18, 2025, the PCGJ revisited each of the housing units in the Placer County Main Jail in Auburn to assess the installation progress of the new touchscreen control panels, which are expected to be completed by the end of April 2025.

During the February 18th visit the PCGJ inspected the mail room. The PCGJ observed the mail handling ductless fume hood⁴ has been in use since its installation in November 2022 for safely venting air when opening mail. The correctional officer overseeing the area confirmed the maintenance schedule for cleaning and changing filters was being followed, but there was no documentation record to verify this. During the inspection, the PCGJ noted a coffee station, and cups were placed next to the fume hood. Food and drink should not be present in areas where there is a potential for hazardous material exposure. Additionally, no measurements or indicators of airflow were observed at the fume hood, making it impossible to determine if the fume hood was properly functioning at the time of inspection. Without documentation or clear signs of airflow, there is no way to confirm the exhaust system is functioning as intended.

Safety remains a critical focus, with fifty-six reported inmate-on-inmate assaults and eight reports of incidents involving inmate-on-officers in 2024 as of the PCGJ inspection on September 24, 2024. These figures emphasize the ongoing challenges faced in maintaining security within the facility and underscore the importance of continued vigilance and enhancement of safety protocols to address these concerns.

The Auburn Main Jail continues to operate successfully within regulatory compliance, completing required inspections and maintaining essential services for inmates. While safety remains an ongoing challenge, the facility is adapting well to state mandates and changes in inmate demographics, prioritizing the safety and well-being of both inmates and staff. The Board of State and Community Corrections conducted an assessment in November 2024 and found no issues of noncompliance with Title 15⁵ or Title 24⁶ minimum standards. This inspection, carried out under Penal Code Section 6031, confirmed the jail met the minimum standards for local detention facilities. *The PCGJ's own investigation similarly found no compliance issues.*

⁴ Mail Handling Safety Hood. www.airscience.com/mail-handling-safety. Accessed February 25, 2025.

⁵ Title 15. www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Adult-Titles-15-Effect-4-1-17.pdf. Accessed March 11, 2025.

⁶ Title 24. www.library.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/GuideToTitle24.pdf. Accessed March 11, 2025.

Bill Santucci Justice Center

The Bill Santucci Justice Center (Justice Center) services all of Placer County. Located in Roseville, California, this multifaceted center brings together a range of critical facilities and services, promoting collaboration among law enforcement, judicial, and support agencies.

At the heart of the justice center is the Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse, which serves as a hub for legal proceedings, including criminal, civil, family, and juvenile cases. The courthouse offers a professional and supportive environment with multiple courtrooms, judges' chambers, and administrative offices. It also provides resources such as self-help centers and mediation services, ensuring community members have access to guidance throughout the legal process.

The complex includes both the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility and the Placer County Minimum Security Facility, which provide secure and structured environments for individuals in custody. The South Placer Adult Correctional Facility houses both pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates, offering a variety of programs focused on rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society. The Minimum-Security Facility emphasizes work-release opportunities and community-based initiatives, allowing low-risk inmates to contribute positively while serving their sentences. Both facilities reinforce the center's commitment to reducing recidivism and promoting personal growth.

The Placer County Probation Department, also part of the justice center, manages probation services for adults and juveniles. The department offers supervision, counseling, and rehabilitation programs designed to help probationers meet their requirements and avoid further involvement with the justice system. Working closely with the courts, the department ensures a seamless approach to monitoring and support.

The Coroner's Office is responsible for investigating sudden, unexpected, or suspicious deaths within Placer County. It conducts autopsies, determines causes of death, and provides critical information to law enforcement, public health officials, and grieving families. The Coroner's Office is committed to maintaining transparency in its investigative processes while offering compassionate support to families during difficult times.

The Placer County District Attorney's Office plays a critical role in prosecuting criminal cases and advocating for victims' rights. It is dedicated to maintaining public safety, upholding the law, and engaging in crime prevention initiatives. Through community outreach and education, the District Attorney's Office helps strengthen trust between law enforcement and the public.

In 2025, the Justice Center will expand its services with the opening of the Placer County Vocational Training Center and the Placer County Mental Health Facility. The vocational training center will provide educational and job training programs to help detainees develop trade and soft skills, enhancing their employability and supporting successful community reintegration. The mental health facility will offer assessment, counseling, and treatment services to address the mental health needs of inmates, probationers, and community members, ensuring they receive the support and care they need.

The Justice Center's integrated approach, combining legal, correctional, mental health, and vocational services within a single complex, enhances operational efficiency and fosters meaningful collaboration among agencies. This holistic model not only ensures the effective administration of justice, but also promotes safety, accountability, and positive change within the community.

South Placer Detention Facility

The South Placer Detention Facility, located within the Justice Center in Roseville, represents a cornerstone of Placer County's long-term strategy to address population growth and enhance correctional services. Identified as a critical component of the county's infrastructure, the facility was conceived in response to a growing need for expanded jail capacity.

Construction of the first phase of the detention facility began in 2008 and reached substantial completion in 2012, with an investment of \$30 million.⁷ The resulting structure spans approximately 200,000 square feet and is equipped with a rated capacity for 420 inmates. This modern detention facility incorporates state-of-the-art features and aligns with the county's commitment to providing safe and rehabilitative environments.

In 2022, the Placer County Board of Supervisors approved funding for the next stage of development, authorizing two design-build contracts totaling \$56 million. These contracts encompass the construction of a Mental Health Treatment Facility and a Vocational Training Center, essential components of the county's multi-year, phased development plan. On October 29, 2024, the PCGJ conducted an inspection of the facilities at the Justice Center, with a focus on ongoing construction projects and existing vocational training spaces. This assessment was to evaluate the progress of new developments, assess operational functionality, and ensure compliance with applicable standards.

⁷ Dreyfuss & Blackford, LLC. www.dreyfussblackford.com/project/south-placer-county-santucci-justice-center-courthouse/. Accessed January 15, 2025.

The PCGJ began its inspection at the future site of the Placer County Vocational Training Center, which was created out of legislation, which was signed into law SB844. The center is designed to provide instruction in various trades, including welding, sewing, and digital design. Construction is underway for the new minimum housing and vocational training facility at the Justice Center covering and estimated 38,500 square feet.⁸ This facility is designed to accommodate sixty beds for male re-entry inmates and sixty beds for female minimum-security inmates. In addition to the housing units, the facility will include day rooms, bathrooms, officer stations and dedicated areas for visitation. It will also feature classrooms and vocational training spaces to provide inmates with valuable skills and educational opportunities. Once completed, this facility will play a pivotal role in preparing inmates for successful reintegration into society.



Photo Credit: Placer County

Placer County Vocational Training Center



Photo credit: Placer County

⁸ Placer County SB844 Vocational Center. www.placer.ca.gov/9635/SB844-Vocational-Center. Accessed January 15, 2025.

Adjacent to the construction site is the smaller Sewing, Printing, Embroidery, and Crafts (SPEC) training area. This facility offers hands-on vocational training, utilizing specialized equipment for producing items such as custom-printed shirts, embroidered hats, stickers, and laser-engraved wooden products. The SPEC area demonstrates a commitment to skill-building, offering inmates practical and marketable trades which could support their transition post-incarceration.

The rear section of the jail no longer houses a landscape training area where inmates were able to acquire skills in horticulture and groundskeeping. This space provided an opportunity for learning a trade which remains in high demand in the region. Once the new Vocational Training Center is opened, they will reassess the need for training in this vocation.

Placer County Mental Health Facility,⁹ another key project under construction enacted out of SB863, is designed to support up to forty-five inmates requiring mental health services. The facility's purpose is to provide targeted treatment to individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial, aiming to restore their competency within an average treatment period of 55 days. This initiative highlights Placer County's commitment to addressing the intersection of mental health and the justice system, ensuring individuals receive appropriate care while fulfilling legal requirements. The PCGJ returned to the South Placer Detention Facility on December 19, 2024, and conducted an additional tour of the Mental Health Facility. The new mental health housing unit at the South Placer Adult Corrections Facility is planned to encompass approximately 16,555 square feet. It will feature forty-five jail beds, day rooms, bathrooms, an officer station, and a classroom. Construction is moving along, and the anticipated opening of this facility is spring 2025.

Placer County Mental Health Facility



Photo credit: Placer County

⁹ Placer County Mental Health Facility. www.placer.ca.gov/9634/SB863-Mental-Health-Facility. Accessed January 15, 2025.

Inspection Details

On October 29, 2024, the PCGJ conducted an inspection of South Placer Jail, accompanied by command staff from the PCSO and two PCCO.

At the time of the inspection, the jail housed 312 men and fifty-four women, totaling 366 inmates. Since the last Grand Jury inspection, there have been four reported suicide attempts.

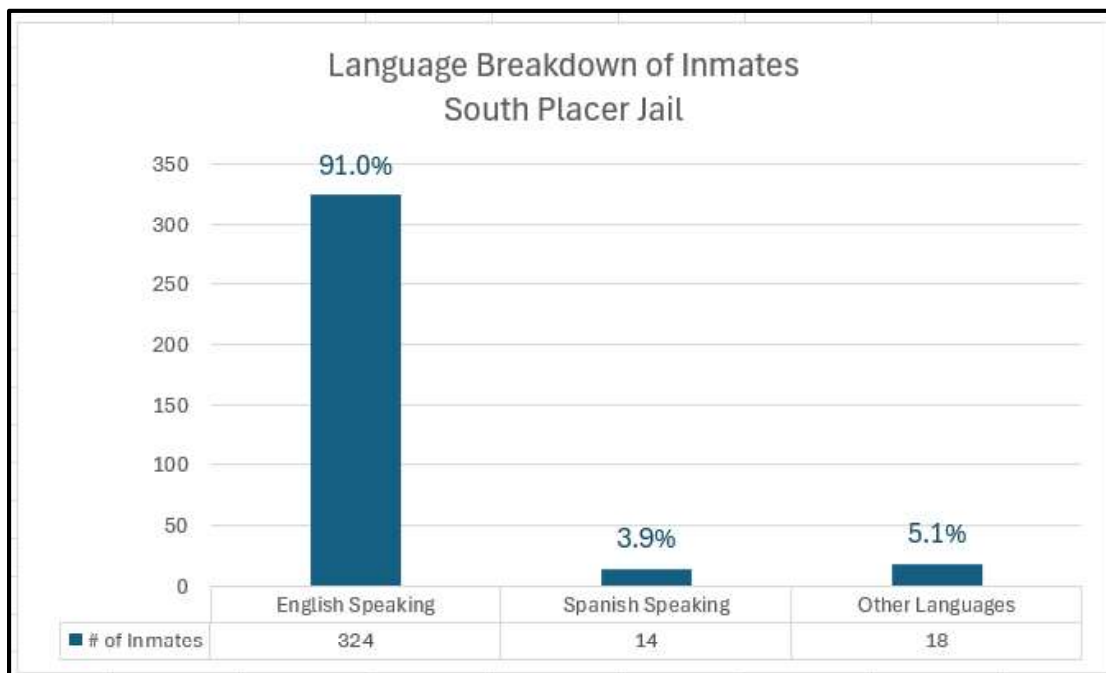
The facility has undergone several routine inspections in recent years, including:

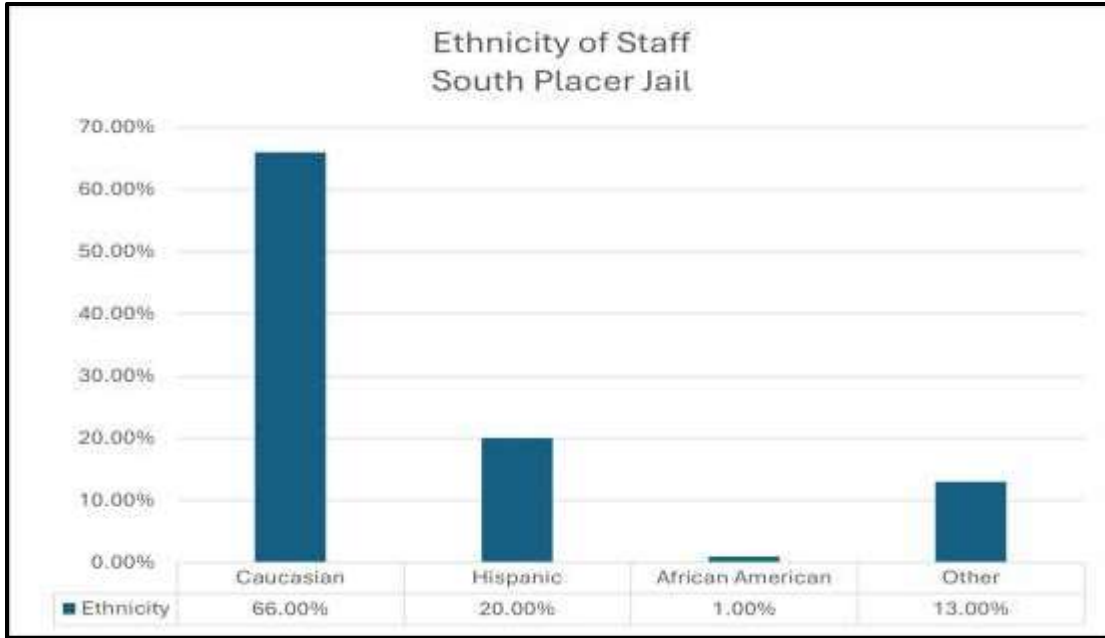
- Correctional Standards Authorization Inspection: October 25, 2023
- Environmental Health Inspection: December 15, 2023
- Mental Health Inspection: February 21, 2024
- Nutritional Health Inspection: February 21, 2024
- Fire Inspection: August 29, 2024
- Board of State and Community Corrections: November 12, 2024

Inmate Classification & Staffing

Inmate classification follows an objective classification system, ensuring inmates are appropriately housed based on risk level, behavior, and security needs. Classification officers engage with inmates regularly as part of this process.

The staff-to-inmate ratio is 1:28 (1:26 on day shifts and 1:31 on night shifts). The language breakdown of the inmate population is as follows:





South Placer Adult Correctional Facility

The South Placer Adult Correctional Facility (SPACF) is a modern detention center designed to accommodate inmates of varying custody levels. The facility consists of two main housing wings, referred to as A-Pod and B-Pod, which are situated adjacent to one another and tailored to meet the specific security and rehabilitation needs of their respective populations.

A-Pod houses inmates with prior prison experience and those serving longer sentences, requiring higher levels of security and supervision. B-Pod accommodates individuals characterized by staff as “less sophisticated inmates” who are typically serving shorter sentences and have not previously been incarcerated in state prisons.

Both housing units are overseen by correctional officers. One correctional officer is stationed in each pod to monitor activity, conduct hourly patrols at random intervals, and manage cell access. An additional officer rotates between the two pods to provide supplemental oversight and support as needed.

The common areas within each pod are maintained by the inmates themselves and were observed to be clean, organized, and orderly. Inmates are granted access to these shared spaces for up to five hours daily, well above the state-mandated minimum of one hour per day. During this time, they can use secure, internet-disabled tablets and telephones for personal communication. These extended recreation hours reflect SPACF’s emphasis on providing a supportive environment which fosters inmate well-being.

One of SPACF's features is its culinary operations, managed under contract by Summit Food Services. The facility serves approximately one million meals annually, including meals for the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), the Placer County Main Jail (PCMJ), and the Meals on Wheels program. In addition to its primary mission, SPACF's kitchen is prepared to serve the local community in the event of an emergency, demonstrating its capacity as a critical resource for the region.

The kitchen is equipped with advanced culinary infrastructure, including state-of-the-art cooking appliances, multiple walk-in freezers, and specialized cold storage areas for meal preparation. Oversight is provided by correctional staff, while inmates are trained in food service operations, gaining valuable skills through hands-on experience.

SPACF also offers a two-week culinary training program which equips participants with professional kitchen skills and certifications. The facility partners with local restaurants to help program graduates secure jobs. As of the date of inspection in 2024, thirty-six individuals have completed the training program and transitioned to gainful employment.

The PCGJ found no deficiencies during its inspection of the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility. The well-maintained common areas, innovative culinary program, and thoughtful operational enhancements reflect the county's commitment to providing a secure, rehabilitative environment. SPACF continues to set a high standard in correctional facility management, emphasizing rehabilitation, skill-building, and community support.

Placer County Minimum Security Facility

The Placer County Minimum Security Facility (PCMSF), located within the Justice Center, serves as a low-security correctional option for inmates who meet specific criteria for minimum-risk incarceration. The facility operates with dormitory-style accommodations and includes two housing pods: one designated for male inmates and the other for female inmates.

Unlike traditional correctional facilities, PCMSF does not utilize individual cells. Instead, inmates reside in a shared, open space furnished with bunk beds. This arrangement fosters a less restrictive environment, where individuals can move freely within their assigned areas unless subject to lockdown due to behavioral infractions. Inmates are also tasked with maintaining the cleanliness and organization of their living spaces, promoting personal responsibility and communal cooperation.

As part of its evaluation, the PCGJ conducted interviews with two inmates housed at PCMSF. Both individuals expressed a high level of satisfaction with their placement, describing the facility as an optimal environment for serving a county jail sentence.

They were polite, candid, and provided thoughtful insights into their experiences, which aligned with the facility's rehabilitative mission.

The PCGJ also engaged in discussions with facility staff, who demonstrated a strong commitment to their roles and responsibilities. Officers at PCMSF prioritize not only the safety and security of the facility but also the rehabilitation of those in their custody. Their efforts include fostering a supportive environment emphasizing personal growth, accountability, and preparation for reintegration into the community.

The physical infrastructure of the facility reflects thoughtful design and effective management. All areas inspected were clean, orderly, and well-maintained, showcasing a commitment to high operational standards.

The PCMSF stands out as a model of efficient and humane correctional management. Its dormitory-style housing, emphasis on inmate accountability, and staff dedication to rehabilitation create a positive and constructive atmosphere.

During its inspection, the PCGJ identified no deficiencies or concerns. The facility exemplifies the best practices in minimum-security operations and serves as an integral component of Placer County's correctional system.

Inmate Living Conditions at SPACF & PCMSF

Inmates at the SPACF and PCMSF are permitted to shower daily, with the exception of those on disciplinary status, who are allowed to shower every other day. This policy ensures all inmates maintain personal hygiene standards, contributing to overall health and well-being within the facility.

The facility provides inmates with clothing which is appropriately sized and suitable for their needs. Laundry services are offered once per week, meeting the requirements set by Title 15 regulations. Inmates receive twice the required amount of clothing, and any damaged items are replaced as necessary. This approach ensures inmates have access to clean and adequate clothing at all times.

Disciplinary Policies & Grievances

Similar to PCMJ, the SPACF and PCMSF has established written policies for disciplinary actions, which are communicated to inmates upon entry. Each inmate receives a "Rules of Inmate Conduct" pamphlet outlining jail policies, disciplinary procedures, and behavioral expectations. Accommodations are available for non-English speaking detainees to ensure full understanding of these policies.

Common types of inmate grievances include medical concerns and classification disputes. The facility addresses these grievances through established procedures to ensure inmate concerns are heard and resolved appropriately.

Educational Programs

Educational opportunities are available within the facility. Inmates have the opportunity to earn their GED and/or High School Diploma through programs offered in collaboration with Placer School for Adults depending on how long the detainee is incarcerated. These programs aim to equip inmates with valuable skills and knowledge, facilitating personal development and better integration into society upon release.

Additionally, the facility offers vocational training programs, including a Culinary Arts program, which provides inmates with practical skills which can be applied in the workforce after their release. These programs are designed to enhance inmates' employability and support successful reintegration into the community.

Overall, SPACF and PCMSF are committed to maintaining humane living conditions, clear disciplinary policies, and access to educational and vocational programs to support inmate rehabilitation and successful reentry into society.

Armory

Last year's inspection indicated there was one central armory location. Non-lethal options are now distributed across multiple locations throughout SPACF & PCMSF, ensuring they are easily accessible in all area pods if needed. This adjustment enhances preparedness, improves response times, and reinforces safety protocols across the facility.

The PCGJ observed no deficiencies during the inspection. All operational areas were well-maintained, and the construction sites were managed efficiently, with clear progress visible. The vocational training programs already in place were well-equipped and effectively utilized, offering meaningful opportunities for inmate rehabilitation.

The South Placer Detention Facility at the Justice Center is a model of forward-thinking correctional development. With its focus on vocational training, mental health treatment, and comprehensive inmate rehabilitation, the facility exemplifies Placer County's commitment to serving its residents while addressing modern correctional challenges. The ongoing construction of additional facilities reflects a proactive approach to meeting future needs, ensuring Placer County remains prepared for growth and change.

Inmate Concerns

During the PCGJ inspections at PCMJ, SPACF and PCMSF, one of the primary complaints from detainees was the limited access to outdoor recreational areas. While indoor recreation is available, many expressed a desire for more opportunities to spend time outdoors, citing both mental and physical health benefits.

It is important to acknowledge Placer County jails were not originally designed for long-term incarceration. These facilities were built primarily for short-term housing, yet due to various factors as mentioned in this report, including changes in sentencing laws and detainee classification requirements, many individuals are now serving extended periods of time in these jails. As a result, the need for adequate outdoor recreation has become more significant than it may have been in the past.

One potential solution to improve outdoor access would be to repurpose the basketball area near the new vocational building at the PCMSF. By designating this space for recreational use, the facility could provide detainees with a reasonable outdoor area while maintaining security and operational efficiency. Given the challenges of retrofitting a facility not originally intended for long-term housing, maximizing existing outdoor spaces is a practical and necessary step to address this concern. The PCGJ acknowledges this would only be a solution for the PCMSF and the PCMJ and the SPACF would continue to have challenges in this area. The PCGJ also acknowledges, according to the Board of State and Community Corrections inspection on November 12, 2024, all Title 15 & Title 24 requirements met minimum standards.

Providing reasonable outdoor recreation opportunities aligns with best practices in detainee welfare, reduces stress-related behavioral issues, and supports rehabilitation efforts. Moving forward, it may be beneficial for the facility to evaluate how existing spaces can be better utilized to accommodate this need.

Proposition 47,¹⁰ passed in 2014, reduced certain nonviolent felonies to misdemeanors, leading to a decrease in state prison populations but placing a heavier burden on county jails, which were not designed for long-term incarceration. This shift contributed to overcrowding, limited rehabilitation resources, and concerns over rising crime rates. However, Proposition 36,¹¹ enacted in 2024, partially reversed these changes by reinstating felony classifications for repeat offenders and certain drug and theft crimes.

Inspection Report: Placer County Holding Facilities Historic Auburn Courthouse

The Historic Auburn Courthouse (HAC)¹² has a storied past, beginning with the original courthouse built in 1848, a modest 20' x 20' wooden structure with minimal amenities. Its zinc roof and lack of glass windows or doors made it uncomfortably hot under the California sun. Recognizing the need for a more functional courthouse,

¹⁰ California Proposition 47. www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccprop47/. Accessed February 10, 2025.

¹¹ California Proposition 36. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_California_Proposition_36. Accessed February 10, 2025.

¹² Historic Auburn Courthouse. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/history-court. Accessed February 10, 2025.

the community constructed a two-story wooden building on Court Street in 1853. This structure accommodated various county offices and included dedicated spaces for the grand jury and courtroom proceedings.

Despite its utility, a fire in 1855 destroyed the adjacent jail, though the courthouse itself was spared. By 1891, the aging courthouse was deemed unsuitable for continued use. The current HAC opened in 1894, incorporating a new jail and serving as the hub for county business over several decades.

On November 12, 2024, the PCGJ conducted its annual inspection of this historic facility. The courthouse, while maintaining its historical charm, has undergone significant modernization to meet contemporary judicial requirements. Its three courtrooms now feature updated technology and amenities to support today's legal processes.

The PCGJ observed six to seven staff members on duty during the inspection. Uniformed personnel were noted for their consistent use of department-issued body-worn cameras, underscoring the county's commitment to accountability and transparency. Staff members were cooperative, providing comprehensive information about daily operations.

The holding cells, typically housing three to four inmates at a time, appeared well-maintained and secure. Staff reported a new scanner system is being installed near the facility's entrance to enhance security protocols, with funding already approved.

The only deficiency noted during the inspection was a dirty staircase leading to the holding cells which also was an observation in last year's grand jury report. Despite this minor issue, the overall cleanliness and functionality of the courthouse met appropriate standards.

Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse

On December 19, 2024, the PCGJ conducted its annual inspection of the Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse. The Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse serves as a temporary housing facility for inmates awaiting court appearances. The facility features a secure and efficient design tailored to streamline inmate processing and ensure safety.

Inmates arrive at the courthouse via a quarter-mile underground tunnel connecting the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility to the courthouse basement. Upon arrival, inmates are assigned to holding cells based on their classification.

The layout of the holding facility on the main floor is open and includes a centrally located officer's station staffed by multiple officers. The environment was noted for its cleanliness, bright lighting, and calm atmosphere. The design promotes both operational efficiency and a sense of order, reflecting a thoughtful approach to facility management.

Inmates are transported to courtrooms via elevator. Upon reaching the courtroom floor, they are held in designated cells adjacent to the courtrooms until their case is called. This layout, with holding areas positioned between two courtrooms, allows for secure and streamlined movement of inmates within the facility.

The design of the courthouse prioritizes security and convenience, ensuring inmates, staff, and the public are protected throughout judicial proceedings. Staff members demonstrated professionalism and a genuine concern for inmate welfare. The entire facility appeared well-maintained and in excellent repair, supporting its mission of providing secure and efficient judicial operations.

Both the HAC and the Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse exemplify Placer County's dedication to maintaining safe, functional, and secure holding facilities. While the HAC reflects the county's rich history and modernization efforts, the Gibson Courthouse stands out for its innovative design and operational efficiency.

The PCGJ found no significant deficiencies in either facility. Both facilities operate at a high standard, ensuring the safety and welfare of staff, inmates, and the public.

Tahoe Substation

The Tahoe Substation, a two-story wood-frame building, was originally constructed in 1959 to support the 1960 Winter Olympics. Today, it serves multiple functions, housing the North Tahoe Sheriff's substation, a small jail, a Placer County Superior Courtroom, and a regional District Attorney's office.

Despite its utility, the facility is outdated, undersized, and situated on an environmentally sensitive site governed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Concerns about the building's inadequacy are longstanding. As early as the mid-1990s, the PCGJ advocated for its replacement, citing significant safety and liability concerns in multiple reports. In the 1999-2000 Final Report,¹³ the PCGJ highlighted the county's acknowledgment of the need for a new facility, with a projected replacement timeline extending from 2006 to 2011. The urgency of these recommendations was reiterated in the 2001-2002 report,¹⁴ as well as the 2023-2024 report.¹⁵ This underscores the critical need for the new justice center, a matter which has been overlooked and diminished for the past 25 years. This anticipated facility aims to address the deficiencies of the current substation while enhancing public safety and providing improved services to Tahoe area residents. The Tahoe Substation continues to operate effectively under less-than-ideal conditions, thanks

¹³ Placer County Grand Jury Final Report 1999-2000. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/burton-creek.pdf. Accessed February 10, 2025.

¹⁴ Placer County Grand Jury Final Report 2001-2002. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/burton-creek_0_0.pdf. Accessed February 10, 2025.

¹⁵ Placer County Grand Jury Final Report 2023-2024. www.placer.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/FINAL%20CONSOLIDATED%20REPORT%202023-24.pdf. Accessed February 10, 2025.

to the dedication and resourcefulness of its staff. However, the facility's longstanding issues, undersized space, outdated infrastructure, and its environmentally sensitive location, underscore the need for the new Tahoe Justice Center.

The PCGJ conducted an inspection of the Tahoe Substation holding facility on November 8, 2024. While small and outdated, the facility is effectively managed and maintained by its staff.

- **Organization and Security:** The facility is compact but efficiently organized. Video surveillance cameras are installed in public areas, providing enhanced security. The weapons locker was noted to be well-arranged, reflecting the staff's attention to detail in maintaining operational readiness.
- **Professionalism:** The staff exhibited a high level of professionalism and enthusiasm, willingly providing the PCGJ with a thorough overview of the holding facility despite its limitations.

The PCGJ commends the staff for their commitment to maintaining high standards of service and security despite the challenges posed by the facility's inadequacies. The planned Tahoe Justice Center represents a crucial step toward addressing these deficiencies and ensuring the provision of modern, safe, and efficient public safety and judicial services for the Tahoe region.

Placer County Sheriff's Office, Coroner's Unit

In Placer County, the Office of the Coroner has been an integral part of county operations since its establishment in 1851, coinciding with the creation of the county itself. The elected Placer County Coroner bears the critical responsibility of investigating and determining causes of death, a process carried out with the expert support of a forensic pathologist. Until recently, the Coroner's Office operated from a modest, 1,500-square-foot morgue constructed in the 1940s. This facility featured only a single autopsy station and required forensic pathologists, Chief Deputy Coroner, and coroner investigators to operate from separate locations, which created logistical challenges.

In 2021, the county made significant advancement by relocating the Coroner's Office¹⁶ to a modern facility housed within the Justice Center in Roseville. This state-of-the-art facility spans 20,000 square feet and includes an 1,800-square-foot autopsy complex equipped with five autopsy stations and an observation platform overlooking two of the autopsy suites. The project, which cost \$28.5 million, was part of the county's five-year capital improvement plan approved in 2018 by the Board of Supervisors and aligns with the Placer County Criminal Justice Master Plan.

¹⁶ Placer County Coroners Office. www.placer.ca.gov/2461/Coroner. Accessed February 15, 2025.

While the California Penal Code § 919(b) does not mandate the PCGJ to inspect this facility, an opportunity to visit arose on December 19, 2024. The purpose of the visit was to provide Placer County residents with insights into the functions and capabilities of this cutting-edge facility.

The grand jury learned the Coroner's Office not only conducts autopsies for Placer County but also has contractual agreements to provide forensic examination services for Yuba, Nevada, Sierra, and Sutter counties. The office typically performs over 800 autopsies annually, and projections indicate this number may exceed 900 in 2024. Only 40% of the cases originate from Placer County, with the remainder coming from the contracted counties. Staff emphasized not all deaths require autopsies or involvement from the Coroner's Office. Under California Government Code § 27491, only specific types of deaths must be reported to and investigated by the Coroner's Office. These include deaths resulting from homicide, suicide, accidental or undetermined causes, sudden deaths where a physician is unable to determine the cause, and cases where the decedent had not been seen by a physician within 20 days of death.

The grand jury found the Coroner's Office staff to be professional, knowledgeable, and accommodating during the visit. The staff explained the county previously employed two full-time forensic pathologists; however, both positions are currently vacant. After an unsuccessful nationwide search to fill these roles, the county opted to contract with a private company for forensic pathology services to ensure continuity of operations.

During the tour, staff expressed pride in the facility's advanced equipment and innovations. Of particular note, the office is preparing to integrate a groundbreaking postmortem computed tomography (CT) scanner, which will be the first of its kind in the nation. This technology will enable less invasive forensic procedures and will represent a significant advancement in the field. Although the facility has been in operation for four years, it remains in pristine condition and continues to reflect the county's commitment to excellence.

Additionally, the staff highlighted the facility's capacity to manage large-scale emergencies. In the event of a natural disaster or mass casualty incident, the morgue is equipped to process a high volume of victims, supported by large, refrigerated storage trailers stationed on-site.

Overall, the Placer County Coroner's Office stands as a model of modern forensic science and emergency preparedness, serving not only its own residents but also neighboring counties with professionalism and cutting-edge capabilities.

Placer County District Attorney's Office

The Placer County District Attorney's Office plays a crucial role in upholding justice within the community by investigating and prosecuting criminal cases, supporting victims, and ensuring public safety. During the course of the PCGJ visit and tour, it

was evident the District Attorney's Office operates efficiently, effectively, and in line with the county's legal standards. The office is staffed by professionals who are dedicated to their duties, handling a broad range of cases, from misdemeanors to serious felonies, and often working closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure thorough investigations and successful prosecutions.

The PCGJ observed the District Attorney's Office maintains a high level of professionalism and competence. Staff members were knowledgeable, responsive, and committed to the ethical standards set forth in their roles. The office has made significant strides in utilizing technology to streamline case management, improve efficiency, and enhance communication with the public and law enforcement.

A notable initiative is the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center (MDIC),¹⁷ established in 1993 through a collaborative effort between the District Attorney's Office and Placer County Health and Human Services. This center serves as a child-friendly forensic interview facility for children who may have been abused or witnessed a crime. Interviews are conducted by trained Child Forensic Interview Specialists, with team members observing through a closed-circuit monitor and communicating remotely. This approach minimizes the number of interviews a child undergoes, reducing trauma and enhancing the accuracy of information gathered. The MDIC also provides resources and support to families, connecting them with community programs and services.

In conclusion, the Placer County District Attorney's Office continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to serving the public with integrity and professionalism. The PCGJ commends the office for its efforts in maintaining high standards of service and ensuring justice within the community. This review is intended for informational purposes only, as the grand jury is not mandated to inspect the District Attorney's Office under California Penal Code Section 919(b).

Conclusion

Overall, the Placer County Grand Jury found Placer County's correctional facilities to be well-maintained and operating at a satisfactory level. The correctional staff demonstrated professionalism, courtesy, and a strong understanding of their responsibilities. Facilities were clean, bright, and organized, reflecting a commitment to safety and professionalism. While most locations met high standards, the Placer County Main Jail in Auburn and the Tahoe Substation in Tahoe City presented some areas for improvement, which are addressed in the findings and recommendations.

¹⁷ Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center. <https://www.placer.ca.gov/8521/Child-AbuseMDIC>. Accessed February 25, 2025

The Tahoe Substation in Tahoe City presents ongoing concerns, as it will continue to be an issue while funds are being allocated elsewhere to address the county's broader needs. Until the Tahoe Justice Center is constructed, this will remain a challenge which impacts the efficiency of the services provided. The Placer County Grand Jury recommends this facility be prioritized for replacement or substantial renovation to ensure continued safety, effectiveness, and quality of care for both inmates and staff.

Findings

Placer County Main Jail (Auburn)

The grand jury found:

- F1.** The Placer County Auburn Main in Placer County is well-maintained and adheres to state and local standards for safety and sanitation.
- F2.** The Placer County Auburn Main Jail provides a variety of rehabilitation programs, including educational, vocational, and mental health services, to support inmate reentry into the community.
- F3.** Construction for the Mental Health Facility and larger vocational training building will be completed by the end of 2025.
- F4.** The extent and frequency of *maintenance* of the mail handling fume hood is unknown due to the absence of performed maintenance documentation.
- F5.** The *operating efficiency* of the mail handling fume hood is unknown due to the absence of regular testing of the hood's airflow.
- F6.** The presence of coffee making equipment and cups near the mail handling fume hood creates a potential safety hazard, as these items could be contaminated by foreign materials within incoming mail items.

South Placer Adult Correctional Facility

The grand jury found:

- F7.** The South Placer Main Jail demonstrates a commitment to inmate health by providing access to medical, dental and mental health services.
- F8.** The South Placer Main Jail's new vocational training facility will help reduce recidivism by equipping inmates with practical skills for employment upon release.
- F9.** The South Placer Main Jail is enhancing its mental health services with newly designed facilities, providing the care and support detainees which have mental health challenges need.
- F10.** No maintenance records for the ductless fume hood were found.

F11. All of the facilities at this location were found to be well maintained and controlled by staff.

Historical Auburn Courthouse

The grand jury found:

F12. Although the historic Auburn courthouse is old, it has been well maintained and remains in good condition

F13. The historical Auburn courthouse provides excellent educational outreach and engages the community in preserving its history through guided tours, school programs, and community events which highlight its rich history.

F14. While the facility met expectations for cleanliness and maintenance overall, the staircase leading to the holding cells lacks cleanliness.

Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse

The grand jury found:

F15. This facility was found to be well maintained and controlled by staff.

F16. Supports collaboration with the Placer County Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, and Public Defender's Office to provide support for legal proceedings.

F17. The courthouse works closely with the Placer County Sheriff's Office for inmate transportation and courtroom security, promoting safety and efficiency.

Tahoe Substation

The grand jury found:

F18. Several previous Grand Jury reports have cited potential liability issues which are shared by the current Grand Jury.

F19. While this facility is well maintained and operated by staff, the facility is outdated and in need of renovation or replacement.

Recommendations

Placer County Main Jail (Auburn)

The grand jury recommends:

R1. Placer County Sheriff's to maintenance tracking process should be developed and followed for the mail handling fume hood by August 1, 2025.

R2. Placer County Sheriff's to ensure all food and drink and preparation equipment should be removed from the mail room by August 1, 2025.

R3. Placer County Sheriff's to ensure a testing program should be developed and followed for the mail handling fume hood by September 1, 2025.

South Placer Adult Correctional Facility

The grand jury recommends:

- R4.** The grand jury recommends Placer County Sheriff by December 1, 2025, to explore the use of the basketball court at the PCMSF and considering additional outdoor resources to enhance recreational opportunities for detainees.

Historic Auburn Courthouse

The grand jury recommends:

- R5.** The staircase leading to the holding cells should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis. The grand jury recommends Placer County Sheriff maintain and clean the staircase no later than September 1, 2025.

Tahoe Substation

The grand jury recommends:

- R6.** The Placer County Board of Supervisors should review and update plans for the renovation or replacement of this facility by December 1, 2025. The Board of Supervisors should continue to support building a replacement Burton Creek Substation facility and see it through to completion.

Hon. Howard G. Gibson Courthouse

The grand jury has no recommendations.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing entities:

<u>Responding Entity</u>	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Sheriff Wayne Woo Placer County Sheriff 2929 Richardson Dr Auburn, CA 95604-6990	F4, F5, F6, F10, F14	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	September 1, 2025
Placer County Board of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Ave Auburn, CA 95603	F18, F19	R6	October 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Sergeant Eric Hintze
Chief Deputy Coroner
Investigations Division
10951 Veterans Dr
Roseville, CA 95678

Morgan Gire
Placer County District Attorney
10810 Justice Center Drive Ste 240
Roseville, CA 95678



PLACER COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

Annual Inspection 2024-2025

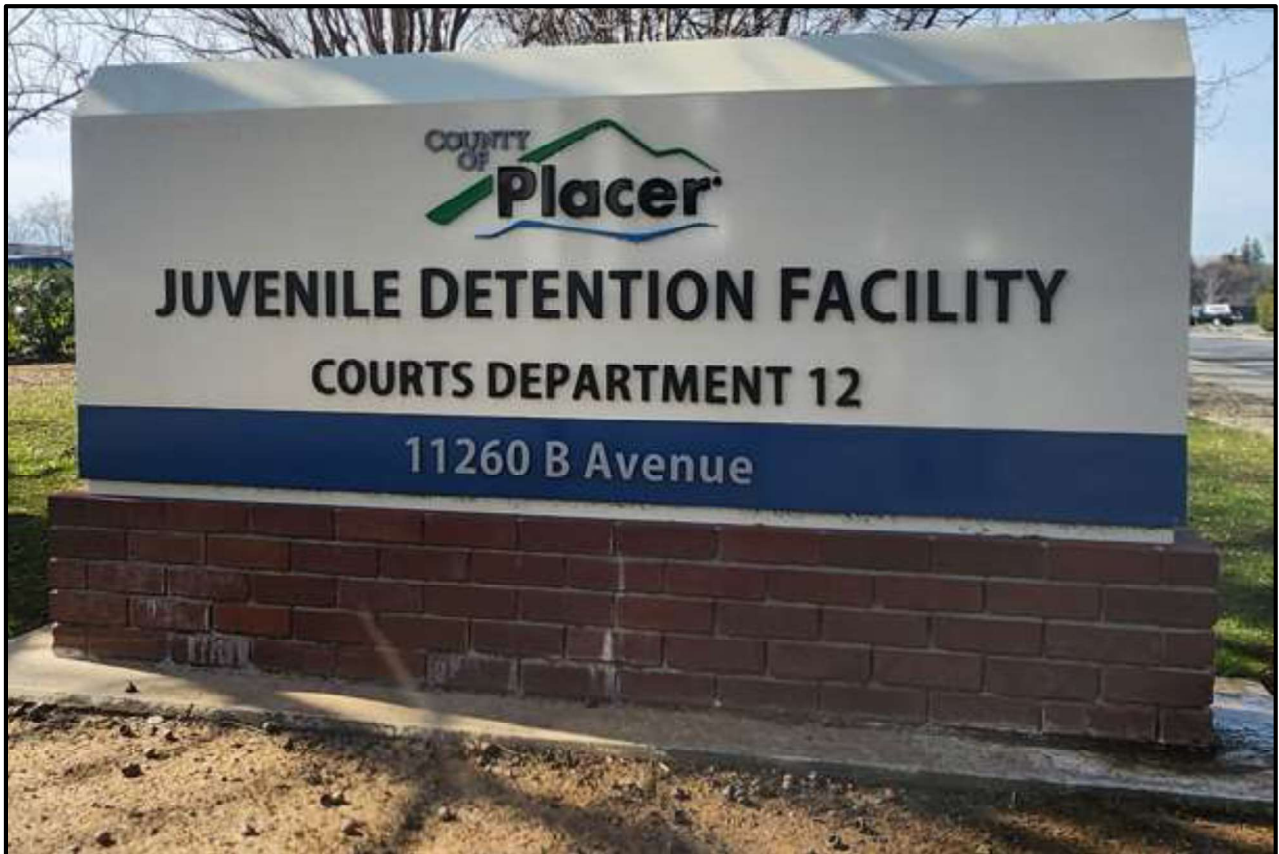


Photo Credit: Placer County Grand Juror

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility Annual Inspection 2024-2025

Summary

The Placer County Grand Jury inspects the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility annually. The Placer County Probation Department oversees the operation of the Juvenile Detention Facility. The 2024-2025 inspection was conducted on October 22, 2024, and was facilitated by three high level probation staff.

The grand jury found the Juvenile Detention Facility to be maintained in a professional manner. The staff demonstrated genuine concern for the youths in their charge. The staff was focused on offering educational opportunities, addressing mental health issues, and providing positive reinforcement for good behavior. The grand jury identified a need to recoup the actual cost of housing youths from outside of Placer County. The 2024-2025 report highlights changes from the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report.

Background

The Placer County Grand Jury investigates and reports on the operations and functions of the County, and per California Penal Code Section 919(b) is required to inquire into the condition and management of its public prisons. Placer County Superior Court has historically interpreted this requirement to include the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility.

Placer County's Juvenile Detention Facility is used to house detained and imprisoned youths from the ages of 12 to 25 years old. The facility first opened on March 2, 2000, in the Dewitt Center at 11260 B Avenue in North Auburn, CA. The facility contains a courtroom used for Juvenile Court which is directly accessed from the detention facility. The facility is relatively modern and spacious with integrated learning and indoor/outdoor recreation areas. The Juvenile Detention Facility is managed and staffed by officers from the Placer County Probation Department. There are a total of seventy-eight beds, but the facility is not staffed or budgeted for full capacity. Placer County imposed a policy years ago to avoid incarcerating Welfare and Institution 601¹ youth offenders; 601s are youths who commit lower-level infractions such as curfew violations or are habitually truant from school. The County believes it is better for 601 youths to remain with their families rather than be placed in the Juvenile Detention Facility.

There were sixteen youths in the detention facility on the day of the inspection with one being from outside the County. The average stay is 15 to 20 days with most youths released in a week. However, it is possible for a youth to stay for multiple years. The average detained youth population was twenty in August 2024.

¹ California Welfare and Institutions Code. codes.findlaw.com/ca/welfare-and-institutions-code/wic-sect-601/. Accessed April 9, 2025.

Methodology

The Placer County Grand Jury performed the following investigative steps as part of the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) annual inspection:

- Six members of the grand jury toured the JDF on October 22, 2024.
- The grand jury interviewed management and program staff at the detention facility.
- Reviewed annual inspection questionnaire provided by JDF staff.
- Reviewed monthly totals of average daily population over the last five years.
- Reviewed written agreements and memorandums related to housing youths from other counties at the Placer County JDF.
- Reviewed written agreements and memorandum with the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) and Sierra College for education support.
- Reviewed Placer County JDF annual budgets for the last five years.
- Reviewed reports of detention facility inspections carried out by the California Board of State and Community Corrections Facilities Standards and Operations Division.

Discussion

Intake

Youths are brought into the JDF through a controlled entry way, where a medical team first evaluates their condition and determines whether they are accepted or must go to the hospital. They are then allowed to call their parents and attorney. A shower is made available, and detention facility clothing is provided. Youths are evaluated at intake and separated into different housing units based on their mental state, size, level of maturity, and criminal offense. Two sets of undergarments are provided, and new clothes are issued every day.

Staffing

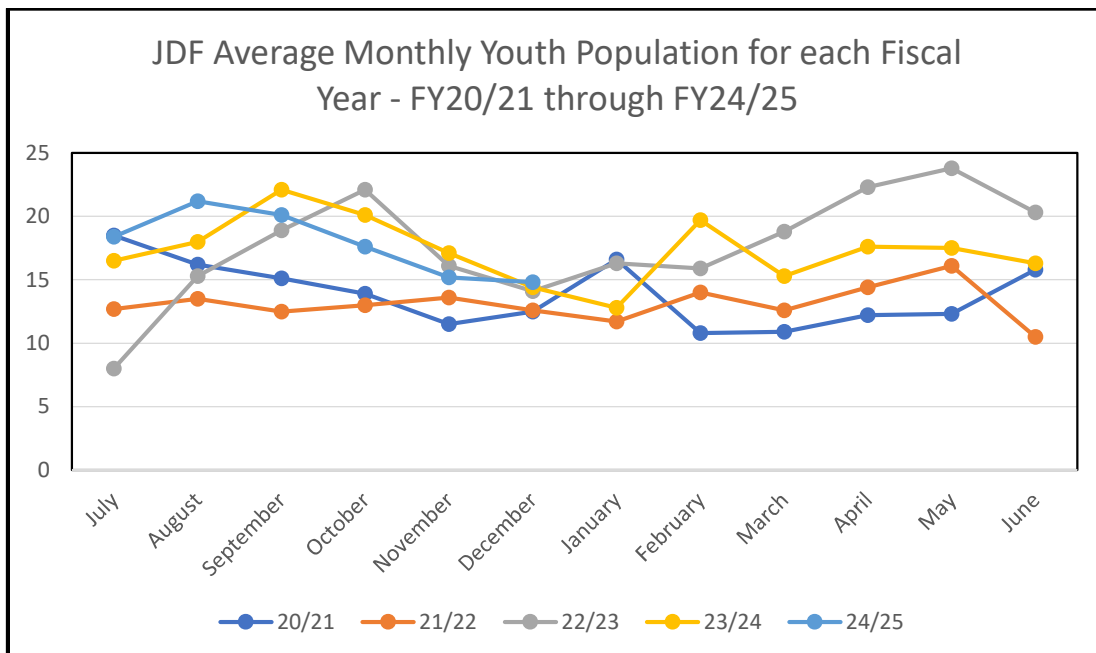
The JDF is required to have sufficient staffing to provide safety and security for youth and staff, and to oversee facility operations and provision of education, medical, and mental health needs as well as other special programs. The California State statute requires a minimum ratio of at least one on-duty officer to ten housed youths during waking hours and a ratio of at least one officer to thirty youths during the period when youths are confined to their rooms for sleeping. Additionally, state statutes require at least two wide awake youth supervision staff members are always on duty regardless of the number of youths housed. The JDF usually has a total staff of eight to ten during the daytime and five during the night. There is adequate staff to meet statute requirements and to implement programs offered to the youths.

There are thirty Probation Department allocated positions and one professional allocated position at the JDF. A nurse is on-site every day from 6:45 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. and 24-hour medical support is available from the nearby jail. A mental health specialist is available full-time during the weekdays. The JDF has video cameras

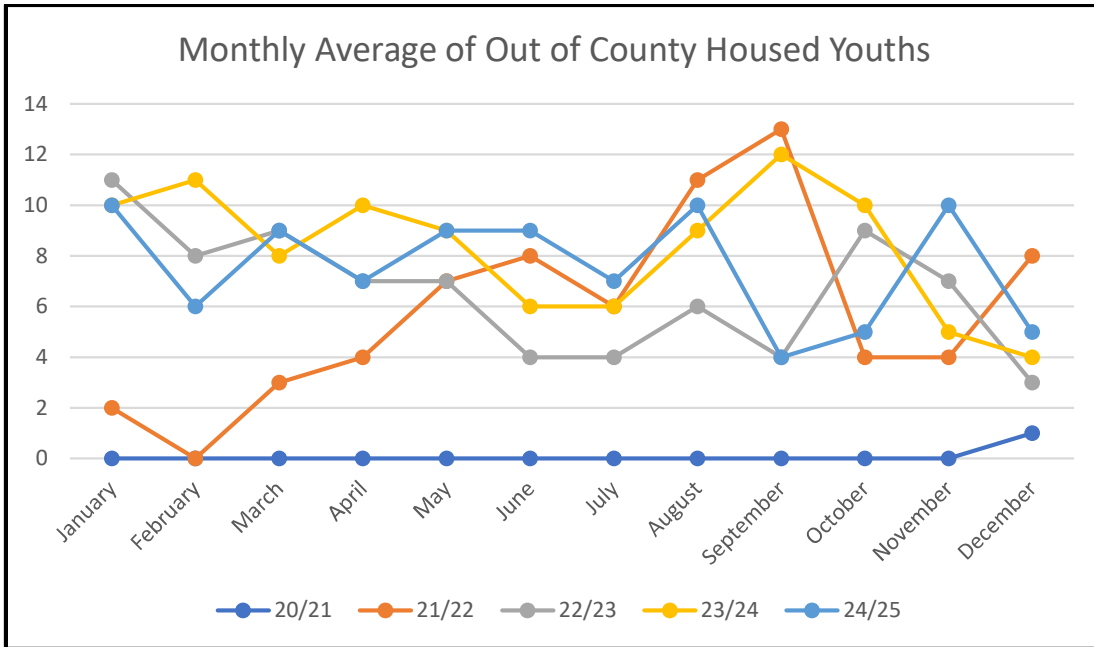
throughout the facility which are monitored in a secure room which is staffed 24 hours a day. Staff make physical checks on youths sleeping in their rooms every 15 minutes. Juvenile Detention Facility staff report a Spanish speaking staff member is always available when needed.

Budget

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 total budget for the Juvenile Detention and Treatment Services Program is \$6,690,997, of which \$5,562,675 is for JDF staff salaries and associated benefits. The average number of youths detained in the JDF at any one time is estimated at sixteen based on an average of the monthly average youth population from FY 2021-2022 through December of FY 2024-2025. Considering fully budgeted costs for the JDF and the average number of youths housed, the cost to house a single youth is estimated at \$1,146 per day.



Placer County has entered into agreements with Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra counties to house youths at the JDF since these counties do not have their own juvenile detention facility. The monthly average number of youths housed at the JDF which are from outside Placer County is estimated at six. The JDF is large enough to accommodate youths from other counties, and per agreement, charges a fee of \$125 per day, which is far below the average cost to Placer County of \$1,146 to house each youth. The region benefits by housing youths from other counties at the Placer County JDF, but the fee paid by the other counties is not equitable when compared to the actual cost to provide services such as housing, supervision, food, medical, and education necessary to run a juvenile detention facility.



Education, Training and Welfare

The JDF provides compulsory education and skill development programs to benefit youths upon their release.

The PCOE provides year-round onsite classroom instruction. Up to three accredited teachers provide instruction which is taught at each student’s grade level. Classroom instruction is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. every Monday through Friday. Youths complete an interview assessment upon arrival at the JDF which is discussed with their homeroom/advisory teacher. Youths earn high school credit by attending class and completing academic work in each subject matter block. Youths may also earn college credits by participating in the California Community Colleges Rising Scholars Program² through a partnership with Sierra College. Youths are allowed to take online classes through Sierra College.

² Rising Scholars Network. [Rising Scholars Network | California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office](#). Accessed March 31, 2025.

The JDF offers many life skills and specialized programs, mostly led by volunteer organizations. These programs include:

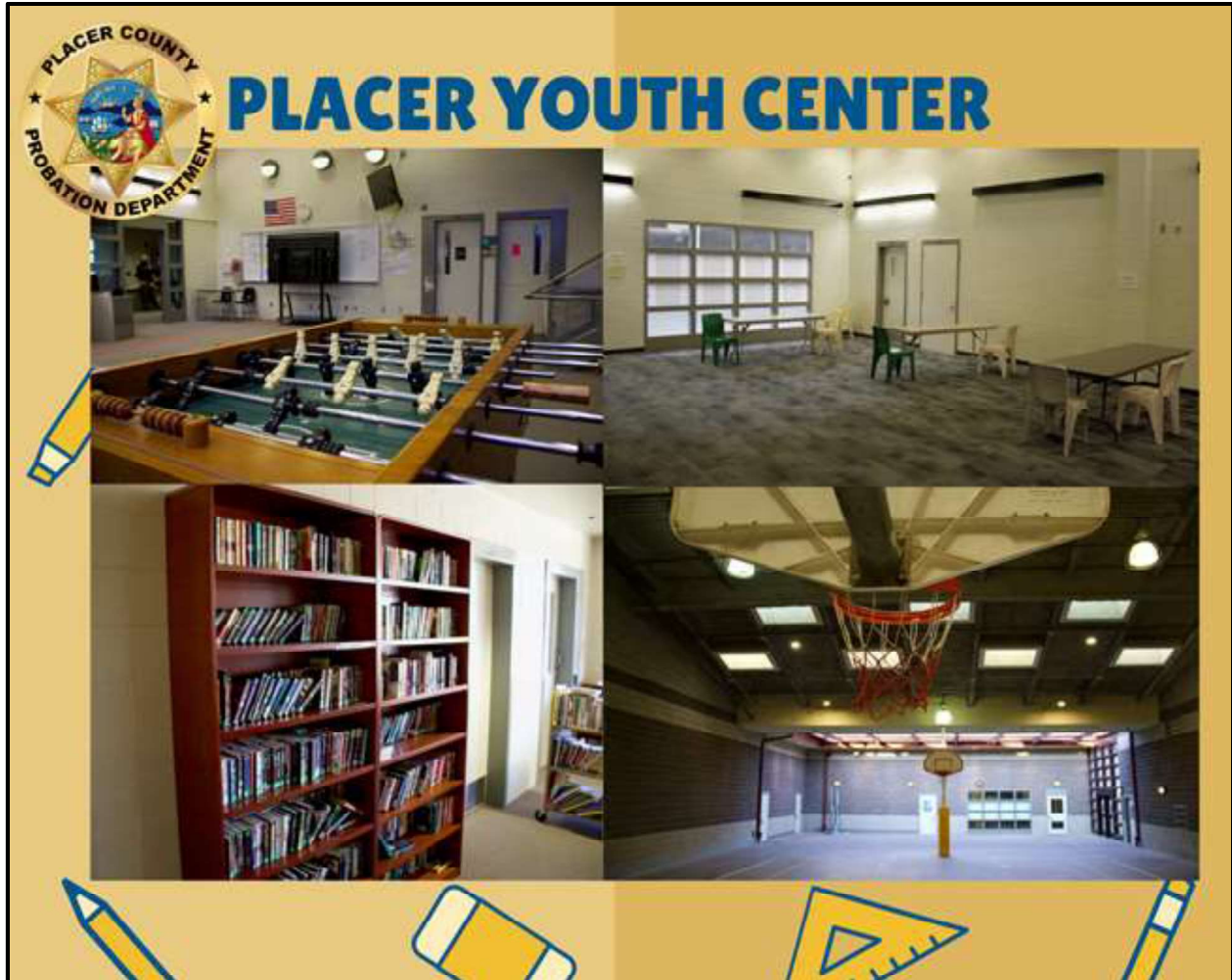
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Court Appointed Child Advocates
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy
- Garden 4-H
- Granite Wellness (substance use)
- Healthier Relationships
- Hip Hop Congress³
- Life Skills
- Placer County Re-Entry Program
- Youth Employment Program (resume writing, mock interviews, unit-cleaner)

JDF Garden



Photo Credit: JDF Staff

³ Hip Hop Congress, [WELCOME TO HIP HOP CONGRESS, INC. - SPLASH](#). Accessed April 7, 2025.



The JDF has an onsite garden maintained by youths with help from 4H volunteers and a goal to cook and eat what is grown.

Photo Credit: JDF Webpage

JDF staff uses the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)⁴ program to help keep order. Under the PBIS program, youths earn points by following rules and meeting expectations. Points are converted to tokens which are used at the commissary for snacks and other items.

Youths are given at least one hour of outdoor recreation time each weekday and three hours on the weekend. The JDF has an indoor/outdoor gymnasium which includes a basketball court and provides other recreational opportunities.

⁴ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support. [California PBIS](#). Accessed April 5, 2025.

Meals are prepared by inmates at the Santucci Justice Center in Roseville and delivered to the JDF daily. Menus are posted weekly. Breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m., lunch at 11:55 a.m., and dinner at 4:45 p.m. Meals are served in the day room within the housing units. Detainees also have access to an evening snack.

Tablets

A new program planned for the JDF will place tablet computers in the hands of the incarcerated youth, providing new possibilities in education, behavioral health, vocational development, re-entry programs and entertainment. A total of twenty-four tablets have been ordered and the program is expected to be rolled out in early 2025. The tablets will be integrated into the PBIS program; use of the tablet will be earned based on positive behavior. According to JDF staff during our tour, the youth will be able to access educational content, substance abuse related content, and vocational skill-building content which engages learners and prepares them for pre-apprenticeship programs in HVAC, plumbing, electrical, multi-family facility maintenance, solar, and safety and compliance. Additionally, the tablets have the capacity for video visiting if needed for long distance family reunification.

Mental Health Services

A full-time mental health professional counselor is available on-site. Additionally, there are volunteer-led programs in substance abuse and building healthy relationships.⁵ JDF staff commented during the October 2024 inspection there is more mental health support than ever before. Youths meet with mental health professionals in conferring rooms. Youths who are expressing anger or hostility may be placed in a sensory calming room until their behavior improves.

Conclusion

The jurors who inspected the Juvenile Detention Facility in October 2024 found the facility clean, orderly, and well maintained. Juvenile Detention Facility staff were observed to be polite and engaging to the youths in their charge. The housed youths readily interacted with the staff in a respectful and collegial manner. The overall impression was, through a focus on education opportunities and the development of life skills, the incarcerated would benefit from their stay. Juvenile Detention Facility staff displayed an optimism through their efforts, the chances of recidivism would be greatly decreased.

The most recent available inspection report for the Juvenile Detention Facility from the California Board of State and Community Corrections dated October 23, 2023, found no violations or non-compliance issues.

⁵ Program and Services. www.placer.ca.gov/1939/Programs-Services. Accessed March 31, 2025.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1.** The fee paid to house out-of-county youths is far below actual service, staffing, and maintenance costs to operate the Juvenile Detention Facility.
- F2.** The new 2025 tablet computer program has the potential to deliver academic and other skill building tools.
- F3.** The Juvenile Detention Facility is well staffed and operated. Staff show a genuine concern for the wellbeing of the incarcerated youths.
- F4.** The Juvenile Detention Facility staff are committed to providing programs which address mental health and educational needs.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1.** Placer County Probation Department should assess whether its supervision of out-of-county youth at the current contract rate is resulting in unreimbursed or excess costs for the County. Probation should provide its assessment to the Placer County Board of Supervisors by December 31, 2025.
- R2.** Placer County Probation Department should establish and implement written goals and metrics to evaluate the success of the tablet program by October 31, 2025.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing body:

<u>Responding Entity</u>	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Brian Passenheim Chief Probation Officer Placer County Probation Department 2929 Richardson Dr, Suite B Auburn, CA 95603		R1, R2	September 1, 2025

Copies sent to:

Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Superintendent of Schools

Placer County Office of Education
360 Nevada St
Auburn, CA 95603

Melanie Esque, Juvenile Supervision Manager

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility
11260 B Ave Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Five-Year Follow-Up

to the 2019-2020 Placer County Grand Jury
Final Report



Photo Credit: Internet

Five-Year Follow-Up to the 2019-2020 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report

Summary

Every year the Placer County Grand Jury publishes a final report. The reports provide citizens of the County with an insight into county and city governments, special districts, schools, libraries, the juvenile detention facility, jails, and holding facilities. These reports may offer recommendations to the different entities for possible improvement in their procedures or operations. This year the grand jury looked back five years to the recommendations from the 2019-2020 final report and investigated the updated status of those recommendations.

NOTE: Simple spelling errors by the respondent were corrected for readability quality.

Background

At the end of the term, the Placer County Grand Jury publishes a report released to the public by June 30th of each year. The final report includes reports on all investigations and inspections conducted during the term. Each report contains the findings the grand jury discovered during their investigation and may also contain recommendations where the grand jury believes improvements could be made. Penal Code¹ section 933.05 requires county, city, school districts, and special districts' governing boards to respond to findings and recommendations included in the reports.

Methodology

The 2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) believes it is critical to follow up on the status of responses received previously to add credibility to the role of the grand jury in the county. Looking back five years, PCGJ reviewed the reports and responses from the 2019-2020 final report. PCGJ was interested in looking at the status of any recommendation where the responding entity answered with one of the following statements:

- The recommendation *is being implemented*.
- The recommendation *has not been implemented but will be in the future*.
- The recommendation *requires further analysis*.

While these responses are not prohibited by Section 933.05, it does not give the grand jury knowledge of whether the recommendation was implemented. Entities who originally responded "*has been implemented*" to recommendations are not included in this report.

¹ Subsequent undesignated section references are to the Penal Code unless otherwise noted.

Three follow-up letters were sent in October 2024 to individuals or entities who had used one of the three statements above in their initial response in 2020. They were requested to provide an update to the grand jury on each of the recommendations. PCGJ received responses from every prior respondent who was contacted by October 30, 2024.

Discussion

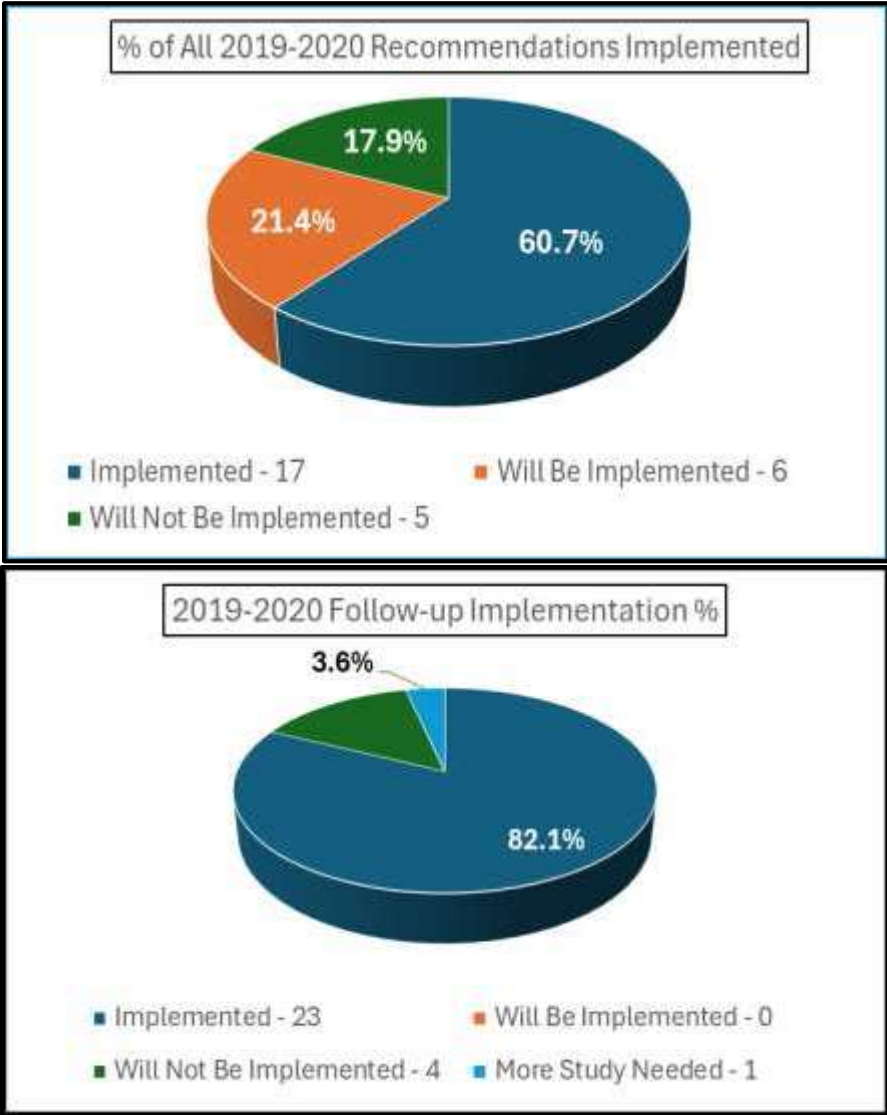
The 2019-2020 final report contained five individual investigation reports and two inspection reports. The seven reports generated thirty-six findings and twenty-eight recommendations. The chart below summarizes respondent’s acceptance or disagreement with the PCGJ’s findings.

Findings by Report	Agree	Partially Disagree	Totally Disagree	No Response Required	TOTAL
Access to Agendas	3	2	1	1	7
Pioneer Community Energy	1	7	0	0	8
Placer County IT	4	0	2	0	6
School Board Agendas	2	1	0	0	3
PC Jails & Holding Facilities	6	0	0	1	7
Rocklin PD Holding Facility	0	0	0	2	2
Juvenile Detention Center	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL	16	10	3	7	36
% of Total Responses	44.4%	36.1%		19.4%	100.0%

The seven partially disagree responses from Pioneer skewed the overall findings “agree” percentage. Two of the “partially disagree” responses were addressed prior to the PCGJ report publication date of June 30, 2020. Three of the “partially disagree” responses were based on a future plan to address the finding, but the finding by the PCGJ was valid. Two additional “partially disagree” responses from Pioneer were differences of opinion which Pioneer did not provide any additional information to refute the PCGJ finding. Disregarding the Pioneer partially disagree responses moved the respondent “agree” percentage from 44.4% to 63.8%.

The 2024-2025 PCGJ places more emphasis on how the respondents addressed PCGJ recommendations. Addressing the three reports which required follow-up, Pioneer Community Energy, Placer County Information Technology (IT) and Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities (Placer County Sheriff’s Office), responses to PCGJ recommendations were far more positive. The graphic charts below are telling.

Initial Recommendation Responses vs Follow-up Recommendation Responses



Looking at all seven reports, 60.7% were implemented with an additional 21.4% scheduled to be implemented. All six of the “Will be Implemented” recommendations were subsequently addressed and implemented. The impact of the additional implementations pushed the total recommendations implemented up to 82.1%. The four “Will Not Be Implemented” recommendations remain unimplemented.

2019-2020 Follow-up Responses

The following pages list each of the three reports which required an updated response. A reply was received from Pioneer Community Energy, Placer County IT and Placer County Sheriff’s Office. Under each report, only the grand jury recommendations not initially implemented are noted, and contain the original response, and the updated response.

Pioneer Community Energy

Recommendation R2

By October 1, 2020, the Board direct the Executive Director to create a plan for educating new board members on Pioneer's basic finances and operations to improve their ability to provide effective oversight of the CCA.

Original 2020 Response

Greg Janda, Pioneer Community Energy Board Chair: This will be implemented by February 2021. The Executive Director has developed a plan to provide an educational presentation to the Board as part of regular Board meetings. The Executive Director presented the first installment of the educational series August 20, 2020, Board meeting. That presentation included an overview of CCA business and a review of the business model. Future installments of educational presentations at Board meetings are anticipated to include energy procurement, utility finances, rate setting, power charge indifference adjustment, electric grid, and local energy sources.

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R2 has been implemented

Pioneer staff hosted a Board Workshop on April 12, 2021, to provide a high-level understanding of the main topics of operations. The timing of the workshop coincided with the addition of two new Board Members due to expansion in April 2021 from El Dorado County and the City of Placerville. The workshop included but was not limited to the following topics (*see attachment 1 for the presentation; note below*):

- History of Pioneer
- Basic overview of the electric grid and what Pioneer's role is.
- Organizational structure of Pioneer
- Overview of CCAs and how they differ from a vertically integrated utility.
- Governance
- Finance
- Information Technology
- Regulatory issues
- Legislative issues
- Power supply
- Customer care responsibilities

When the Board experienced significant turnover in 2023, a second workshop with the Board occurred on June 1, 2023 (*See Attachment 2 note below*).

Pioneer agrees with the Grand Jury report on the importance of having an informed Board and it is now a standard procedure to offer individual education workshops to new Board Members.

Attachment 1: June 1, 2023, Governing Board Workshop, 43 pages. For a copy please call: (916) 251-8575 or email: don.eckert@pioneercommunityenergy.org.

Attachment 2: June 1, 2023, Governing Board Workshop, 43 pages. For a copy please call: (916) 251-8575 or email: don.eckert@pioneercommunityenergy.org.

Recommendation R3

By October 1, 2020, the Executive Director prepare a plan and timeline for developing a comprehensive strategic plan.

Original 2020 Response

Greg Janda, Pioneer Community Energy Board Chair: This will be implemented by December 2020. The Governing Board and Executive Director believe strategic planning is critical to the long-term success of Pioneer. A strategic plan serves to guide staff in developing work plans, budgets and allocating resources.

The Governing's Board responsibilities include approving policy guidance including a strategic plan. It is anticipated that the strategic plan, once established, will be reviewed annually by the board.

In preparing the strategic plan, the Executive Director will be soliciting feedback from the Governing Board to ensure the plan is compatible with Pioneer's mission, vision, and values. Final approval of the strategic plan is expected to be presented to the Board at the December 2020 Board meeting.

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R3 has been implemented

Staff discussed strategic planning with the Board in 2020. However, with significant turnover occurring in 2021 combined with new Board Members joining in Spring 2021 due to expansion, this effort was deferred until Spring 2021.

A professional facilitator managed two workshops with the Board on May 17, 2021, to discuss development of the mission and vision statements and again on May 27, 2021, to discuss programs, operational issues, and next steps. At the June 15, 2021, Board meeting, the Board adopted the mission and vision statement and provided direction on strategic goals.

Over the summer of 2021, staff collaborated with the Facilitator to define the tasks and objectives that achieve the strategic goals and fine tune those goals.

At the September 16, 2021, Board meeting, the Board adopted Pioneer's inaugural strategic plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2024 (*see Attachment 3 note below*). Staff incorporated references to the strategic goals in all staff reports and provides the Board quarterly progress reports.

As the Fiscal Years 2021-2024 Strategic Plan was terming out, the Board discussed and provided directions to staff on updates to the strategic plan for the next three years during the March, April, and May 2024 Board meetings.

At the September 19, 2024, Board meeting, the Board adopted the Fiscal Years 2025-2027 Strategic Plan (*see Attachment 4 note below*).

Pioneer agrees with the Grand Jury report on the importance of having a strategic plan to provide direction to the agency. Updating the strategic plan every three years is an expectation from the Board with quarterly progress reports to the Board that holds staff accountable.

Attachment 3: 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, dated September 8, 2021. For a copy please call: (916) 251-8575 or email: don.eckert@pioneercommunityenergy.org.

Attachment 4: 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. For a copy please call: (916) 251-8575 or email: don.eckert@pioneercommunityenergy.org.

Recommendation R4

By October 1, 2020, the roles of Pioneer Executive Director and Board Secretary be performed by separate individuals.

Original 2020 Response:

Greg Janda, Pioneer Community Energy Board Chair: The direction for the Executive Director to serve as Board Secretary is provided in Section 2.5 of Pioneer Bylaws (adopted July 26, 2016), which states as follows: The Secretary shall be the Executive Director. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Authority and record all votes and shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Authority in a journal of proceedings to be kept for such purposes and shall perform all incidents to the office. After discussion with Pioneer General Counsel the duties assigned to the Secretary are not in conflict with the duties assigned to the Executive Director.² At the time of this response the Executive Director is actively recruiting for a Board Clerk/Executive Assistant position.

The Executive Director anticipates the Board/Clerk/Assistant will be delegated those duties assigned to the Board Secretary, including preparation of the minutes and record keeping. However, the Executive Director will remain responsible for the compliance requirements for the role of Board Secretary.

² A follow-up 2024 updated response was not required based on Pioneer General Counsel guidance.

Recommendation R5

The Board establish a Citizen Advisory Committee to enhance community relations and local control by October 1, 2020.

Original 2020 Response

Greg Janda, Pioneer Community Energy Board Chair: The formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee was discussed by the Governing Board earlier this year. The Executive Director anticipates presenting this topic to the Board by February 2021 for the Boards consideration. *Further study is required.*

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R5 has been implemented

In 2020, Pioneer did not have the financial resources to support rate-funded programs nor the staff to manage an Advisory Committee. However, in Spring 2021, Pioneer's finances were improving and staffing levels could support the development, recruitment and facilitation of an Advisory Committee. Staff presented this at the March 18, 2021, Board meeting. The Board expressed interest in a committee and provided directions to staff to research and bring back a recommendation.

At the May 20, 2021, Board meeting, the Board adopted a Resolution to form a Community Programs Advisory Committee (CPAC). The Resolution also defined members to be residential ratepayers with an emphasis on representation from each member agency. The committee would report to the Board and sunset with the presentation of the final report.

At the September 16, 2021, Board meeting, the Board approved the Committee Members which consisted of eleven (11) members representing six(6) from El Dorado County and five (5) from Placer County.

The CPAC was launched in December 2021 and convened monthly over twelve months discussing various program ideas.

At the December 15, 2022, Board meeting. The CPAC presented the final *report (see attachment 5 note below)* to the Board. Included in the report were program recommendations that balanced programs' impact with time and resources needed to launch. Funding options included the creation of a rate-payer-funded Programs fund. With the final report, the CPAC sunset.

In 2023, the committee was reestablished as the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer and is comprised of several members from the CPAC. The committee meets every other month and provides valuable insight and discussion with staff on the direction of programs.

Pioneer agrees with the Grand Jury report on the importance of establishing an advisory committee comprised of members of the community. The CAC is part of Pioneers culture moving forward.

Attachment 5: Community Program Advisory Committee – Final Report, dated December 2022. For a copy please call: (916) 251-8575 or email: don.eckert@pioneercommunityenergy.org.

Response Letter from Pioneer Community Energy



October 25, 2024

Via E-mail

Gary Hayes
Fore Pro-Tem
Placer County Grand Jury ~ 2024-2025
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
E-mail: forepersonprotem@placergrandjury.org

Re: **Follow-Up Responses to the 2019/2020 Placer County
Grand Jury Final Report**

Dear Mr. Hayes:

Thank you for the opportunity to follow-up on recommendations contained in the 2019/2020 Placer Grand Jury Final Report where Pioneer Community Energy's ("Pioneer") response was not definitive in timing of implementation or further analysis was needed.

I am pleased to report that the three (3) recommendations referenced in your letter were implemented by staff and are part of operating procedures for Pioneer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R2. By October 1, 2020, the Board direct the Executive Director to create a plan for educating new Board Members on Pioneer's basic finances and operations to improve their ability to provide effective oversight of the Community Choice Aggregator ("CCA").

Response in October 2020: The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented by February 2021.

Status: Pioneer staff hosted a Board Workshop on April 12, 2021, to provide a high-level understanding of the main topics of operations. The timing of



the workshop coincided with the addition of two new Board Members due to expansion in April 2021 from El Dorado County and the City of Placerville. The workshop included but was not limited to the following topics (see Attachment 1 for the presentation):

- History of Pioneer
- Basic overview of the electric grid and what Pioneer's role is.
- Organizational structure of Pioneer
- Overview of CCAs and how they differ from a vertically integrated utility.
- Governance
- Finance
- Information Technology
- Regulatory issues
- Legislative issues
- Power supply
- Customer care responsibilities

When the Board experienced significant turnover in 2023, a second workshop with the Board occurred on June 1, 2023 (see Attachment 2).

Pioneer agrees with the Grand Jury report on the importance of having an informed Board and it is now standard procedure to offer individual education workshops to new Board Members.

R3. By October 1, 2020, the Executive Director prepare a plan and timeline for developing a comprehensive strategic plan.

Response in October 2020: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented by December 2020.

Status: Staff discussed strategic planning with the Board in 2020. However, with significant Board turnover occurring in 2021 combined with new Board Members joining in Spring 2021 due to expansion, this effort was deferred until Spring 2021.

A professional facilitator managed two workshops with the Board on May 17, 2021, to discuss development of the mission and vision statements and again



on May 27, 2021, to discuss programs, operational issues, and next steps. At the June 15, 2021, Board meeting, the Board adopted the mission and vision statement and provided direction on strategic goals.

Over the summer of 2021, staff collaborated with the Facilitator to define the tasks and objectives that achieve the strategic goals and fine tune those goals.

At the September 16, 2021, Board meeting, the Board adopted Pioneer's inaugural strategic plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2024 (see Attachment 3). Staff incorporated references to the strategic goals in all staff reports and provides the Board quarterly progress reports.

As the Fiscal Years 2021-2024 Strategic Plan was terming out, the Board discussed and provided directions to staff on updates to the strategic plan for the next three years during the March, April, and May 2024 Board meetings.

At the September 19, 2024, Board meeting, the Board adopted the Fiscal Years 2025-2027 Strategic Plan (see Attachment 4).

Pioneer agrees with the Grand Jury report on the importance of having a strategic plan to provide direction to the agency. Updating the strategic plan every three years is an expectation from the Board with quarterly progress reports to the Board that holds staff accountable.

R5. The Board establish a Citizen Advisory Committee to enhance community relations and local control by October 1, 2020.

Response in October 2020: The recommendation requires further analysis.

Status: In 2020, Pioneer did not have the financial resources to support rate-funded programs nor the staff to manage an Advisory Committee. However, in Spring of 2021, Pioneer's finances were improving and staffing

levels could support the development, recruitment, and facilitation of an Advisory Committee. Staff presented this at the March 18, 2021, Board meeting. The Board expressed interest in a committee and provided directions to staff to research and bring back a recommendation.



At the May 20, 2021, Board meeting, the Board adopted a Resolution to form a Community Programs Advisory Committee ("CPAC"). The Resolution also defined members to be residential ratepayers with an emphasis on representation from each member agency. The committee would report to the Board and sunset with the presentation of the final report.

At the September 16, 2021, Board meeting, the Board approved the Committee Members which consisted of eleven (11) members representing six (6) from El Dorado County and five (5) from Placer County.

The CPAC launched in December 2021 and convened monthly over twelve months discussing various program ideas.

At the December 15, 2022, Board meeting, the CPAC presented the final report (see Attachment 5) to the Board. Included in the report were program recommendations that balanced programs' impact with time and resources needed to launch. Funding options included the creation of a rate-payer-funded Programs fund. With the final report, the CPAC sunset.

In 2023, the committee was reestablished as the Community Advisory Committee ("CAC"). The CAC reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer and is comprised of several members from the CPAC. The committee meets every other month and provides valuable insight and discussion with staff on the direction of programs.

Pioneer agrees with the Grand Jury report on the importance of establishing an advisory committee comprised of members of the community. The CAC is part of Pioneer's culture moving forward.

Conclusion

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to respond to the outstanding recommendations from the 2019/2020 Grand Jury Report. I am pleased to report all recommendations are complete and are part of Pioneer's operating procedures.



If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at (916) 251-8575 or don.eckert@pioneercommunityenergy.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald Eckert Jr." in a cursive script.

Donald Eckert Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Pioneer Community Energy
2510 Warren Drive, Ste. B
Rocklin, CA 95677

Ec: Alice Dowdin Calvillo, Pioneer Board Chair
David Ruderman, General Counsel for Pioneer
Teresa Willock, Board Clerk

Enclosure (5)

Placer County IT

Recommendation R3

The CIO prepare a plan by October 1, 2020, for periodic and unannounced testing at least annually. This should include penetration tests and security validations at a minimum, for organizations that maintain a network outside of the DIT.

Original 2020 Response

Jarrett Theissen, Chief Information Officer: The Placer County Information Technology Department maintains the security administration and policies for the Placer County Data Network.

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R3 has been implemented

The Placer County IT Department has implemented a comprehensive security testing program that includes regular, independent penetration tests of County networks by multiple third-party security firms. This approach ensures objectivity, adherence to current security standards, and leverages diverse methodologies and expertise for a well-rounded assessment.

Since 2020, the County has managed three primary networks: Child Support Services (CSS), Elections, and the County's primary network. To enhance network efficiency and security, the IT Department collaborated with CSS on a multi-year project to migrate all CSS Network assets onto the County's primary network. This project was completed in March 2024, and the CSS network was subsequently decommissioned. A thorough penetration test of the CSS network was conducted in May 2021, ahead of migration.

The Election network remains independently managed by the Clerk-Recorder's Office, in collaboration with Placer County IT. Physical separation is maintained between the Elections and County networks to mitigate the risk of security issues affecting both networks. The IT Department has conducted penetration testing of County networks each year since 2020, excluding 2023, when resources were allocated to Business Impact Analysis (BIA) interviews and Disaster Recovery (DR) planning and testing.

Additionally, penetration testing is part of the annual IT budget, ensuring regular security assessments are performed. With these practices in place, we believe the County is well-prepared to continue regular security validations and proactively address emerging cybersecurity threats.

Recommendation R4

The CIO develop a cross-training plan by October 1, 2020, for the most critical IT functions in other offices and departments to ensure their continuity of operations.

Original 2020 Response

Jarrett Theissen, Chief Information Officer: The department acknowledges a plan for the most critical IT functions for department operations continuity is necessary. Prior to recent catastrophic events impacting the county, Public Service Power Shutdown events and COVID-19 pandemic, the department realized its business continuity plan was outdated. The department recognized the importance of developing a plan that maintained operations during disruptive events whether from a loss of people, facilities, technology, and/or a vendor. As a result, the department contracted a respective vendor, Agility Recovery, to engage in the development of a new business continuity plan. The department anticipates a fully developed and tested plan will be delivered by the end of the 2020 calendar year. Through this process, the department will be able to identify the most critical functions in other offices/departments and establish procedures to ensure continuity of operations during a disruption.

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R4 has been implemented

The Placer County IT Department has undertaken extensive efforts to ensure continuity of operations for critical IT functions across County offices and departments. Starting in 2020, the IT Department launched a comprehensive redesign of our Business Continuity Plan (BCP) framework, beginning with a Business Impact Analysis (BIA) conducted with Agility Recovery, a recognized leader in BCP consulting. This assessment identified critical applications essential for County operations and outlined measures to restore these systems in the event of a significant outage.

Following the engagement with Agility Recovery, the IT Department restructured its disaster recovery (DR) systems, incorporating all identified critical applications into the DR plan. Since 2022, the department conducted four tabletop exercises to validate its DR capabilities, ensuring preparedness for various potential disruptions. In 2023, a second round of BIAs with departments reaffirmed the County's list of critical applications and established recovery time objectives to prioritize timely restoration.

In 2024, we partnered with multiple County departments to develop six specialized technology recovery plans for key enterprise systems, further strengthening our capacity for cross-functional resilience. The County remains committed to continuously advancing its business continuity program to support uninterrupted operations across all departments and critical IT functions.

Response Letter from Placer County IT Department

October 30, 2024

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
Attn: Gary Haynes, Foreperson Pro-Tem

Re: Response – *Follow-Up to Responses to the 2019/2020 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report*

Dear Foreperson and Members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the letter dated October 7, 2024 requesting follow-up responses to the 2019-20 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report, I am pleased to submit the following responses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R3: The CIO prepare a plan by October 1, 2020, for periodic and unannounced testing at least annually. This should include penetration tests and security validations at a minimum, for organizations that maintain a network outside of the DIT.

Response: The Placer County IT Department has implemented a comprehensive security testing program that includes regular, independent penetration tests of County networks by multiple third-party security firms. This approach ensures objectivity, adherence to current security standards, and leverages diverse methodologies and expertise for a well-rounded assessment.

Since 2020, the County has managed three primary networks: Child Support Services (CSS), Elections, and the County's primary network. To enhance network efficiency and security, the IT Department collaborated with CSS on a multi-year project to migrate all CSS network assets onto the County's primary network. This project was completed in March 2024, and the CSS network was subsequently decommissioned. A thorough penetration test of the CSS network was conducted in May 2021, ahead of the migration.

The Elections network remains independently managed by the Clerk-Recorder's Office, in collaboration with Placer County IT. Physical separation is maintained between the Elections and County networks to mitigate the risk of security issues affecting both networks. The IT Department has conducted penetration testing of County networks each year since 2020—excluding 2023, when resources were allocated to Business Impact Analysis (BIA) interviews and Disaster Recovery (DR) planning and testing.

Additionally, penetration testing is part of the annual IT budget, ensuring regular security assessments are performed. With these practices in place, we believe the County is well-prepared to continue regular security validations and proactively address emerging cybersecurity threats.

R4: The CIO develop a cross-training plan by October 1, 2020, for the most critical IT functions in other offices and departments to ensure their continuity of operations.

Response: The Placer County IT Department has undertaken extensive efforts to ensure continuity of operations for critical IT functions across County offices and departments. Starting in 2020, the IT Department launched a comprehensive redesign of our Business Continuity Plan (BCP) framework, beginning with a Business Impact Analysis (BIA) conducted with Agility Recovery, a recognized leader in BCP consulting. This assessment identified critical applications essential for County operations and outlined measures to restore these systems in the event of a significant outage.

Following the engagement with Agility Recovery, the IT Department restructured its disaster recovery (DR) systems, incorporating all identified critical applications into the DR plan. Since 2022, the department conducted four tabletop exercises to validate its DR capabilities, ensuring preparedness for various potential disruptions. In 2023, a second round of BIAs with departments reaffirmed the County's list of critical applications and established recovery time objectives to prioritize timely restoration.

In 2024, we partnered with multiple County departments to develop six specialized technology recovery plans for key enterprise systems, further strengthening our capacity for cross-functional resilience. The County remains committed to continuously advancing its business continuity program to support uninterrupted operations across all departments and critical IT functions.

Sincerely,

Jarrett Thiesen
Chief Information Officer

Cc: Honorable Alan V. Pineschi, Presiding Judge
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Recommendation R1

By October 1, 2020, develop a plan and cost analysis of expanding successful work programs for inmates at the minimum-security jail.

Original 2020 Response

Sheriff Devon Bell: The Placer County Sheriff's Office, Corrections Division, offered a variety of work programs through the Minimum-Security facilities that had to be placed on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. The programs below are, or will be, coordinated from within the Placer Schools for Adults out of the South Placer Jail. Costs for inmate programs are funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund.

- In the short term, the following programs are ready to be started again with minimal cost as soon as the pandemic resolves: Caltrans Work Crew, CalFire Chipper Crew, Sewing, Embroidery, PCSO Fleet Vehicle Maintenance, Placer County Small Engine Repair.
- In the near term, the following programs were nearing implementation, but again were put on hold because of the pandemic: Culinary Training, California SERV Safe Certification, Forklift Operator Certification, Placer County Landscaping, Media Design/Printing. Each program will be implemented with minimal cost, as they involve contracts already in place in the Corrections Division, and/or equipment previously purchased and re-tasked within the Sheriff's Office.
- Within 2-3 years, the Corrections Division will begin construction on a \$30 Million vocational training center to be located on the South Placer Jail campus. The training programs will be based around partnerships with local businesses and could include options in construction, automotive repair and bodywork/painting, cosmetology, etc. The training center is being funded through state grants and as the program moves closer to implementation, costs on the training itself will be determined based on the courses offered and community involvement.

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R1 is in process

Please proceed to read the actual letter from Sheriff Woo regarding what is in place and planned to put in place. There are no specific dates noted for implementation.

NOTE: The 2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury report on Inspections of Jails and Holding Facilities, Community Update on Coroner's and District Attorney's Offices, addresses in detail the status of construction of the South Placer Facility and the scope of additional services, education and skills training that will be available to those that are incarcerated. Specific references on lines 186-192 and lines 276-329 of the Jails report to be published June 30, 2025.

Recommendation R2

By October 1, 2020, replace the keyed gate to the sally port at the Historic Courthouse with a magnetic fob, to allow for easier operation of the gate.

Original 2020 Response

Sheriff Devon Bell: While replacing the keypad with a magnetic fob may provide easier access, the keypad is currently operational and not posing any notably significant safety concern. This will be reviewed over the next six months to determine the frequency of safety issues as they arise.

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R2 has been implemented

This recommendation has been implemented. Through the months of December 2022 – March 2023 the Historic Courthouse replaced many locks within the building from “key only” locks to FOB controlled. This included the sally port gate as indicated in the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report.

Recommendation R3

By October 1, 2020, evaluate the surveillance cameras at the Historic Courthouse. Replace poorly functioning security cameras and add cameras in a few key areas. Install new cameras and surveillance improvements within 180 days of the evaluation.

Original 2020 Response

Sheriff Devon Bell: The Sheriff’s Office agrees the security cameras at the Historic Courthouse are in need of upgrades but defers to the Administrative Office of the Courts for further analysis on this issue, as they are responsible for the Auburn Historic Courthouse. This request has been made through the Judicial Council, and Sheriff’s Court Security staff will work with the Court and Judicial Council on implementation efforts once funding is approved. Unfortunately, due to statewide Trial Court budget reductions of \$168 million, there are no allocated funds or timeframe available for the video system upgrade.

Updated 2024 Response: Recommendation R2 has been implemented

This recommendation has been implemented. During the months of November-December 2021, in partnership with the Judicial Council of California, the camera system at the Historic Courthouse were changed to improve surveillance and safety around and within the courthouse. Several “hot spots” were located in the building where cameras were needed and eventually installed.

Response Letter from Placer County Sheriff's Office



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

October 21, 2024

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 6169072
Roseville, CA 95661

Dear Judge Pineschi,

After carefully reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the Grand Jury Final Report – Continuity and Accountability- Review of Placer County Grand Jury Reports from 2019-2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

By October 31, 2024, the Placer County Sheriff's Office will provide an updated response to the recommendations from the 2019-2020 grand jury report indicating a timeline for implementation in compliance with § 933.05.

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities

R1: By October 1, 2020, develop a plan and cost analysis of expanding successful work programs for inmates at the minimum-security jail

Response: Recommendation numbered R1 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The Placer County Sheriffs Office, Corrections Division, offered a variety of work programs through the Minimum Security facilities that had to be placed on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. The programs below are, or will be, coordinated from within the Placer School for Adults out of the South Placer Jail. Costs for inmate programs are funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF).

- In the short term, the following programs are ready to be started again with minimal cost as soon as the pandemic resolves: Call rans Work Crew, CalFire Chipper Crew, Sewing, Embroidery, PCSO Fleet Vehicle Maintenance, Placer County Small Engine Repair.

HEADQUARTERS
2629 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603
(530) 685-1800

AUBURN MAIN JAIL
1775 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603
(530) 145-8090

SOUTH PLACER STATION
3448 HORNBECK BAR ROAD, SUITE D
Loomis, CA 95650
916 662 2700

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11801 CENTER STREET, ROOM 100
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 450-4100

NORTH LAKE TRAFFIC STATION
P.O. BOX 1750
SHERIDAN, CA 95654
(530) 801-4300



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-COBUENEL-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDEPUTY SHERIFF

- In the near term, the following programs were nearing implementation, but again were put on hold because of the pandemic: Culinary Training, California ServSafe Certification, Forklift Operator Certification, Placer County Landscaping, Media Design/Printing. Each of the programs will be implemented with minimal cost, as they involve contracts already in place in the Corrections Division, and/or equipment previously purchased and re-tasked within the Sheriff's Office.
- Within 2-3 years, The Corrections Division will begin construction on a \$30 Million vocational training center to be located on the South Placer Jail campus. The training programs will be based around partnerships with local businesses and could include options in construction, automotive repair and bodywork/painting, cosmetology, etc. The training center is being funded through state grants and as the program moves closer to implementation, costs of the training itself will be determined based on the courses offered and community involvement.

Update 10/24- Recommendation number R1 has been implemented with modifications. The Placer County Sheriff's Office, Corrections Division, offered a variety of work programs through the Minimum Security facilities that had to be placed on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. The programs below are, or will be, coordinated from within the Placer School for Adults out of the South Placer Jail. Costs for inmate programs are funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF). The following programs are now available.

- *The following programs have been started again with minimal cost from the Inmate Welfare Fund: Sewing, Embroidery, PCSO Fleet Vehicle Maintenance, Culinary Training, Serve Safe, Forklift Operator Certification*
- *In the near term, the following programs will be considered (in conjunction with PSA) upon completion of the new Medium Security Vocation Training unit: Media Design/Printing/Engraving, Commercial Truck Driving, Welding, Carpentry. Each of the programs will be implemented with minimal cost, as they involve contracts already in place in the Corrections Division, and/or equipment previously purchased and re-tasked within the Sheriff's Office. The training center is being funded through state grants and as the program moves closer to implementation, costs of the training itself will be determined based on the courses offered and community involvement.*

R2: By October 1, 2020, replaced the keyed gate to the sally port at the Historic Courthouse with a magnetic fob to allow for easier operation of the gate.

Response: Recommendation numbered R2 requires further analysis.

HEADQUARTERS
2025 MIDWAY COUN DRIVE
ALBANY, CA 95802
(530) 485-3100

ALBANY (ANNEX)
3747 FREDERICKSON DRIVE
ALBANY, CA 95803
(530) 745-0908

SOUTH PLACER STATION
5140 HORSESHOE GATE ROAD, SUITE 0
Loomis, CA 95668
(916) 442-7400

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11810 COLTON BROOK ROAD
ROSENVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 408-8100

NORTHLAKE TRANCE STATION
P.O. BOX 5110
TAYLOR CITY, CA 95948
(530) 671-6300



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

While replacing the keypad gate with a magnetic fob may provide easier access, the keypad is currently operational and not posing any notable significant safety concern. This will be reviewed over the next six months to determine the frequency of safety issues as they arise.

Update 10/24- This recommendation has been implemented. Through the months of December 2022-March 2023 the Historic courthouse replaced many locks within the building from "keyed only" locks to FOB controlled. This included the sally port gate as indicated in the 2019/2020 Grand Jury Report.

R3: By October 1, 2020, evaluate surveillance cameras at the Historic Courthouse. Replace poorly functioning security camera and add cameras in a few key areas. Install new cameras and surveillance improvements with 180 days of the evaluation.

Response: Recommendation numbered R3 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The Sheriff's Office agrees the security cameras at the Historic Courthouse are in the need of upgrades but defers to the AOC (Administrative Office of the Courts) for further analysis on this issue, as they are responsible for the Auburn Historic Courthouse facility.

This request has been made through the Judicial Council, and Sheriff's Court Security staff will work with the Court and Judicial Council on implementation efforts once funding is approved. Unfortunately, due to a statewide Trial Court budget reduction of \$168 million, there are no allocated funds or time-frame available for the video system upgrade.

Update 10/24- This recommendation has been implemented. During the months of November- December 2021, in partnership with the Judicial Council of California, the camera system at the Historic Court house were changed to improve surveillance and safety around and within the courthouse. Several "hot spots" were located in the building where cameras were needed and eventually installed.

Sincerely,

Wayne Woo
Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal

cc: Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer

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Loomis, CA 95668
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SOUTH PLACER JAIL
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ROOSEVILLE, CA 95648
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NORTHLAKE TOWER STATION
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TAYLOR CITY, CA 95845
(530) 381-8500



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

Julia Reeves, Deputy County Counsel
Gary Haynes, Foreperson of the Placer County Grand Jury



Compliance and Accountability Penal Code Section 933.05

**Placer County Grand Jury
2023-2024 Final Report Responses**



Photo Credit: Placer County

**Originally Released
March 6, 2025**

Responses Included

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Compliance with Penal Code § 933.05 and Accountability Studying the Responses to the Placer County Grand Jury 2023-2024 Final Report

Summary

The primary duty of the Placer County Grand Jury is to investigate the functions of city and county government, school districts, and special districts. Each year the grand jury conducts inspections of the jails, holding facilities, and the juvenile detention center in the county. Additionally, the grand jury investigates different aspects of city and county government. Reports are written on the inspections and investigations conducted during the term with each report listing the grand jury's findings and recommendations. These documents are combined into a final report published each June. The full 2023-2024 Grand Jury report can be found at: <https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions/grand-jury-reports-2023-2024>.

A Response Report is published in the Winter of each term. The report contains the responses from the investigative entities to their respective findings and recommendations. The purpose of this report is to verify that responses to the Placer County Grand Jury 2023-2024 final report are Penal Code section 933.05 compliant.

Background

The current sitting grand jury reviews the responses from the prior year's grand jury's findings and recommendations and compiles the Response Report for publication. The 2020-2021 Grand Jury issued the first compliance report, which held responding entities accountable to the citizens of Placer County.

Methodology

The 2024-2025 Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) reviewed all the reports and responses to the 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report published on June 27, 2024. The final report contained thirteen individual reports, with seventy-five findings and thirty-three recommendations. The current grand jury did not review nor have access to the prior grand jury's investigative evidence, which is confidential.

There were several follow-up letters sent by the 2024-2025 PCGJ to address late or incomplete responses.

Discussion

What is a Fact?

After research on a topic has been completed, the grand jury determines what facts of the investigation or inspection have been discovered. What are facts? They are:

- information proven to be true,
- verified by several sources,
- relative to the subject,
- objective – not subject to interpretation, and
- precise.

Findings

Once the grand jury has determined the facts, findings are developed based upon those facts. The grand jury's findings are listed in each report and may or may not lead to a recommendation. What are findings? They are:

- conclusions or value judgments based on verified facts which express approval or disapproval and
- the link between the facts and the recommendations.

Recommendations

Recommendations are actions the grand jury believes the investigated and inspected entities should implement. Recommendations should be SMART, meaning they are:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Actionable
- Reasonable
- Time framed

Formatting note: Not all Findings require a recommendation. However, Findings and Recommendations that are of the same subject should be numbered the same. Example R1 goes with F1, R2 goes with F2, etc. when feasible.

Required Responses

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requires a response from the following governing body:

Note: **REQUIRED** Responses includes **ONLY** these two groups:

Governing boards (board of supervisors, city councils, district boards, etc.)

Elected county officials: assessor, auditor, controller, clerk/recorder, District Attorney, sheriff, treasurer, tax collector, superintendent of schools, etc.

Requested Responses

The Placer County Grand Jury requests a response from the following entities:

	<u>Findings Requiring Response</u>	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
City Manager P.O. Box 123 City, CA 95713	F1, F2, F6	R1, R3	September 1, 202X
Placer County Executive Officer 123 City Street City, CA 95603	F3, F4, F5	R2, R3	September 1, 202X

Note: **REQUESTED** Responses are used to invite responses from entities not required by law to respond to the grand jury. Example: City Managers, City Attorney, General Managers, Directors of departments, etc.

Disclaimer

Note any juror(s) who were excused from any part of the report. Example:

In the process of preparing this report, one grand juror was recused, and they took no part in the investigation, including interviews, deliberations, writing, and approval of this report.

What is a Compliant Response?

Penal Code section 933.05 is very specific in what is required in a response. First, a respondent must address the findings listed in the report. There are only two responses allowed by the penal code. However, additional information is required if the respondent disagrees with a finding. If a report only lists findings and there are no recommendations, a response agreeing or disagreeing with each finding is not necessary. The responses allowed are:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The respondent agrees with the finding.</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding; in which case the <i>response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reason(s) therefore.</i></u></p>

Penal Code section 933.05 is very specific in what is required in a response. First, a respondent must address the findings listed in the report. There are only two responses allowed by the penal code. However, additional information is required if the respondent disagrees with a finding. If a report only lists findings and there are no recommendations, a response agreeing or disagreeing with each finding is not necessary. The **Findings** responses allowed are:

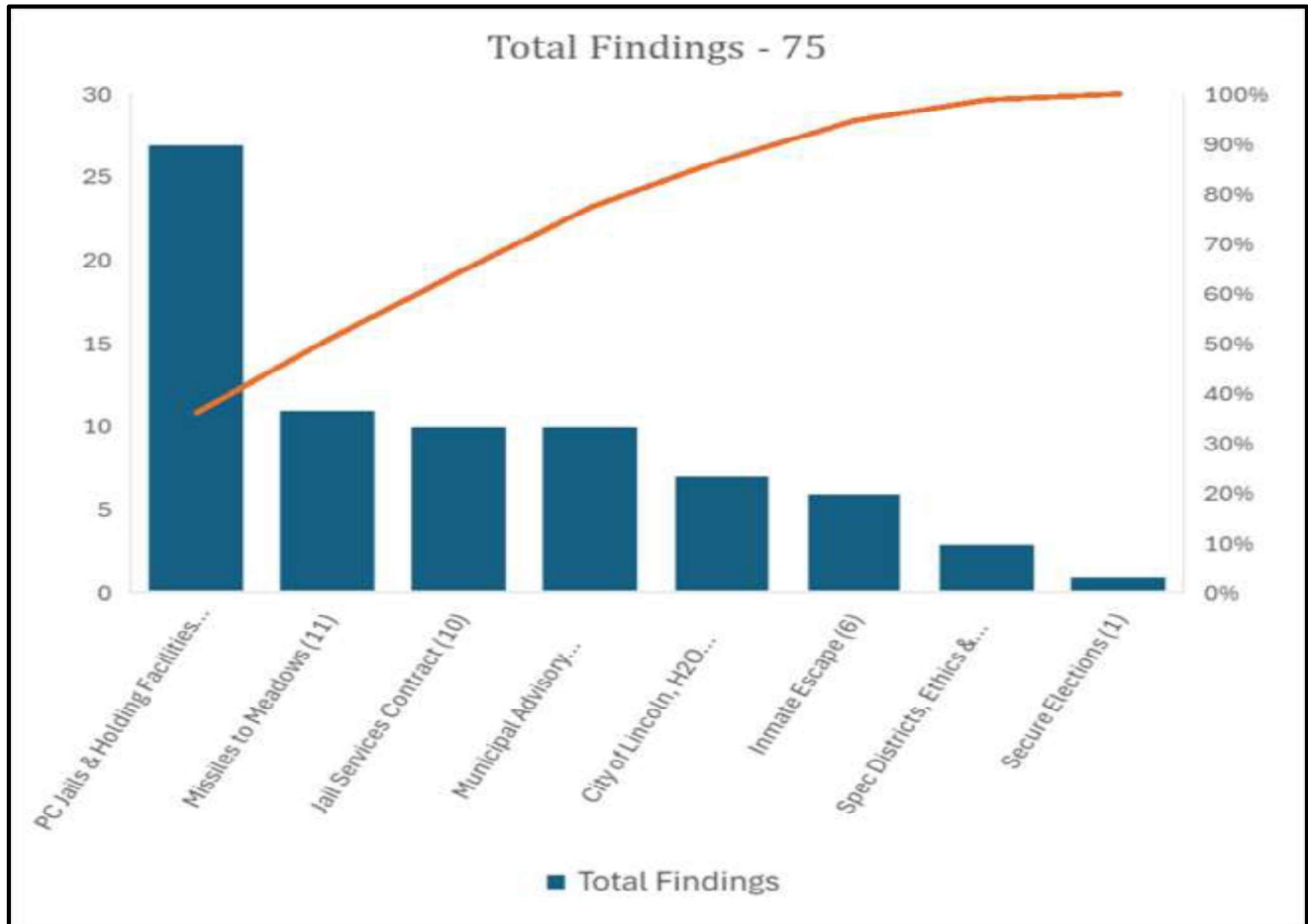
The respondent <u>agrees</u> with the finding.
The respondent <u>disagrees</u> wholly or partially with the finding; in which case the <i>response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reason(s) therefore.</i>

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code section 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following four actions with regards to the **Recommendation**:

The recommendation <u>has been implemented</u> with a summary regarding the implemented action.
The recommendation <u>has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented</u> in the future, <i>with a timeframe for the implementation.</i>
The recommendation <u>requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe</u> for the matter to be prepared for discussion. <i>This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury's report.</i>
The recommendation <u>will not be implemented</u> because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, <i>with an explanation,</i> therefore.

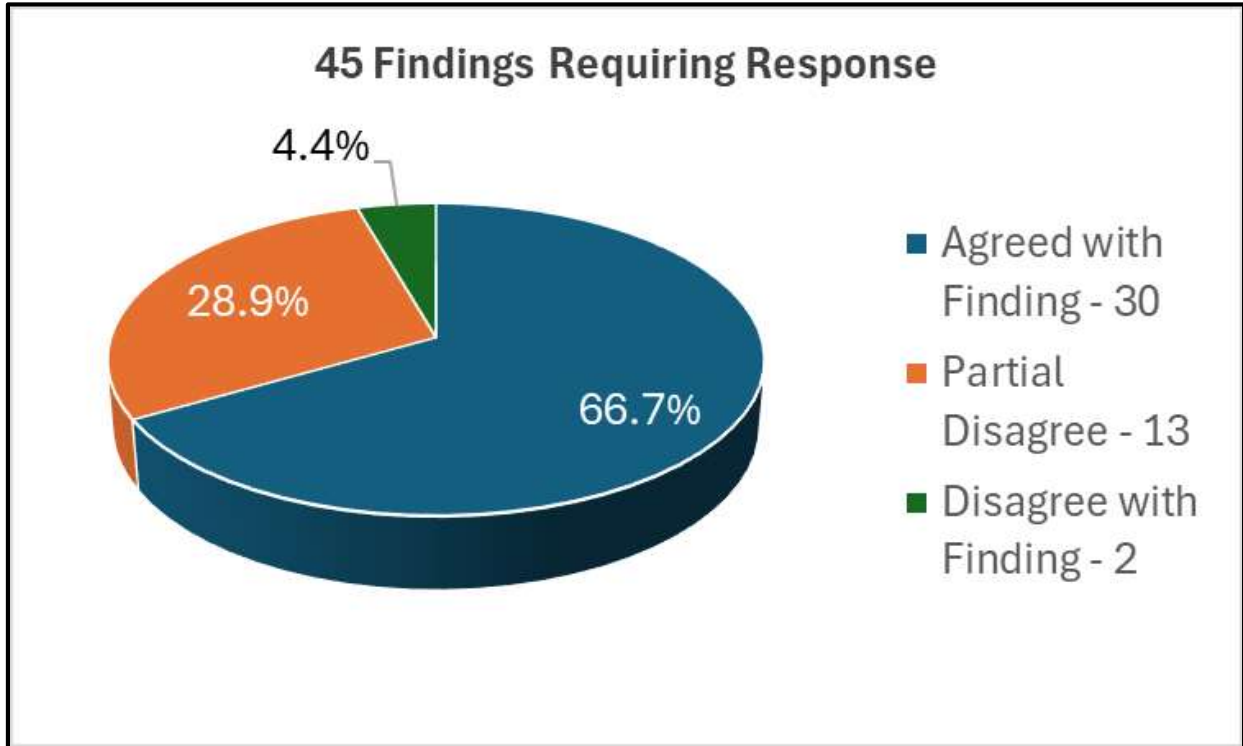
2023-2024 Findings and Recommendations Findings

The Placer County Grand Jury Final Report released in June 2024 included seventy-five **Findings** that required a response. There were an additional twenty-three findings (typically positive or favorable comments on operations and practices) that did not require a response. An analysis of the responses was done to determine how many respondents agreed or disagreed with the findings or did not reply.



	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Inmate Escape	6	3	3	0	0
Secure Elections	1	1	0	0	0
Missiles to Meadows	11	10	0	0	1
Jail Services Contract	10	4	4	0	2
Municipal Advisory Councils	10	6	2	1	1
City of Lincoln, H2O Increase	7	1	0	0	6
Spec Districts, Ethics & Form 700	3	2	0	1	0
PC Jails & Holding Facilities	27	3	4	0	20
	75	30	13	2	30

The responses to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury’s Findings and Recommendations were generally positive. Excluding the findings that did not require a response (typically a positive finding on execution of processes and procedures), 96% (43 of 45) responses were agreed to or partially agreed to.

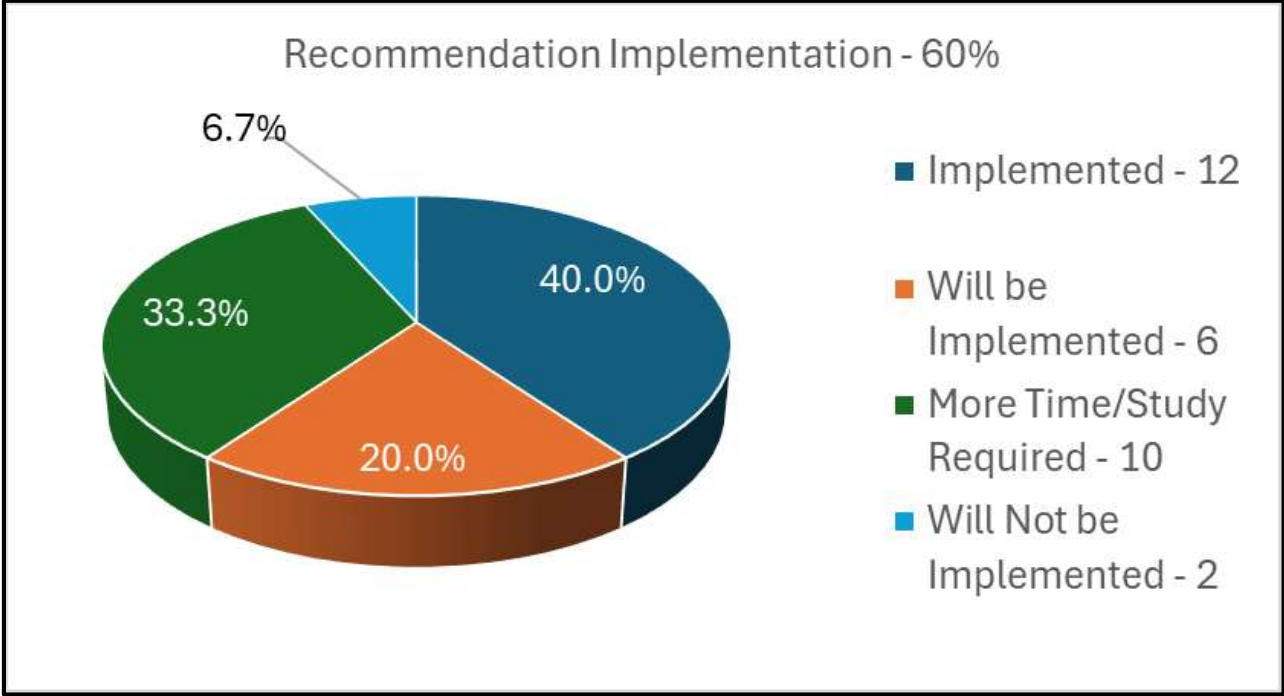


Recommendations

There were thirty-three *Recommendations* in the grand jury report that required thirty-one responses. Several of the recommendations went to Boards where individual Board members responded. The total number of required responses to the recommendations was seventy-three. Responses from individual Board members were counted as “one” response.

	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Inmate Escape	3	2	0	0	1	0
Secure Elections	1	0	1	0	0	0
Missiles to Meadows	4	1	3	0	0	0
Jail Services Contract	4	0	1	2	1	0
Municipal Advisory Councils	8	1	0	7	0	0
City of Lincoln, H2O Increase	2	2	0	0	0	0
Spec Districts, Ethics & Form 700	5	3	0	0	0	2
PC Jails & Holding Facilities	6	3	1	1	0	1
	33	12	6	10	2	3

Unlike the Respondents recognition of the 2023-2024 Grand Jury’s Findings, adoption and agreement with the Grand Jury Recommendations was mixed. While there was a 61% positive response, Implemented or Will be Implemented; 32% of the recommendations generated a request for more time and analysis. The “Will be Implemented” and “No Response” segments were the focus of the 2024-2025 Grand Jury follow-up actions.



Response Report Follow-ups

The following sections will recap the seven reports that the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Investigated which required Respondent answers to the Findings and Recommendations and any subsequent follow-up responses obtained by the 2024-2025 Grand Jury.

Inmate Escape and Subsequent Actions Taken The Escape of Eric Abril July 9, 2023

In the early morning hours of July 9, 2023, an inmate in the custody of the Placer County Sheriff's Office escaped from the Sutter Roseville Medical Center. The report detailed the Placer County Grand Jury's investigation of the escape, Placer County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures, and the events which caused the escape to happen. The following Findings and Recommendations resulted from the investigation.

FINDINGS

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Inmate Escape	6	3	3	0	0

F1. The classification decision tree does not consider the charges filed against the inmate.

Response to F1: Partial Disagree. The decision tree is used to determine the initial classification and does consider charges filed. However, as the inmate remains in custody for extended periods of time the decision to reclassify mostly considers the inmates behavior patterns and psychological stability.

F2. The one-deputy escort of Abril was based on the classification decision tree, which did not consider the seriousness of the charges or the potential sentence those charges carried.

Response to F2: Partially Disagree: The Deputy escort was based on behavioral history while in custody. As a result of AB109, inmates are spending more time in jail and in more restrictive conditions than they would in prison. In response, the Prison Law Office of California filed a class action lawsuit against Santa Clara County, leading to a settlement where the County agreed to reclassify inmates based on their in-custody behavior rather than their original offenses. This settlement has influenced how jails classify inmates, with ongoing reviews focusing on placement, improved conditions, and opportunities for inmates to demonstrate good behavior to remain in less restrictive housing.

F3. The Placer County Sheriff's Office provides no formal training for transporting an inmate to a location or for observing a hospitalized inmate.

Response to F3: Agree: Corrections Policy 1-18 currently addresses this finding. Additionally, as of July 2024 training has been implemented into the Field Training Officer program.

F4. The expense to taxpayers of Placer County was over \$109,000.

Response to F4: Partially Disagree: Based on the information we had, the estimated cost is approximately \$102,000. Without more detailed information on how the Grand Jury arrived at the figure of "over \$109,000", we cannot fully agree or disagree with the Grand Jury's assessment.

F5. The deputy's complacency and violations of policies and procedures, which allowed a violent felon to escape, put the public, fellow law enforcement, medical staff, and patients at risk.

Response to F5: Agree: The deputy's complacency and violations of policies and procedures, which allowed a violent felon to escape, put the public, fellow law enforcement, medical staff and patients at risk.

F6. The radius of Everbridge/Placer Alert system notifications did not cover the entire south Placer region. **Response to F6:** No response

Other than F6, which was a statement of fact, the responses and date of responses met compliance requirements of Penal Code 933.05.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Inmate Escape	3	2	0	0	1	0

R1. By October 1, 2024, the classification decision tree be modified to include additional factors as set forth in the Scott Jones, Esq. report. This should include charges an inmate is facing and the potential sentence range assuming conviction, including sentencing enhancements, and pending out-of-county charges.

Response to R1: The recommendation will not be implemented. The Placer County's Sheriff's Office acknowledges the recommendation to create a Guard-Duty matrix that includes factors in accordance with Penal Code section 1192.7(c). As of July 16, 2024, the Corrections Manual contains a policy that includes current charges and prior convictions. However, the Placer County Corrections Division Classification Unit does not have access to the potential sentences an inmate is facing or any sentence enhancements. This function is under the jurisdiction of the Courts. Additionally, the Corrections Unit lacks access to information on pending charges in other jurisdictions, except for known out-of-county warrants.

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Sheriff's Office will require command staff approval prior to any reclassification of any inmate currently charged with an aggravated felonies pursuant to Penal Code section 1192.7(c).

Response to R2: The recommendation has been implemented. The Placer County's Correctional Manual Policy 1-18, Guarding inmates, was modified on July 16, 2024, to include a process for downgrading inmates guard with jail commander approval.

R3. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Sheriff's Office will develop a curriculum and commence a formal training program for Placer County deputies for out of custodial facility transportation and monitoring duties, prior to deputy assignment, which includes hands-on, practical training.

Response to R3: The recommendation has been implemented. Deputies assigned to Field Operations who have not yet been jail trained will be trained by their Field Trainer on Jail Policy 1-18.

The responses and date of responses to the Grand Jury recommendations met compliance requirements of Penal Code section 933.05.

Ensuring Integrity in Placer County Elections

There have been many changes in elections processes over the past years, and a national focus on the conducting of fair and impartial elections perseveres. The 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury investigated the Placer County Elections Office to review its procedures for ensuring integrity in elections. The grand jury found the Elections Office to be professional and cooperative throughout its investigation and is pleased to report its Findings and Recommendations to the citizens of Placer County.

FINDINGS

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Election Integrity	1	1	0	0	0

F1: In 2022, the Placer County Information Technology Department engaged a contractor to perform a penetration testing of the cyber and physical security of Placer County Elections Office in Auburn.

Response to F1: **Agree** with this finding.

The responses and date of responses to the Grand Jury findings met compliance requirements of Penal Code section 933.05.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Election Integrity	1		1			

R1: By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Chief Information Officer will engage with a contractor to perform a penetration testing of the cyber and physical security of Placer County Elections Office in Rocklin, California.

Response to R1: **Recommendation has been partially completed.** The Information Technology Department has contracted with two vendors to complete the cyber and physical penetration testing by October 1, 2024. The cyber penetration testing is complete, and the physical penetration testing is underway. A confirmation letter was received from Jarrett Thiessen on October 17, 2024, stating that the testing was executed and completed on September 9, 2024. The requested documentation was not provided.

Follow-up to R1 Response: The Information Technology Department has fully completed the cyber and physical penetration testing. Responses are in full compliance with PC 933.05.



From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature’s Balance

Concern of Trichloroethylene Contamination

The Lincoln, California Titan 1-A Missile site was part of the Cold War-era defense system. It housed intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads. The site gained attention in 1991 due to the discovery of trichloroethylene southwest of the site during groundwater sampling. Trichloroethylene is a volatile organic compound that has infiltrated the site’s soil and groundwater, raising concerns about its impact on human health and the environment.

Subsequent investigations focused on understanding the extent of the trichloroethylene plume and its movement, crucial for implementing remediation measures. Cleanup efforts will require soil remediation and groundwater monitoring to mitigate environmental impacts.

To date, no remediation efforts have been completed, resulting in health and environmental concerns from the community. Without cleanup efforts, the contamination poses a risk to the surrounding environment and public health. It is essential for proper authorities to prioritize and initiate cleanup efforts to address these potentially serious hazards. This remediation project underscores the importance of monitoring and managing environmental contamination at former military sites to ensure public safety and environmental preservation.

The following Findings and Recommendations resulted from the investigation.

FINDINGS

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Missiles to Meadows	11	10	0	0	1

F1. The City of Lincoln does not have a dedicated Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site webpage on the on their website.

Responses to F1: The City **agrees** with this finding

F2. The residents in the immediate vicinity of the trichloroethylene contamination at the former Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site are well-informed on this issue.

Responses to F2: The City **agrees** with this finding.

F3. It is unclear how aware residents outside Sun City Lincoln Hills are about the Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site contamination.

Responses to F3: The City **agrees** with this finding.

- F4.** There is a new Restoration Advisory Board coordinated by United States Army Corps of Engineers which includes Lincoln residents. Those meetings are not livestreamed or recorded.

Responses to F4: The City **agrees** with this finding.

- F5.** At the first Restoration Advisory Board meeting, several questions from the community went unanswered.

Responses to F5: The City **agrees** with this finding.

- F6.** Health issues associated with trichloroethylene include birth defects, respiratory illness, several types of cancers, and Parkinson's Disease.

Responses to F6: With the caveat responding parties are not toxicology or medical experts, generally, the City **agrees** with this finding.

- F7.** Local Congressional offices, the City of Lincoln, and a community awareness group have been encouraging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin remediation of the trichloroethylene contamination.

Responses to F7: The City **agrees** with this finding.

- F8.** The City of Lincoln has included Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site remediation in their 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

Responses to F8: The City **agrees** with this finding.

- F9.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been aware of trichloroethylene contamination at the Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site since 1991 and has assumed responsibility for remediation.

Responses to F9: Without making admissions on behalf of the Army Corps, the City and Mr. Scully believe this statement to be correct.

- F10.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is installing additional monitoring wells bordering Snapdragon Lane and Prunella Court in the Sun City Lincoln Hills Community.

Responses to F10: Without making admissions on behalf of the Army Corps, the City and Mr. Scully believe this statement to be correct.

- F11.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers abruptly ceased this project for nearly a decade to determine the source of contamination and responsibility for the cleanup from 2009 to 2018-2019.

Responses to F11: Without making admissions on behalf of the Army Corps, the City and Mr. Scully believe this statement to be correct.

Follow-up to F1 – F11 Responses: The City Council and City Manager of Lincoln, Ca, have met Compliance requirements for their responses to the Findings within the 2023-2024 Grand Jury report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Missiles to Meadows	4	1	3	0	0	0

R1. By October 1, 2024, the Lincoln City Council will create a dedicated Titan 1-A Missile Site page on the City of Lincoln’s website to include a link to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ website, to disseminate information to the public, including a point of contact.

Responses to R1: Recommendation No. 1 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future by October 1, 2024. The 2024-2025 PC-GJ contacted the Lincoln City Manager on October 9, 2024 and confirmed implementation.

R2. Beginning October 1, 2024, the Lincoln City Council will provide a quarterly status update report on the Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site at Lincoln City Council meetings.

Responses to R2: Recommendation No. 2 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future by October 1, 2024. The 2024-2025 PC-GJ contacted the Lincoln City Manager on October 9, 2024 and confirmed implementation.

R3. By October 1, 2024, through completion of full remediation, the Lincoln City Council will request the United States Army Corps of Engineers, or their consultants, to livestream, record, publish, and archive Restoration Advisory Board meetings for full transparency.

Responses to R3: Recommendation No. 3 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future by October 1, 2024. The 2024-2025 PC-GJ contacted the Lincoln City Manager on October 9, 2024 and confirmed implementation.

R4. By September 1, 2024, the Lincoln City Council will appoint a city representative to attend quarterly Restoration Advisory Board meetings.

Responses to R4: By September 1, 2024, the City Council will appoint the City Manager or designee as the representative to attend meetings of the Restoration Advisory Board. The 2024-2025 PC-GJ contacted the Lincoln City Manager on October 9, 2024 and confirmed implementation.

Follow-up to R1 – R4 Responses: The City Council and City Manager of Lincoln, Ca, have met Compliance requirements for their responses to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury report recommendations.



A Fiscal Evaluation of the Contract for Jail Services Between Placer and Nevada Counties

Since 2001, the Placer County Sheriff's Office has contracted with Nevada County Sheriff's Office for jail services due to inadequate facilities at Burton Creek Tahoe Substation for housing detainees. While annual contract renewals indicate this is a favorable agreement, the fiscal demands show the complete opposite. As written, this contract has an automatic annual increase of 3 percent every fiscal year, resulting in a cost of detaining offenders more than twenty times higher than Placer County's Daily Jail Rate and costs taxpayers over \$500,000 dollars per year.

Recently, the Placer County Board of Supervisors approved authorizing staff to begin land use consulting and project planning and entitlements to facilitate the design of the project to replace the facilities. The approved contract for the consultant work is to not exceed \$500,000. The goal being a building completion in 2030. The completion of a new facility, which includes a Type II jail, should eliminate the need for the contract.

The following Findings and Recommendations resulted from the investigation.

FINDINGS

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Contract for Jail Services	10	4	4	0	2

- F1.** The current contract funding arrangement between Placer County Sheriff's Office and Nevada County Sheriff's Office is inconsistent with other jail services contracts Placer County has with other agencies.

Response to F1: The Board partially disagrees with this finding. The contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office is different than other jail services contracts, but this is due to the differences in the services provided by Nevada County and therefore different metrics are used to calculate cost. This contract is intended to fully reimburse Nevada County for expenses incurred by PCSO's utilization of the Truckee Jail. Insufficient reimbursement could lead to Nevada County cancelling this contract or the closure of the jail, which would negatively impact Placer County as well as other jurisdictions in the Tahoe region. **Sheriff Woo partially disagrees.** The contract is unlike any other Placer County Sheriff's Office jail booking contract and does not follow typical jail services contracts. The contract with Nevada County is based on various factors, not solely on the number of bookings or "per inmate" fees. Cost of other jail services contracts are determined by several metrics such as staff time, inmate medical care and supervisors. The contract with Nevada County is reviewed annually, with cost comparisons of alternatives to ensure it is fiscally viable. The fiscal benefit of the contract outweighs its costs, making it a practical solution for

Placer County and other agencies that rely on NCSO's jail. Reduced funding could lead to the closure of jail operations in Truckee, forcing all agencies to have to transport to Auburn for booking significantly impacting efficiency and resource allocation. Due to seasonal construction, inclement weather, and excessive drive times, the Washoe (Reno, NV) or El Dorado County (South Lake Tahoe) booking facilities are not feasible options.

F2. Placer County Sheriff's Office current jail contract with Nevada County Sheriff's Office has not been renegotiated since 2017.

Response to F2: The Board partially disagrees with this finding. The contract between Placer County Sheriff's Office and Nevada County Sheriff's Office is an annual agreement that is renewed each year based on the 2017 agreement. **Sheriff Woo partially agrees with the finding.** The contract is renewed each year based on the original 2017 agreement. There are no negotiables other than days, hours, and cost. Reduced funding may compel them to close the facility. The parties are in contract negotiations to renew for one more year, pending approval of the Board of Supervisors, and we will be meeting with the NCSO to discuss a new agreement. This contract is amended every year to include the standard 3% increase.

F3. The Board of Supervisors has made the Burton Creek Substation a Tier I Capital Improvement Project to direct funding to the project.

Response to F3: The Board partially disagrees with this finding. The Burton Creek Substation has been identified by the Board as a high priority and is included in the Tahoe Justice Center project, with an estimated total cost of \$50 million. Placer County has identified existing and future funding sources for approximately half of the funding needed for this project, or just over \$25 million, with additional funding still being sought for the remainder of the construction costs as well as operating costs once the project is complete. Placer County's current Capital Improvement Plan can be found inline here: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/80666/Placer-County-CIP-24-29> **Sheriff Woo partially agrees with the finding.** The project is moving forward and since the Sheriff's Office doesn't set the tiers, it would be considered a Tier 1 priority based on the Board's project prioritization system.

F4. The Placer County Sheriff's Office transports detainees from Burton Creek Substation to Auburn Main Jail any time Nevada County Sheriff's Office declines to accept a detainee.

Response to F4: The Board agrees with this finding, however, would like to note that Nevada County accepts arrestees under most circumstances including overnight and on weekends. Instances where an arrestee may not be accepted by Nevada County would include combative, injured, medicated, or suicidal arrestees or if NCSO lacks adequate staffing such as a female deputy for female bookings. **Sheriff Woo partially agrees with the finding.** While it is true that the Nevada County Jail accepts Placer County bookings in the evenings, and weekends, they do

not accept combative, injured, medicated, or suicidal arrestees. Additionally, if NCSO lacks adequate staffing, such as a female deputy for female bookings, they may refuse our booking. In such cases, the arrestee must be transported to the Auburn Jail either by a Tahoe deputy or by meeting with an Auburn deputy in Nyack if a west slope deputy is available.

F5. The jail contract for fiscal year 2022-2023 cost Placer County over a half-million dollars.

Response to F5: The Board **agrees** with this finding.

F6. The cost of the contract to Placer County automatically increases 3 percent each year regardless of the number of Truckee Jail bookings.

Response to F6: The Board **agrees** with this finding. As noted above, this contract is based on cost recovery. The three percent increase is intended to capture inflation and operational cost increases.

F7. Placer County is charged a flat rate per year instead of a daily per-person rate.

Response to F7: The Board **agrees** with this finding.

F8. The Burton Creek Substation is classified as a Type I jail facility.

Response to F8: The Board **agrees** with this finding.

F9. Placer County Daily Jail Rate is \$246 per day, while the contract paid over \$5,700 per day at the Truckee Jail based on the actual use of the FY 2022-23 contract.

Response to F9: No response required or requested.

F10. The Placer County Sheriff's Office contract with Nevada County Sheriff's Office for jail services is not providing taxpayers with the best value for their money.

Response to F10: No response required or requested.

Follow-up to F1 – F10 Responses: The Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Board of Supervisors, *have met Compliance requirements* for their responses to the Findings within the 2023-2024 Grand Jury report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Contract for Jail Services	4	0	1	2	1	0

R1. By March 1, 2025, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, providing jail services for the North Tahoe region, be renegotiated annually to pay for services rendered.

Responses to R1: The Board of Supervisor's state that Recommendation 1 has been implemented. As noted above, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office for jail services is an annual agreement that follows the fiscal year. There is opportunity to renegotiate this agreement annually at the end of the contract term. **Sheriff Woo states that this recommendation needs further analysis.** The most current contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office for providing jail services to the North Tahoe region is set to expire on June 30, 2024. This contract term is from July 1, 2023, to June 20, 2024. A contract amendment is currently being prepared for renewal. Nevada County has presented this amendment to their Board of Supervisors for approval. Subsequently, it will be taken to our Board of Supervisors (BOS) for approval in September. If approved, the new contract term will be from July 1, 2024, to June 10, 2025, with a 3% increase from the prior year. Further discussions will be held to renegotiate the contract terms and determine the duration of the new agreement for services rendered.

R2. By March 1, 2025, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, providing jail services for the North Tahoe region, be modified to a per person daily rate based upon the Placer County Daily Jail Rate.

Responses to R2: Recommendation 2 will not be implemented. As noted above, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and Nevada County Sheriff's Office is intended to fully reimburse Nevada County for expenses incurred by PCSO's utilization of the Truckee Jail. Insufficient reimbursement due to a transition to a per person daily rate could lead to Nevada County cancelling this contract or the closure of the jail, which would negatively impact Placer County as well as other jurisdictions in the Tahoe region. **Sheriff Woo states that Recommendation No. 2 will not be implemented.** The contract with the Nevada County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) is based on various factors, not solely on the number of bookings or "per inmate" fees. Costs are determined by specific metrics such as staff time, inmate medical care and supervisors. The contract is reviewed annually, with cost comparisons of alternatives to ensure it is fiscally viable. The fiscal benefit of the contract outweighs its costs, making it a practical solution for Placer County and other agencies that rely on NCSO's jail. NCSO relies on the contract with Placer County Sheriff's Office for revenue. Decreasing Nevada County's revenue could

potentially cause a negative fiscal impact to their operations, which, in turn, could affect public safety. Any reduction in operational capacity might not only impact the ability to maintain current levels of public safety but could also have a fiscal repercussion for other agencies that depend on Nevada County's Services.

R3. By December 1, 2024, the Board of Supervisors continue to support building a replacement Burton Creek Substation facility and see it through to completion.

Responses to R3: The BOS stated that Recommendation No. 3 has been implemented. As noted above, the Board of Supervisors has identified the Burton Creek Substation as a high priority and continues to demonstrate commitment to the project for as long as the project remains feasible. The Burton Creek Substation is included in the Tahoe Justice Center project, with an estimated total cost of \$50 million. Placer County has identified existing and future funding sources for approximately half of the funding needed for this project, or just over \$25 million, with additional funding still being sought for the remainder of the construction costs as well as operating costs once the project is complete. Placer County's current Capital Improvement Plan can be found inline here:

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/80666/Placer-County-CIP-24-29>.

R4. By December 1, 2024, Placer County Sheriff's Office explore alternative transportation methods for moving detainees from Burton Creek to the Auburn Main Jail.

Responses to R4: **Sheriff Woo stated that Recommendation No. 3 requires further analysis.** The cost of funding full-time transport deputies would exponentially outweigh the cost of the contract between Placer and Nevada County. Placer County is responsible for providing allied agencies such as CHP, CA State Parks and Probation with a booking facility for arrests made within Placer County. The contract with Nevada County Jail ensures that officers making arrests in the eastern part of the county do not need to drive to the western end for booking. This arrangement not only saves time and resources but also allows officers to remain in their respective areas, maintaining a higher level of public safety and efficiency. By preventing long travel times for bookings, the contract helps keep law enforcement presence consistent across the country, avoiding the potential gaps in coverage that could arise if deputies were required to transport arrestees across significant distances.

Follow-up to R1 – R4 Responses: The Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Board of Supervisors, *have met Compliance requirements* for their responses to the Recommendations within the 2023-2024 Grand Jury report.



Department of Public Works County Garage Fleet-Assigned Vehicles

The Placer County Department of Public Works provides vehicle services to all Placer County departments. One of its main services is providing management and maintenance of fleet-assigned county vehicles consisting of various cars, trucks, and vans. The fleet is recognizable as the familiar white vehicles with the Placer County logo the public sees throughout the county. The report identified six Findings, none of which required a formal response.

FINDINGS

- F1.** The county garage uses a zero-profit business model with all costs for maintenance and repairs billed to supported departments. No response is requested or required.
- F2.** U.S. Bank Voyager gas cards are used to track fuel costs and mileage. No response is requested or required.
- F3.** AssetWorks software is used to track and manage all costs and the lifecycle of vehicles. No response is requested or required.
- F4.** Department of Public Works has their own garage to internally maintain all vehicles. No response is requested or required.
- F5.** The cost for any external maintenance for a vehicle out of warranty is less than 1 percent of the total \$11 million budget. No response is requested or required.
- F6.** Department of Public Works management has taken state EV mandates into consideration in their purchasing and operational decisions. No response is requested or required.



Municipal Advisory Councils - What is a MAC?

The Municipal Advisory Councils in Placer County originally were originally intended as outreach facilitators between the public and the Planning Commission. Currently they are underutilized and do not align with their original purpose. Following redistricting, Municipal Advisory Councils no longer match Placer County Board of Supervisor boundaries leading to some being overseen by multiple supervisors. Furthermore, Municipal Advisory Councils board members lack adequate training on zoning laws, land use regulations, and Brown Act rules, contributing to a perception that citizen and board members' concerns are not taken seriously.

As most of the grand jurors were unaware of these councils and their role, the 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury decided to investigate how Municipal Advisory Councils function. Through their investigation, grand jurors learned Municipal Advisory Councils are different in each supervisorial district ranging from how the councils are utilized to how often meetings are held.

The following Findings and Recommendations resulted from the investigation.

FINDINGS

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Municipal Advisory Councils	10	6	2	1	1

F1. The Municipal Advisory Councils of Placer County Handbook was first developed in 1998 and has not been updated since 2013.

Response to F1: 4 of 5 Board of Supervisors (BOS) **agree** with this finding.

F2. Municipal Advisory Council boundaries do not align with current supervisorial district boundaries.

Response to F2: All 5 BOS **agree** with this finding.

F3. Municipal Advisory Councils, within some supervisorial districts, could be consolidated for greater efficiencies.

Response to F3: 3 of 5 Board of Supervisors **agree** with this finding. **Two partial or fully disagreed.**

F4. Informing residents of Municipal Advisory Committee meetings is ineffective.

Response to F4: 3 of 5 Board of Supervisors **disagree or partially disagree** with this finding. Two respondents indicated that their email lists are current and/or their meetings are posted online and are included in their monthly newsletters.

F5. Municipal Advisory Council board members are unaware of how they receive information on pending projects in advance of receiving the meeting agenda.

Response to F5: 3 of 5 Board of Supervisors **agree** with this finding. **Two partial or fully disagreed.** The BOS Clerical Staff forward all "Notice of Public Hearing", Placer County Parcel Review Committee (Division of CDRA - Community Development Resource Agency).

F6. Municipal Advisory Councils are not provided annual training, specifically on zoning laws and changes, land use regulations, and Brown Act rules and procedures.

Response to F6: All 5 BOS **agree** with this finding.

F7. Municipal Advisory Council meeting minutes are not posted consistently on the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

Response to F7: 4 of 5 Board of Supervisors **agree** with this finding.

F8. Many Municipal Advisory Councils are not set up for virtual meetings.

Response to F8: All 5 BOS **agree** with this finding

F9. There are no term limits for how long a Municipal Advisory Council board member can serve.

Response to F9: All 5 BOS **agree** with this finding,

F10. There is no specific budget or definable costs for Municipal Advisory Councils.

Response to F10: No response required

Follow-up to F1 – F10 Responses: The Placer County Board of Supervisors *have met Compliance requirements* for their responses to the Findings within the 2023-2024 Grand Jury report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Municipal Advisory Councils	8	1	0	7	0	0

R1. By January 31, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will update the Municipal Advisory Council handbook.

Response to R1: **Recommendation No. 1 requires further analysis. District 1- The Grand Jury (GJ) has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the GJ's recommendations is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors", as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor, I cannot bind or commit the Board to act [repeated in every Board of Supervisor response and will be**

omitted for Districts 2-5). Speaking as an individual supervisor, I support modernizing County and Board processes and value consistency in the Board's management of MACs. my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update. **District 2** – Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is the Municipal Advisory Council Handbook needs to be updated. **District 3** – Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update. **District 4** – Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine whether the current handbook is adequate or in need of updating. **District 5** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it **should be implemented** in the given timeframe.

Follow up to the responses to R1: As of December 31, 2024, the *Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS)* have not included any action item in the bi-monthly Board meetings to address the recommendations to update the Municipal Advisory Council Handbook.

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will commence a study to consolidate Municipal Advisory Councils within supervisorial districts.

Response to R2: Recommendation No. 2 requires further analysis. District 1- The Grand Jury (GJ) has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the GJ's recommendations is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors", as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor, I cannot bind or commit the Board to act *repeated in every Board of Supervisor response and will be omitted for Districts 2-5*. Speaking as an individual Supervisor, this recommendation doesn't apply to District 1 with its single MAC. However, consolidating MAC's can be beneficial to save time and resources, especially when attendance is low for non-controversial issues. **District 2** – No additional submittal. **District 3** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update. **District 4** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity and/or feasibility of such a consolidation. **District 5** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it **should be implemented** in the given timeframe. While a study will be beneficial, the extent to which we consolidate will depend on a number of factors including community characteristics and geographic barriers. I recommend we commence this study after the November election as there may be several new board members.

Follow up to the responses to R2:

As of December 31, 2024, the BOS have not included any action item in the bi-monthly Board meetings to address the recommendations to consolidate the MAC's within District boundaries.

- R3.** By January 31, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will realign Municipal Advisory Council district boundaries to match the supervisors' district boundaries.

Response to R3: Recommendation No. 3 requires further analysis. District 1- The Grand Jury (GJ) has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the GJ's recommendations is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors", as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor, I cannot bind or commit the Board to act (repeated in every Board of Supervisor response and will be omitted for Districts 2-5). Speaking as an individual Supervisor, I believe the MAC boundaries reflect community interests, while district lines focus on equal population distribution. In 2021, we couldn't align MACs within a single supervisorial district, and since district lines change every decade but community interests stay the same, it's important to keep MACs intact. Ideally, each MAC should have only one supervisor as its main contact. **District 2** – No additional submittal. **District 3** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update. **District 4** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity and/or feasibility of such a consolidation. **District 5** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it **should be implemented** in the given timeframe.

Follow up to the responses to R3: As of December 31, 2024, the BOS have not included any action item in the bi-monthly Board meetings to address the recommendations to align the MAC's within District boundaries.

- R4.** By January 1, 2025, each Placer County Supervisor will increase public outreach of Municipal Advisory Council meetings through social media, newsletters, and email blasts.

Response to R4: **District 1** has enhanced the timeliness and clarity of MAC notices in the "West Placer Bulletin" and created a link to the West Placer MAC website, "Placer.CA.Gov/WPMAC." This link is included in the monthly District 1 newsletter, which reaches 27,000 residents, and District 1 also maintains a list of interested residents for MAC and development updates. **District 2 has implemented this recommendation** and is met by the District 2 office through the use of effective email lists, our monthly newsletter includes the links to the MAC websites where meeting information is posted, and we post about our meetings in applicable Facebook groups such as the Sheridan Happenings Facebook page. This recommendation has been partially implemented in **District 3**, "District 3 Event Calendar" which notes all events/meetings to include our MAC meetings. It spans

out a year at a time. In addition, our weekly/bi-weekly/monthly newsletter has our next current meeting listed. **District 4** Supervisor stated, “though I believe that my staff does an excellent job in this regard I will instruct them to look for ways to increase our reach to residents of my district. **District 5** office already utilizes these methods of communication for MAC meetings.

R5. By November 1, 2024, the Placer County Planning Services Division will develop written procedures to inform Placer County Supervisors, Municipal Advisory Councils, and county staff how information is transmitted among these parties.

Response to R5: Recommendation No. 3 requires further analysis. District 1- *The Grand Jury (GJ) has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the GJ's recommendations is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors", as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor, I cannot bind or commit the Board to act (repeated in every Board of Supervisor response and will be omitted for Districts 2-5).* Speaking as an individual Supervisor, I favor this recommendation. It makes sense for Planning Services, which primarily interacts with the MACs, to set standards that the MACs would follow. **District 2** – No additional submittal. **District 3** - Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update. A realistic date would be further out to early-mid 2025. **District 4** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity and/or feasibility of such an undertaking. **District 5** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it **should be implemented** in the given timeframe.

Follow up to the responses to R5: As of December 31, 2024, the BOS have not included any action item in the bi-monthly Board meetings to address the recommendations to address having the Planning Services Division develop written procedures to inform Placer County Supervisors, Municipal Advisory Councils, and county staff how information is transmitted among these parties.

R6. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will authorize mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils board members occurs.

Response to R6: Recommendation No. 6 requires further analysis. District 1- *The Grand Jury (GJ) has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the GJ's recommendations is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors", as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor, I cannot bind or commit the Board to act (repeated in every Board of Supervisor response and will be*

omitted for Districts 2-5). Speaking as an individual Supervisor, I **agree** with this recommendation. New MAC members appointed mid-year should also receive training. **District 2** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is making the Brown Act, rezoning laws and procedures information available to MAC members is important, however I have concerns that a mandatory in-person training might be a hinderance to individuals who want to serve on the MAC but may have limited availability for extra trainings. I would personally be interested in an online training that MAC members can complete on their own time. **District 3** - Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that we have subject expert staff that embody both institutional knowledge, and years of schooling, that sit on Boards (Zoning and Planning) and whom present agenda items to our Municipal Advisory Council. It would be quite costly to keep training courses up to date, and the hours of extra time could not be compensated. These Municipal Advisory Councils were designed to be a hearing body of our citizens to represent all citizens. **District 4** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity and/or feasibility of such an undertaking. **District 5** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it **should be implemented** in the given timeframe.

Follow up to the responses to R6: The 2023-2024 Grand Jury set a February 2025 date for corrective action. As of December 31, 2024, the *BOS have not included any action item* in the bi-monthly Board meetings to address the recommendations to address Recommendation #6.

R7. By September 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure all current and past meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted to the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

Response to R7: Recommendation No. 7 requires further analysis. **District 1-** *The Grand Jury (GJ) has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the GJ's recommendations is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors", as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor, I cannot bind or commit the Board to act* *(repeated in every Board of Supervisor response and will be omitted for Districts 2-5)*. Speaking as an individual Supervisor, I favor this recommendation, provided it aligns with the County's standard document retention period. **District 2** - Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is it is important to have meeting agendas and minutes available and updated regularly. **District 3** - Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that although a good idea, we are short-staffed, and this is not a realistic timeline to get this completed. Late 2024 to early 2025 would be a more realistic timeline. **District 4** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is needed to determine the necessity for this step. **District 5** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that this has already been handled by county staff.

R8. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will provide virtual access for all Municipal Advisory Councils meetings to the public.

Response to R8: Recommendation No. 8 requires further analysis. District 1- *The Grand Jury (GJ) has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the GJ's recommendations is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors", as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor, I cannot bind or commit the Board to act (repeated in every Board of Supervisor response and will be omitted for Districts 2-5).* Speaking as an individual Supervisor, I believe this recommendation is unreasonable. MACs are primarily in rural areas with unreliable internet, making it difficult to hold compliant public meetings. For instance, if a MAC meeting loses power or internet, it must be adjourned and rescheduled, which is highly inefficient. While recording and posting meetings online is a viable alternative, it would demand substantial county resources. **District 2** -Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is virtual meetings are costly to host and virtual access is limited in much of the rural parts of the County where the Municipal Advisory Councils exist. During Covid, we provided virtual access, and did not see as increase in attendance. I believe the public is more likely to attend when an issue that impacts them directly is on the agenda, and providing virtual access will be a large expense to taxpayers, without a lot of benefit. **District 3** - Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that this is quite costly, and I don't believe it will be effective in drawing in additional citizens to this meeting.

Follow-up to R1 – R8 Responses: The Placer County Board of Supervisors *have met Compliance requirements per Penal Code § 933.05* for their responses to the Findings within the 2023-2024 Grand Jury report. However, as noted above several responses, no action has been taken or scheduled to be taken by the Placer County Board of Supervisors.



Review of the 2023 Water Rate Increase by the City of Lincoln

The 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury received a citizen’s complaint regarding the newly established water rate increases, indicating continued concern over the City of Lincoln’s financial management. The grand jury has reviewed and investigated the history involving the 2023 water rate increases. The water rate increase was introduced October 1, 2023, to ensure water utility funds are stabilized to provide continued and reliable water utility services to City of Lincoln residents. This report gives a brief history of Lincoln’s water rate changes since 2013, and describes the processes used to determine the rate increase, resident notification, and implementation.

FINDINGS

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Lincoln H2O Increase	7	1	0	0	6

F1. The Lincoln City Council agreed with the 2023 Raftelis Water and Wastewater Study Report and findings.

Response to F1: The City Council and City Manager **agree** with this finding.

F2. The Lincoln City Council raised water rates due to a lack of funds to maintain the water utility according to the 2023 Raftelis Water and Wastewater Study Report recommendations.

No Response required to F2.

F3. The City of Lincoln was sued by a citizens’ group in 2016.

No Response required to F3.

F4. The Lincoln City Council gave some customers credits due to overcharging and raised water rates in 2017.

No Response required to F4.

F5. The City of Lincoln was audited by the California State Auditor’s Office in 2019.

No Response required to F5.

F6. The Lincoln City Council reduced water rates by 95 percent in 2021.

No Response required to F6.

F7. The Lincoln City Council properly and transparently increased water rates in 2023.

No Response required to F7.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Lincoln H2O Increase	2	2	0	0	0	0

R1. By March 1, 2025, the Lincoln City Council will continue to support the ten-year water rate increase outlined in the Raftelis Water and Wastewater Study Report.

Response to R1: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this recommendation, and to the extent these parties are able to bind future Councils, it will be implemented. The 2024-2025 PC-GJ contacted the Lincoln City Manager on October 6, 2024 and confirmed implementation.

R2. Beginning March 1, 2025, the Lincoln City Council will review the ten-year water rates plan annually at a public meeting.

Response to R2: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this recommendation, it has already been implemented as City Staff already provide annual update and review of the rates plan at a public hearing. The 2024-2025 PC-GJ contacted the Lincoln City Manager on October 6, 2024 and confirmed implementation.

The City of Lincoln and Mr. Scully have been exemplary in their response and actions taken as recommended by the Grand Jury. Subsequent follow ups were also responded to promptly. Both the Findings and Recommendation responses were compliant with Penal Code 933.05.

Cemetery Districts in Placer County - A Review of Current Operations, Finances, and Future Plans

Placer County has six cemetery districts that administer fifteen individual cemeteries. The earliest burial sites in some of the cemeteries date back to the early to mid-1800s and are of local historical significance. This report encompasses a review of the financial standing, operations, maintenance, and future plans within each district. The diverse age and locations of the individual cemeteries present different resource requirements, especially for maintenance and upkeep in the older, historical cemeteries. All the districts do a commendable job with upkeep and appearance, but the historical cemeteries have family plots that are abandoned, which poses maintenance challenges.

The larger cemetery districts are financially sound with significant property tax revenues and reserves at the four larger cemeteries. The two smallest cemetery districts have very limited tax income revenue and financial reserves, yet they maintain their balance sheets well. Finally, all the cemetery districts have sufficient developed and undeveloped land to accommodate their anticipated space needs into the future. Cemeteries in western Placer County, the largest area of population growth, have the most undeveloped land to accommodate growth and the largest financial reserves for future land purchases.

There are no response or compliance requirements for this investigation.



Special Districts' Compliance with Form 700 and Ethics Training

Individual board members of Placer County Special Districts are required to submit a Form 700 on an annual basis and complete ethics training biannually if any board member of the special district receives any financial compensation (salary, stipend, or reimbursement for expenses). The 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury investigated the thirty-seven special districts in Placer County to ensure all special districts were compliant with the submission and training requirements. The Placer County Grand Jury verified that 97 percent of special district board members were compliant with the Form 700 submission and 91 percent were compliant for biannual ethics training as of December 31, 2023.

FINDINGS

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
Special Districts - Form 700	3	2	0	1	0

F1. Thirteen of 176 (7 percent) special districts' board members have not had verifiable, current ethics training.

Response to F1: Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District disagreed and submitted information indicating compliance on two staffers. Foresthill PUD also disagreed and provided limited verification. Auburn Cemetery District agreed and implemented.

F2. Four of 176 (2 percent) active districts' board members have not filed a Form 700 for 2023 as of April 9, 2024.

No response required for F2.

F3. Of the thirty-six Placer County Special Districts, 172 of 176 (98 percent) of the board members are compliant with the submission of Form 700 to the Placer County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

No response required for F3.

Responses to the Findings meet compliance requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
Special Districts - Form 700	5	3	0	0	0	2

R1. By October 1, 2024, the Auburn Cemetery District (three board members) provide a current biannual ethics training certificate for their board members.

Response to R1: Completed: July 19, 2024.

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Foresthill Public Utility District (two board members) provide a current biannual ethics training certificate for their board members.

Response to R2: Completed: October 18, 2024.

R3. By October 1, 2024, the Newcastle Fire Protection District (two board members) provide a current biannual ethics training certificate for their board members.

Response to R3: Follow-up contact December 12, 2024. To be completed by March 2025.

R4. By October 1, 2024, the Placer Mosquito Vector Control District (two board members) provide a current biannual ethics training certificate for their board members.

Response to R4: Confirmed completed: September 11, 2024.

R5. By October 1, 2024, the Tahoe Cemetery District (four board members) provide a current biannual ethics training certificate for their board members.

Response to R5: No response.

Responses to all Recommendations are presently complete except a letter of compliance from the Tahoe Cemetery District.

Placer County Jails, Holding Facilities, and Coroner’s Office Annual Inspections

This report summarizes the Superior Court mandated 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury’s inspections of the three Placer County jails and three holding facilities. The grand jury conducted inspections at each of these facilities and found most to be clean and well-maintained. Findings for each facility are noted within their respective sections. The grand jury also visited the Placer County Sheriff’s Coroner’s Office.

FINDINGS

There are a total of 27 findings. Only seven (7) of the Findings required responses and those are the Findings listed below.

Report	Total Findings	Agreed To Findings	Partial Disagree	Disagree w/ Findings	No Response or Comment Only
PC Jails & Holding Facilities	27	3	4	0	20

F4. No correctional staff or sheriff’s deputies were observed wearing department issued body-worn cameras.

Response to F4: Sheriff Woo **partially agrees**; Body worn cameras were issued and implemented in March 2023. Body Worn Cameras are required to be worn by policy and the policy is enforced. If an employee was not wearing their body worn cameras, it was not within Sheriff’s Office policy.

F5. The upper control booth was cluttered with staff personal items.

Response to F5: **Agree** - Sergeants are making daily rounds to each housing unit to ensure cleanliness.

F6. This facility is not compliant with The Americans with Disabilities Act, and all inmates who require this accommodation must be transferred to South Placer Adult Correctional Facility.

Response to F6: **Partially agree** - Inmates requiring ADA accommodations are accommodated accordingly within our capabilities. If the facility is unable to provide the necessary ADA accommodations, these inmates are transferred to the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility.

F11. Future mail technology may include all correspondence being electronically scanned and sent to inmates via email.

Response to F11: **Partially agree** - Future mail technology will include all correspondence being electronically scanned and sent to inmates via email.

F14. There is no covered entry or walkway to protect staff, visitors, detainees, or evidence from inclement weather, and is not compliant with The Americans with Disability Act.

Response to F14: Partially agree - There is no covered entry or walkway to inclement weather. protect staff, detainees, or evidence from inclement weather. We do have a covered entry in the front of the building for visitors and the two records clerks who generally use that entrance.

F15. The Placer County Board of Supervisors recently authorized land use consulting, project planning, and entitlements to facilitate the design of the new Tahoe Justice Center.

Response to F15: The Board of Supervisors agree with this finding. Sheriff Woo **agrees** - Facilities has agreed that they are working with a land use consultant to start the EIR and entitlements process for this project in Tahoe. This will be a long and slow process.

F16. Training programs that are taught at this facility include sewing, printing, embroidery, crafts, culinary arts, and landscaping.

Response to F16: Agree - Training programs that are taught at this facility include sewing, printing, embroidery, crafts, culinary arts and landscaping.

Responses to the Findings meet compliance requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Report	Total Recommendations	Implemented	Will Be Implemented	More Time/Study Required	Will Not be Implemented	Did Not Respond
PC Jails & Holding Facilities	6	3	1	1	0	1

R1. While on duty, all uniformed staff wear department-issued body-worn cameras by October 1, 2024.

Response to R1: This recommendation has been implemented. - The Placer County Sheriff's Office-Corrections Division implemented the wearing and use of body worn cameras in March 2023. PCSO General Order Operations 26 - Digital Evidence Capture Systems was effective March 1, 2024. Section 5 of the general order states: "All employees issued a BWC are required to wear (powered on) and use their BWC's per this policy when working in uniform, unless exemption exists. For the purpose of this order, a uniform shall be defined as apparel that visibly identifies the wearer as a peace officer or correctional officer of the PCSO, regardless of rank.

R2. Respiratory Personal Protection Equipment will be easily accessible for staff by October 1, 2024.

Response to R2: **This recommendation has been implemented.** PPE (face masks) are readily available to all staff in the event they need them.

R3. The upper control booth will be cleared of all unnecessary staff personal items and the remaining items be organized by October 1, 2024.

Response to R3: **This recommendation has been implemented.** The response was noted and immediately corrected. Sergeants check workstations daily to ensure cleanliness.

R4. The Placer County Sheriff's Office expand the incoming mail scanning equipment and procedures to all jail facilities by July 1, 2025.

Response to R4: **This recommendation has not yet been implemented.** As of July 30, 2024, contract negotiations are underway for these services. The implementation of the paperless mail will be completed prior to the July 1, 2025, date.

R5. The ten-year-old current software program used to record and categorize evidence be updated by July 1, 2025.

Response to R5: This recommendation **needs further analysis.** The Evidence Unit has been using the Revolution Property and Evidence Management System since May 2013. The Sheriff's Office is exploring replacement software but there are many considerations that need to be explored before implementation. One of the major challenges we face is the task of entering and barcoding 11 years of evidence data, which amounts to approximately 100,000 items. This includes capturing all notes, chain of custody information, and attached documents, as the vendor is currently unable to transfer this data effectively. Additionally, we need to find and purchase new digital evidence system to store all digital media, aside from VMEL. We are currently Beta testing for the Revolution Digital Evidence System. The Sheriff's Office is actively exploring new software options for evidence management to address these challenges and improve our overall efficiency.

R6. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will continue moving the process of replacing the Tahoe Substation.

Response to R6: The Placer County Board of Supervisors has identified the Burton Creek Substation as a high priority and continues to demonstrate commitment to the project for as long as the project remains feasible. The Burton Creek Substation is included in the Tahoe Justice Center project, with an estimated total cost of \$50 million. Placer County has identified existing and future funding sources for approximately half of the funding needed for this project, or just over \$25 million, with additional funding still being sought for the remainder of the construction costs as well as operating costs once the project is complete. Placer County's current Capital Improvement Plan can be found inline here:

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/80666/Placer-County-CIP-24-29>

Responses to the Recommendations meet compliance requirements.

APPENDIX – RESPONSE LETTERS

INMATE ESCAPE RESPONSES:



**PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CHIEF OF POLICE
SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

August 26, 2024

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 6169072
Roseville, CA 95661

Dear Judge Pineschi,

After carefully reviewing the findings of the Placer County Grand Jury 2023-2024, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the Grand Jury Final Report – Inmate and Subsequent Actions Taken- The Escape of Eric Abril July 9, 2023.

Findings- The Escape of Eric Abril July 9, 2023

Agree with Findings F3 & F5, & F6. Partially disagree with F1 & F2, F4.

Agree:

F3. The Placer County Sheriff's Office provides no formal training for transporting an inmate to a location or for observing a hospitalized inmate.

Agree. Corrections Division Policy 1-18 currently addresses this finding. Additionally, as of July 2024 training has been implemented into the Field Training Officer program.

F5. The deputy's complacency and violations of policies and procedures, which allowed a violent felon to escape, put the public, fellow law enforcement, medical staff, and patients at risk.

Agree. The deputy's failure to follow established procedures and maintain situational awareness directly led to the escape of a violent felon, which subsequently put the public, fellow law enforcement, medical staff, and patients at risk. Moving forward, we have implemented changes in policy and training to ensure stricter adherence to protocols.

F6. The radius of Everbridge/Placer Alert system notifications did not cover the entire south Placer region.

Agree.

Partially Disagree:

HEADQUARTERS
2605 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603
(916) 884-7800

AUBURN MEN'S JAIL
2715 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603
(916) 715-9900

SOUTH PLACER STATION
6146 HODGESS BLVD. SUITE D
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 552-2400

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
1761 GO FOR BROKE ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 454-1100

NORTH LAKE TANK STATION
P.O. BOX 5716
TRUCO CITY, CA 95148
(916) 571-6388



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER/MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

- F1. The classification decision tree does not consider the charges filed against the inmate.

Partially disagree- The decision tree is used to determine the initial classification and does consider charges filed. However, as the inmate remains in custody for extended periods of time, the decision to reclassify mostly considers the inmate's behavior patterns and psychological stability.

- F2. The one-deputy escort of Abril was based on the classification decision tree, which did not consider the seriousness of the charges or the potential sentence those charges carried.

Partially disagree- The deputy escort was based on behavioral history while in custody. As a result of AB109, inmates are spending more time in jail and in more restrictive conditions than they would in prison. In response, the Prison Law Office of California filed a class action lawsuit against Santa Clara County, leading to a settlement where the county agreed to reclassify inmates based on their in-custody behavior rather than their original offenses. This settlement has influenced how jails classify inmates, with ongoing reviews focusing on placement, improved conditions, and opportunities for inmates to demonstrate good behavior to remain in less restrictive housing.

- F4. The expense to taxpayers of Placer County was over \$109,000.

Partially disagree- Based on the information we have, the estimated cost is approximately \$102,000. Without more detailed information on how the Grand Jury arrived at the figure of "over \$109,000," we cannot fully agree or disagree with the Grand Jury's assessment.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1. By October 1, 2024, the classification decision tree be modified to include additional factors as set forth in the Scott Jones, Esq. report. This should include charges an inmate is facing and the potential sentence range assuming conviction, including sentencing enhancements, and pending out-of-county charges.

The recommendation will not be implemented.

Response: The Placer County Sheriff's Office acknowledges the recommendation to create a Guard-Duty matrix that includes factors in accordance with PC 1192.7 (C). As of July 16, 2024, the Corrections Manual contains a policy that includes current charges and prior convictions. However, the Placer County Corrections Division Classification Unit does not have access to the potential sentences an inmate is facing or any sentencing enhancements. This function is under the jurisdiction of the Courts. Additionally, the Corrections Unit lacks access to information on pending charges in other jurisdictions, except for known out-of-county warrants.

HEADQUARTERS
2020 PROMELSON DRIVE
PLACER, CA 95662
(530) 993-1800

SUBURBAN MAIN JAIL
2775 KOSHA REDON DRIVE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103
(505) 745-0000

SOUTH PLACER STATION
3148 HERRINGHOLE BAR ROAD, SUITE D
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-2400

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11801 GO FOR BROKE ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 858-0100

NORTH JAIL TRANSFER STATION
P.O. BOX 3738
TAMHOE CITY, CA 95768
(530) 961-6387



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHRIFT

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Sheriff's Office will require command staff approval prior to any reclassification of any inmate currently charged with an aggravated felonies pursuant to Penal Code § 1192.7(c).

The recommendation has been implemented.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office Correctional Manual Policy 1-18, Guarding Inmates, was modified on 7/16/24 to include a process for downgrading inmates guard with jail commander approval.

R3. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Sheriff's Office will develop a curriculum and commence a formal training program for Placer County deputies for out of custodial facility transportation and monitoring duties, prior to deputy assignment, which includes hands-on, practical training.

The recommendation has been implemented.

Deputies assigned to Field Operations who have not yet been jail trained will be trained by their Field Trainer on Jail Policy 1-18.

Sincerely,

Wayne Woo
Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal

cc: Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Julia Reeves, Placer County Counsel
Barbara Ferguson, Foreperson of the Placer County Grand Jury

HEADQUARTERS
2628 RICHMONDSON DRIVE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833
(916) 686-1900


AUTUMN MOUNTAIN JAIL
2175 RICHMONDSON DRIVE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95832
(916) 745-8800

SOUTH PLACER STATION
1840 HORSESHOE BAY ROAD, STATE 0
LEWIS, CA 95950
(916) 682-1900

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11821 CALIFORNIA BROAD ROAD
FOREVILLE, CA 95629
(916) 404-1100

NORTH LAKE TAXI STATION
P.O. BOX 1110
SACRAMENTO, CA 95845
(916) 561-4300

ENSURING ELECTION INTEGRITY RESPONSE LETTER



Information Technology
2952 Richardson Drive • Auburn, CA 95603

September 1, 2024

RECEIVED
SEP 06 2024
PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Response – *Ensuring Integrity in Placer County Elections*

Dear Foreperson and Members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the *2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Ensuring Integrity in Placer County Elections*.

FINDINGS

F1: In 2022, the Placer County Information Technology Department engaged a contractor to perform a penetration testing of the cyber and physical security of Placer County Elections Office in Auburn.

Response: I agree with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Chief Information Officer will engage with a contractor to perform a penetration testing of the cyber and physical security of Placer County Elections Office in Rocklin, California.

Response: Recommendation 1 has been partially implemented. The Information Technology Department has contracted with two vendors to complete the cyber and physical penetration testing by October 1, 2024. The cyber penetration testing is complete, and the physical penetration testing is underway.

Sincerely,

Jarrett Thiessen
Jarrett Thiessen, August 28, 2024 10:11 AM

Jarrett Thiessen
Chief Information Officer

Cc: Honorable Alan V. Pineschi, Presiding Judge
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel

MISSILES TO MEADOWS RESPONSE LETTERS



August 27, 2024

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
P. O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: Response to 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report
From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance

Dear Judge Pineschi:

The City of Lincoln has reviewed the 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report titled "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance," and hereby submits its response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury as requested.

Findings by the Grand Jury and the City's Response

F1: The City of Lincoln does not have a dedicated Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site webpage on the on their [sic] website.

Response to F1: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

F3: It is unclear how aware residents outside Sun City Lincoln Hills are about the Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site contamination.

Response to F3: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

F4: There is a new Restoration Advisory Board coordinated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers which includes Lincoln residents. Those meetings are no livestreamed or recorded.

Response to F4: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

City Hall
600 Sixth Street
Lincoln, CA 95648
(916) 434-2400
www.lincolnca.gov

City Manager's Office • Community Development • Engineering • Fire
Library • Recreation • Police • Public Works • Support Services

RE: 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance"
July 9, 2024
Page 2 of 4

F5: At the first Restoration Advisory Board meeting, several questions from the community went unanswered.

Response to F5: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

F6: Health issues associated with trichloroethylene include birth defects, respiratory illness, several types of cancers, and Parkinson's Disease.

Response to F6: With the caveat responding parties are not toxicology or medical experts, generally, the City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

F7: Local Congressional offices, the City of Lincoln, and a community awareness group have been encouraging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin remediation of the trichloroethylene contamination.

Response to F7: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

F8: The City of Lincoln has included Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site remediation in their 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

Response to F8: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

F9: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been aware of trichloroethylene contamination at the Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site since 1991 and has assumed responsibility for the remediation.

Response to F9: Without making admissions on behalf of the Army Corps, the City and Mr. Scully generally believe this statement to be correct.

F10: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is installing additional monitoring wells bordering Snapdragon Lane and Prunella Court in the Sun City Lincoln Hills Community.

Response to F10: Without making admissions on behalf of the Army Corps, the City and Mr. Scully generally believe this statement to be correct.

F11: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers abruptly ceased this project for nearly a decade to determine the source of contamination and responsibility for the cleanup from 2009 to 2018-2019.

Response to F11: Without making admissions on behalf of the Army Corps, the City and Mr. Scully generally believe this statement to be correct.

RE: 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance"
July 9, 2024
Page 3 of 4

Recommendations by the Grand Jury and the City's Response

R1: The Lincoln City Council will create a dedicated Titan 1-A Missile Site page on the City of Lincoln's website to include a link to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' website, to disseminate information to the public, including a point of contact, by October 1, 2024.

Response to R1: Recommendation No. 1 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future by October 1, 2024.

R2: Beginning October 1, 2024, the Lincoln City Council will provide a quarterly status update report on the Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site at Lincoln City Council meetings.

Response to R2: Recommendation No. 2 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future by October 1, 2024.

R3: The Lincoln City Council will request the United States Army Corps of Engineers, or their consultants, to livestream, record, public, and archive Restoration Advisory Board meetings for full transparency by October 1, 2024 through completion of full remediation.

Response to R3: Recommendation No. 3 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future by October 1, 2024.


R4: By September 1, 2024, the Lincoln City Council will appoint a city representative to attend quarterly Restoration Advisory Board meetings.

Response to R4: By September 1, 2024, the City Council will appoint the City Manager or designee as the representative to attend the meetings of the Restoration Advisory Board.

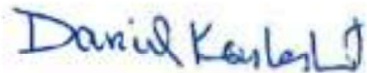
RE: 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance"
July 9, 2024
Page 4 of 4

This concludes Mr. Scully and the City's response to the Grand Jury's recommendations from its 2023-2024 report titled "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance." Please do not hesitate to contact the City if you have questions regarding this response.

Sincerely,



Sean Scully
City Manager



Dan Karleskint, Mayor
City Council

cc: Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
FUDS Project Manager, Project #J09CA1108-01
1325 J Street, Room 1640
Sacramento, CA 95814

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Project Geologist
11020 Sun Center Drive, Room 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Response to Placer County Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance
Response By: Dan Karleskint Title: Mayor
Sean Scully City Manager

What is a Compliant Response?

Penal Code § 933.05 is very specific in what is required in a response. First, a respondent must address the findings listed in the report. There are only two responses allowed by the penal code. However, additional information is required if the respondent disagrees with a finding. If a report only lists findings and there are no recommendations, a response agreeing or disagreeing with each finding is not necessary.

FINDINGS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following two actions with regards to each finding.

<u>The respondent agrees with the finding.</u>
<u>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding; in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reason(s) therefore.</u>

- I (we) agree with the finding(s) numbered: E1, E3-E11
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the finding(s) numbered: _____.
Describe any portions of the finding(s) that are disputed or not applicable; include an explanation of the reason(s).

RECOMMENDATIONS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following four actions with regards to each recommendation.

The recommendation has been implemented with a summary regarding the implemented action.
The recommendation has not yet been implemented , but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for the implementation .
The recommendation requires further analysis , with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury's report.
The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation , therefore.

- Recommendations numbered _____ **have been** implemented.
(Describe the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R1-R4 **have not yet been** implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a targeted completion date of 10/1/24 and 9/1/24 as indicated.
Per Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2), a time frame for implementation must be included.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **require further analysis**. The further analysis will be completed by _____.
Describe 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 (6) months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **will not be** implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
Provide an explanation.

Date: 8/28/24

Signed: 

Number of pages attached 4

RESOLUTION 2024 - 165

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LINCOLN APPROVING THE ATTACHED RESPONSES TO PLACER GRAND JURY REPORTS "REVIEW OF THE 2023 WATER RATE INCREASE" AND "FROM MISSILES TO MEADOWS: RESTORING NATURE'S BALANCE" .

WHEREAS, the Placer Grand Jury has issued reports "Review of the 2023 Water Rate Increase" and "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance"; and

WHEREAS, the reports contain a number of findings and recommendations and the Placer Grand Jury has requested that the City of Lincoln respond to multiple Findings and Recommendations contained in the reports; and

WHEREAS, staff have drafted responses which are attached to this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby approves the attached responses to the Placer Grand Jury reports and hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute the response and transmit it to the Placer Grand Jury and Presiding Judge.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of August, 2024:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Joiner, Brown, Andreatta, Lauritsen, Karleskint
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

Daniel Karleskint
Dan Karleskint, Mayor

ATTEST:
Gwen Scanlon
Gwen Scanlon, City Clerk

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of
Resolution 2024-165
adopted by the City of Lincoln City Council on the
following date August 27, 2024
Gwen Scanlon
City Clerk

PLACER COUNTY JAIL CONTRACT w/ NEVADA COUNTY RESPONSE LETTERS

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, California 95603
(530) 889-4010
bos@placer.ca.gov

BONNIE GORE
District 1
SHANTI LANDON
District 2
JIM HOLMES
District 3
SUZANNE JONES
District 4
CINDY GUSTAFSON
District 5



October 1, 2024

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Board of Supervisors Response – *A Fiscal Evaluation of the Contract for Jail Services Between Placer and Nevada Counties*

Dear Foreperson and Members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, the Placer County Board of Supervisors ("Board") is pleased to submit the following responses to the *2023-24 Grand Jury Report - A Fiscal Evaluation of the Contract for Jail Services Between Placer and Nevada Counties*.

FINDINGS

The Board agrees with the findings F4, F5, F6, F7, F8.

The Board partially disagrees with the findings F1, F2, F3.

Finding No. 1: The current contract funding arrangement between Placer County Sheriff's Office and Nevada County Sheriff's Office is inconsistent with other jail services contracts Placer County has with other agencies.

The Board partially disagrees with this finding. The contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office is different than other jail services contracts, but this is due to the difference in the services provided by Nevada County and therefore different metrics are used to calculate cost. This contract is intended to fully reimburse Nevada County for expenses incurred by PCSO's utilization of the Truckee Jail. Insufficient reimbursement could lead to Nevada County cancelling this contract or the closure of the jail, which would negatively impact Placer County as well as other jurisdictions in the Tahoe region.

Finding No. 2: Placer County Sheriff's Office current jail contract with Nevada County Sheriff's Office has not been renegotiated since 2017.

The Board partially disagrees with this finding. The contract between Placer County Sheriff's Office and Nevada County Sheriff's Office is an annual agreement that is renewed each year based on the 2017 agreement.

Finding No. 3: The Board of Supervisors has made the Burton Creek Substation a Tier I Capital Improvement Project to direct funding to the project.

The Board partially disagrees with this finding. The Burton Creek Substation has been identified by the Board as a high priority project and is included in the Tahoe Justice Center project, with an estimated total cost of \$50 million. Placer County has identified existing and future funding sources for approximately half of the funding needed for this project, or just over \$25 million, with additional funding still being sought for the remainder of the construction costs as well as operational costs once the project is complete. Placer County's current Capital Improvement Plan can be found online here:

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/80666/Placer-County-CIP-24-29>

Finding No. 4: The Placer County Sheriff's Office transports detainees from Burton Creek Substation to Auburn Main Jail any time Nevada County Sheriff's Office declines to accept a detainee.

The Board agrees with this finding, however would like to note that Nevada County accepts arrestees under most circumstances including on evenings and weekends. Instances where an arrestee may not be accepted by Nevada County would include combative, injured, medicated, or suicidal arrestees or if NCSO lacks adequate staffing such as a female deputy for female bookings.

Finding No. 5: The jail contract for fiscal year 2022-2023 cost Placer County over a half-million dollars.

The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 6: The cost of the contract to Placer County automatically increases 3 percent each year regardless of the number of Truckee Jail bookings.

The Board agrees with this finding. As noted above, this contract is based on cost recovery. The three percent increase is intended to capture inflation and operational cost increases.

Finding No. 7: Placer County is charged a flat rate per year instead of a daily per-person rate.

The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 8: The Burton Creek Substation is classified as a Type I jail facility.

The Board agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. By March 1, 2025, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, providing jail services for the North Tahoe region, be renegotiated annually to pay for services rendered.

Recommendation 1 has been implemented.

As noted above, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office for jail services is an annual agreement that follows the fiscal year. There is opportunity to renegotiate this agreement annually at the end of the contract term.

- R2. By March 1, 2025, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, providing jail services for the North Tahoe region, be modified to a per person daily rate based upon the Placer County Daily Jail Rate.**

Recommendation 2 will not be implemented.

As noted above, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office for jail services is intended to fully reimburse Nevada County for expenses incurred by PCSO's utilization of the Truckee Jail. Insufficient reimbursement due to a transition to a per person daily rate could lead to Nevada County cancelling this contract or the closure of the jail, which would negatively impact Placer County as well as other jurisdictions in the Tahoe region.

- R3. By December 1, 2024, the Board of Supervisors continue to support building a replacement Burton Creek Substation facility and see it through to completion.**

Recommendation 3 has been implemented.

As noted above, the Board has identified the Burton Creek Substation as a high priority and continues to demonstrate commitment to the project for as long as the project remains feasible. The Burton Creek Substation is included in the Tahoe Justice Center project, with an estimated total cost of \$50 million. Placer County has identified existing and future funding sources for approximately half of the funding needed for this project, or just over \$25 million, with additional funding still being sought for the remainder of the construction costs as well as operational costs once the project is complete. Placer County's current Capital Improvement Plan can be found online here: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/80666/Placer-County-CIP-24-29>

Sincerely,



Suzanne Jones, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

August 26, 2024

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 6169072
Roseville, CA 95661

Dear Judge Pineschi,

After carefully reviewing the findings of the Placer County Grand Jury 2023-2024, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the Grand Jury Final Report –A Fiscal Evaluation of the Contract for Jail Services Between Placer and Nevada Counties.

Findings-A Fiscal Evaluation of the Contract for Jail Services Between Placer and Nevada Counties:

Placer County Sheriff's Office agrees with the following: F5, F6, F7, F8, and partially agrees with F1, F2, F3, and F4.

Agree:

- F5. The jail contract for fiscal year 2022-2023 cost Placer County over a half-million dollars.
- F6. The cost of the contract to Placer County automatically increases 3 percent each year regardless of the number of Truckee bookings.
- F7. Placer County is charged a flat rate per year instead of a daily per-person rate.
- F8. The Burton Creek Substation is classified as a Type 1 jail facility.

Partially Agree:

- F1. The current contract funding arrangement between Placer County Sheriff's Office and Nevada County Sheriff's Office is inconsistent with other jail services contracts Placer County has with other agencies.

Partially agree. The contract is unlike any other Placer County Sheriff's Office jail booking contract and does not follow typical jail services contracts. The contract with Nevada County is based on various factors, not solely on the number of bookings or "per inmate" fees. Cost of other jail service contracts are determined by several metrics such as staff time, inmate medical care and supervision.

The contract with Nevada County is reviewed annually, with cost comparisons of alternatives to ensure it is fiscally viable. The fiscal benefits of the contract outweigh its costs, making it a practical solution for Placer County and other agencies that rely on NCSO's jail. Reduced funding could lead to the closure of jail operations in Truckee, forcing all agencies to have to transport to Auburn for booking, significantly

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229 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603
(530) 889-7810

AUBURN MAIN JAIL
2775 RICHARDSON DRIVE
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(530) 741-9500

SOUTH PLACER STATION
6140 HARBESBIE DRIVE ROAD, SUITE D
LUCAS, CA 95650
(530) 632-2430

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11801 GO FOR BROKE ROAD
ROSELLE, CA 95678
(916) 439-4100

NORTH LAKE TAHOE STATION
P.O. BOX 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96141
(530) 581-4200



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MAJESTRAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDEPUTY SHERIFF

impacting efficiency and resource allocation. Due to seasonal construction, inclement weather, and excessive drive times, the Washoe (Reno, NV) or El Dorado County (South Lake Tahoe) booking facilities are not feasible options.

- F2. Placer County Sheriff's Office current jail contract with Nevada County Sheriff's Office has not been renegotiated since 2017.

Partially Agree. The contract is renewed each year based on the original 2017 agreement. There are no negotiables other than days, hours, and cost. Reduced funding may compel them to close the facility. The parties are in contract negotiations to renew for one more year, pending approval by the Board of Supervisors, and we will be meeting with NCSO to discuss a new agreement. This contract is amended every year to include a standard 3% increase.

- F3. The Board of Supervisors has made the Burton Creek Substation a Tier 1 Capital Improvement Project to direct funding to the project.

Partially agree. The project is moving forward, and since the Sheriff's Office doesn't set the tiers, it would be considered a Tier 1 priority based on the Board's project prioritization system.

- F4. The Placer County Sheriff's Office transports detainees from Burton Creek Substation to Auburn Main Jail any time Nevada County Sheriff's Office declines to accept a detainee.

Partially agree. While it is true that the Nevada County Jail accepts Placer County bookings in the evenings and weekends, they do not accept combative, injured, medicated, or suicidal arrestees. Additionally, if NCSO lacks adequate staffing, such as a female deputy for female bookings, they may refuse our booking. In such cases, the arrestee must be transported to the Auburn Jail either by a Tahoe deputy or by meeting with an Auburn deputy in Nyack if a west slope deputy is available.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1. By March 1, 2025, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, providing jail services for the North Tahoe region, be renegotiated annually to pay for services rendered.

This recommendation needs further analysis. The most current contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office for providing jail services to the North Tahoe region is set to expire on June 30, 2024. This contract term is from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

A contract amendment is currently being prepared for renewal. Nevada County has presented this amendment to their Board for approval. Subsequently, it will be taken to our Board of Supervisors (BOS) for approval in September. If approved, the new contract term will be from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025,

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AUBURN MAIN JAIL
2775 ROCHAMOND DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95602
(530) 745-8500

SOUTH PLACER STATION
4140 HORSESHOE BAR ROAD, SUITE 0
LOOMIS, CA 95668
(530) 622-2400

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11401 00 FORBROCK ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 408-4100

NORTH LAKE TAHOE STATION
P.O. BOX 1740
TAHOE CITY, CA 96140
(530) 581-0200



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

with a 3% increase from the prior year. Further discussions will be held to renegotiate the contract terms and determine the duration of the new agreement for services rendered.

- R2. By March 1, 2025, the contract between the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, providing jail services for the North Tahoe region, be modified to a per person daily rate based upon the Placer County Daily Jail Rate.

This recommendation will not be implemented. The contract with the Nevada County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) is based on various factors, not solely on the number of bookings or "per inmate" fees. Costs are determined by specific metrics such as staff time, inmate medical care, and supervision. The contract is reviewed annually, with cost comparisons of alternatives to ensure its fiscally viable. The fiscal benefits of the contract outweigh its costs, making it a practical solution for Placer County and other agencies that rely on NCSO's jail. Nevada County Sheriff's Office relies on the contract with Placer County Sheriff's Office for revenue. Decreasing Nevada County's revenue could potentially cause a negative fiscal impact to their operations, which, in turn, could affect public safety. Any reduction in operational capacity might not only impact the ability to maintain current levels of public safety but could also have fiscal repercussions for other agencies that depend on Nevada County's Services.

- R4. By December 1, 2024, the Placer County Sheriff's Office explore alternative transportation methods for moving detainees from Burton Creek to the Auburn Mail Jail.

This recommendation requires further analysis. The cost of funding full-time transport deputies would exponentially outweigh the cost of the contract between Placer and Nevada County. Placer County is responsible for providing allied agencies such as CHP, CA State Parks, and Probation with a booking facility for arrests made within Placer County. The contract with Nevada County Jail ensures that officers making arrests in the eastern part of the county do not need to drive to the western end for booking.

This arrangement not only saves time and resources but also allows officers to remain in their respective areas, maintaining a higher level of public safety and efficiency. By preventing long travel times for bookings, the contract helps keep law enforcement presence consistent across the county, avoiding the potential gaps in coverage that could arise if deputies were required to transport arrestees across significant distances.

Sincerely,

Wayne Woo
Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal

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(530) 884-1800

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SOUTH PLACER STATION
8140 HERRSHOE BAY ROAD, SUITE D
LEWIS, CA 95650
(916) 662-2400

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13801 GO FOR BROKE ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661
(916) 499-8100

NORTH LAKE TAHOE STATION
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DANCE CITY, CA 95818
(916) 581-4000



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

cc: Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Julia Reeves, Placer County Deputy County Counsel
Barbara Ferguson, Foreperson of the Placer County Grand Jury

HEROQUARTERS
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SOUTH PLACER JAIL
1901 GC FOR BROKE ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 459-8100

NORTH LAKY TAHOE STATION
P.O. BOX 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96149
(530) 301-6300

DEPT of PUBLIC WORKS – FLEET GARAGE: No response was required

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCILS RESPONSE LETTERS

County of Placer

Board of Supervisors

175 FULWEILER AVENUE
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
530-889-4010 • FAX: 530-889-4009

BONNIE GORE
District 1

SHANTI LANDON
District 2

JIM HOLMES
District 3

SUZANNE JONES
District 4

CINDY GUSTAFSON
District 5



September 1, 2024

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

Dear Foreperson and Members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following District 1 responses to the 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

FINDINGS

I agree with findings F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9.

F1. The Municipal Advisory Councils of Placer County Handbook was first developed in 1998 and has not been updated since 2013.

I disagree partially with finding 1. A handbook dated September 2019 was provided to the District 1 Office at that time.

F2. Municipal Advisory Council boundaries do not align with current supervisorial district boundaries.

I agree with finding 2.

F3. Municipal Advisory Councils, within some supervisorial districts, could be consolidated for greater efficiencies.

I agree with finding 3.

F4. Informing residents of Municipal Advisory Committee meetings is ineffective.

I agree with finding 4.

F5. Municipal Advisory Council board members are unaware of how they receive information on pending projects in advance of receiving the meeting agenda.

I agree with finding 5.

F6. Municipal Advisory Councils are not provided annual training, specifically on zoning laws and changes, land use regulations, and Brown Act rules and procedures.

I agree with finding 6.

F7. Municipal Advisory Council meeting minutes are not posted consistently on the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

I agree with finding 7.

F8. Many Municipal Advisory Councils are not set up for virtual meetings.

I agree with finding 8.

F9. There are no term limits for how long a Municipal Advisory Council board member can serve.

I agree with finding 9.

[Note: No response directed to F10.]

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. By January 31, 2025, the Placer Board of Supervisors will update the Municipal Advisory County Council handbook.

Recommendation 1 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, I support modernizing County and Board processes and value consistency in the Board's management of MACs.

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will commence a study to consolidate Municipal Advisory Councils within supervisorial districts.

Recommendation 2 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, this recommendation doesn't apply to District 1 with its single MAC. However, consolidating MACs can be beneficial to save time and resources, especially when attendance is low for non-controversial issues.

- R3. By January 31, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will realign Municipal Advisory Council district boundaries to match the supervisors' district boundaries.**

Recommendation 3 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, I believe the MAC boundaries reflect community interests, while district lines focus on equal population distribution. In 2021, we couldn't align MACs with a single supervisorial district, and since district lines change every decade but community interests stay the same, it's important to keep MACs intact. Ideally, each MAC should have only one Supervisor as its main contact.

- R4. By January 1, 2025, each Placer County Supervisor will increase public outreach of Municipal Advisory Council meetings through social media, newsletters, and email blasts.**

Recommendation 4 has been implemented in District 1.

District 1 has enhanced the timeliness and clarity of MAC notices in the "West Placer Bulletin" and created a link to the West Placer MAC website, "Placer.CA.Gov/WPMAC." This link is included in the monthly District 1 newsletter, which reaches 27,000 residents, and District 1 also maintains a list of interested residents for MAC and development updates.

- R5. By November 1, 2024, the Placer County Planning Services Division will develop written procedures to inform Placer County Supervisors, Municipal Advisory Councils, and county staff how information is transmitted among these parties.**

Recommendation 5 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Planning Services Division" to take specific action. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit a County department or division to take specific actions. Speaking as an individual supervisor, I favor this recommendation. It makes sense for Planning Services, which primarily interacts with the MACs, to set the standards that the MACs would follow.

- R6. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will authorize mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils board members occurs.**

Recommendation 6 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an

individual supervisor, I agree with the recommendation. New MAC members appointed mid-year should also receive training.

- R7. By September 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure all current and past meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted to the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.**

Recommendation 7 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, I favor the recommendation, provided it aligns with the county's standard document retention period.

- R8. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will provide virtual access for all Municipal Advisory Councils meetings to the public.**

Recommendation 8 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, I believe this recommendation is unreasonable. MACs are primarily in rural areas with unreliable internet, making it difficult to hold compliant public meetings. For instance, if a MAC meeting loses power or internet, it must be adjourned and rescheduled, which is highly inefficient. While recording and posting meetings online is a viable alternative, it would demand substantial county resources.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Gore
Placer County Supervisor

Cc: Placer County Grand Jury, Foreperson
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel

PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



MAIN OFFICE
175 FULWEILER AVENUE
AUBURN, CA 95603

SHANTI S. LANDON
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT TWO

CONTACT
(530) 889-4010
SLANDON@PLACER.CA.GOV

July 9, 2024

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

Dear Placer County Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

FINDINGS

I agree with fundings F1, F5, F6, F7, F8, and F9

I partially disagree with findings F2 and F4.

I disagree wholly with finding F3.

Finding No. 1. The Municipal Advisory Councils of Placer County Handbook was first developed in 1998 and has not been updated since 2013.

I agree with Finding 1.

Finding No. 2. Municipal Advisory Council boundaries do not align with current supervisorial district boundaries.

I disagree partially with finding 2. A few, but not all, of the Municipal Advisory Council boundaries overlap with multiple supervisorial districts.

Finding No. 3. Municipal Advisory Councils, within some supervisorial districts, could be consolidated for greater efficiencies.

I disagree with finding 3, being that the Municipal Advisory Councils are primarily comprised of rural communities, consolidating them might lead to decreased attendance and participation.

Finding No. 4. Informing residents of Municipal Advisory Committee meetings is ineffective.

I disagree partially with finding 4 as it relates to the Municipal Advisory Councils in District 2 as we keep effective email lists to notify residents of meetings.

Finding No. 5. Municipal Advisory Council board members are unaware of how they receive information on pending projects in advance of receiving the meeting agenda.

I agree with finding 5.

Finding No. 6. Municipal Advisory Councils are not provided annual training, specifically on zoning laws and changes, land use regulations, and Brown Act rules and procedures.

I agree with finding 6.

Finding No. 7. Municipal Advisory Council meeting minutes are not posted consistently on the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

I agree with finding 7.

Finding No. 8. Many Municipal Advisory Councils are not set up for virtual meetings.

I agree with this finding 8.

Finding No. 9. There are no term limits for how long a Municipal Advisory Council board member can serve.

I agree with Finding 9.

[Note: No response directed to F10.]

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. By January 31, 2025, the Placer Board of Supervisors will update the Municipal Advisory County Council handbook.**

Recommendation 1 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is the Municipal Advisory Council handbook needs to be updated.

- R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will commence a study to consolidate Municipal Advisory Councils within supervisorial districts.**

Recommendation 2 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

- R3. By January 31, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will realign Municipal Advisory Council district boundaries to match the supervisors' district boundaries.**

Recommendation 3 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

- R4. By January 1, 2025, each Placer County Supervisor will increase public outreach of Municipal Advisory Council meetings through social media, newsletters, and email blasts.**

Recommendation 4 has been implemented.

This recommendation has been implemented in District Two and is met by my office through the use of effective email lists, our monthly newsletter includes the links to the MAC websites where meeting information is posted, and we post about meetings in applicable, active Facebook groups such as the Sheridan Happenings Facebook page.

- R5. By November 1, 2024, the Placer County Planning Services Division will develop written procedures to inform Placer County Supervisors, Municipal Advisory Councils, and county staff how information is transmitted among these parties.**

Recommendation 5 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Planning Services Division" to take specific action. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit a County department or division to take specific actions.

- R6. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will authorize mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils board members occurs.**

Recommendation 6 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is making the Brown Act, rezoning laws and procedures information available to MAC members is important, however I have concerns that a mandatory in-person training might be a hinderance to individuals who want to serve on the MAC but may have limited availability for extra trainings. I would personally be interested in an online training that MAC members can complete on their own time.

- R7. By September 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure all current and past meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted to the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.**

Recommendation 7 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is it is important to have meeting agendas and minutes available and updated regularly.

- R8. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will provide virtual access for all Municipal Advisory Councils meetings to the public.**

Recommendation 8 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is virtual meetings are costly to host and virtual access is limited in much of the rural parts of the County where the Municipal Advisory Councils exist. During Covid, we provided virtual access, and did not see an increase in attendance. I believe the public is more likely to attend when an issue that impacts them directly is on the agenda, and providing virtual access will be a large expense to taxpayers, without a lot of benefit.

Sincerely,



SHANTI LANDON
Supervisor, District 2
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Placer County Grand Jury, Foreperson
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, California 95603
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BONNIE GORE
District 1
SHANTI LANDON
District 2
JIM HOLMES
District 3
SUZANNE JONES
District 4
CINDY GUSTAFSON
District 5



September 1, 2024

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

Dear Foreperson and Members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

FINDINGS

I agree with the findings F1, F2, F3, F6, F7, F8, and F9.

I disagree wholly with findings F4 and F5.

Finding No. 1. The Municipal Advisory Councils of Placer County Handbook was first developed in 1998 and has not been updated since 2013.

I agree with Finding 1.

Finding No. 2. Municipal Advisory Council boundaries do not align with current supervisorial district boundaries.

I agree with Finding 2.

Finding No. 3. Municipal Advisory Councils, within some supervisorial districts, could be consolidated for greater efficiencies.

I agree with Finding 3.

Finding No. 4. Informing residents of Municipal Advisory Committee meetings is ineffective.

September 1, 2024
Placer County Grand Jury
County of Placer

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

I disagree with Finding 4. MAC meetings are posted to the website, & the monthly newsletter, and once the current agenda has been sent to the MAC Members, it is also posted on the website. It is effective if citizens are engaged in signing up for newsletters, agendas, or following the website.

Finding No. 5. Municipal Advisory Council board members are unaware of how they receive information on pending projects in advance of receiving the meeting agenda.

I disagree with Finding 5. Our BOS Clerical Staff forward all "Notice of Public Hearing", "Placer County Parcel Review Committee" (Division of CDRA) on projects within MAC Boundaries, to each of the MAC Members prior to the "Hearing".

Finding No. 6. Municipal Advisory Councils are not provided annual training, specifically on zoning laws and changes, land use regulations, and Brown Act rules and procedures.

I agree with Finding 6.

Finding No. 7. Municipal Advisory Council meeting minutes are not posted consistently on the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

I agree with Finding 7; however, I am happy to report that this has changed. Recently we put a process in place to ensure meetings are posted consistently in going forward.

Finding No. 8. Many Municipal Advisory Councils are not set up for virtual meetings.

I agree with Finding 8. This is costly with staffing, and a limited number of citizens typically don't utilize it, except for the period during COVID, where the county did adhere to the States order to have virtual meetings.

Finding No. 9. There are no term limits for how long a Municipal Advisory Council board member can serve.

I agree with Finding 9.

[Note: No response directed to F10.]

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. By January 31, 2025, the Placer Board of Supervisors will update the Municipal Advisory County Council handbook.

Recommendation 1 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

September 1, 2024
Placer County Grand Jury
County of Placer

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update.

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will commence a study to consolidate Municipal Advisory Councils within supervisorial districts.

Recommendation 2 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update. This timeline is not realistic.

R3. By January 31, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will realign Municipal Advisory Council district boundaries to match the supervisors' district boundaries.

Recommendation 3 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update.

R4. By January 1, 2025, each Placer County Supervisor will increase public outreach of Municipal Advisory Council meetings through social media, newsletters, and email blasts.

Recommendation 4 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

Speaking as an individual Supervisor, , this recommendation has been partially implemented in District 3 : "District 3 Event Calendar" which notes all events/meetings to include our MAC meetings. It spans out a year at a time. In addition, our weekly/bi-weekly/monthly newsletter has our next current meeting listed.

R5. By November 1, 2024, the Placer County Planning Services Division will develop written procedures to inform Placer County Supervisors, Municipal Advisory Councils, and county staff how information is transmitted among these parties.

Recommendation 5 requires further analysis.

September 1, 2024
Placer County Grand Jury
County of Placer

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Planning Services Division" to take specific action. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit a County department or division to take specific actions.

Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it would be best to discuss this as a hearing body as it may need to be pushed further out to give staff adequate time to update. A realistic date would be further out to early-mid 2025.

R6. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will authorize mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils board members occurs.

Recommendation 6 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that we have subject expert staff that embody both institutional knowledge, and years of schooling, that sit on Boards (Zoning, & Planning) and whom present agenda items, to our Municipal Advisory Council. It would be quite costly to keep training courses up to date, and the hours of extra time could not be compensated. These Municipal Advisory Council were designed to be a hearing body of our citizens to represent all citizens.

R7. By September 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure all current and past meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted to the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

Recommendation 7 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that although a good idea, we are short-staffed, and this is not a realistic timeline to get this completed. Late 2024 to early 2025 would be a more realistic timeline.

R8. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will provide virtual access for all Municipal Advisory Councils meetings to the public.

Recommendation 8 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual Supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act.

September 1, 2024
Placer County Grand Jury
County of Placer

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

Speaking as an individual Supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that this is quite costly, and I don't believe it will be effective in drawing in additional citizens to this meeting.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER



Jim Holmes
Placer County Supervisor District 3

Cc: Judge Alan V. Pineschi
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel

County of Placer

Board of Supervisors

175 FULWEILER AVENUE
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
530-889-4010 • FAX: 530-889-4009
Roseville District Office: 916-787-8960

Suzanne Jones

District 4 Supervisor
2024 Board Chair



September 1, 2024

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Response to *2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils*.

Dear Foreperson and members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following responses for District 4 to the *2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils*.

FINDINGS

I agree with findings F1, F2, F3, F6, F8, F9.

I partially disagree with findings F4, F5, F7.

F1. The Municipal Advisory Councils of Placer County Handbook was first developed in 1998 and has not been updated since 2013.

I agree with Finding 1.

F2. Municipal Advisory Council boundaries do not align with current supervisorial district boundaries.

I agree with Finding 2

F3. Municipal Advisory Councils, within some supervisorial districts, could be consolidated for greater efficiencies.

I agree with Finding 3.

F4. Informing residents of Municipal Advisory Committee meetings is ineffective.

I partially disagree with Finding 4 in that some of the effectiveness of communicating lies with the residents and their level of engagement. There is no "perfect" way of informing residents.

F5. Municipal Advisory Council board members are unaware of how they receive information on pending projects in advance of receiving the meeting agenda.

I partially disagree with finding 5. The members of the three MACs I am involved with are well aware of how they receive information on pending projects. The other MACs I cannot speak for.

F6. Municipal Advisory Councils are not provided annual training, specifically on zoning laws and changes, land use regulations, and Brown Act rules and procedures.

I agree with Finding 6

F7. Municipal Advisory Council meeting minutes are not posted consistently on the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

I partially disagree with Finding 7. The three MACS I am involved with post their minutes consistently. I cannot speak for the other MACS.

F8. Many Municipal Advisory Councils are not set up for virtual meetings.

I agree with Finding 8.

F9. There are no term limits for how long a Municipal Advisory Council board member can serve.

I agree with Finding 9.

[Note: No response directed to F10.]

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. By January 31, 2025, the Placer Board of Supervisors will update the Municipal Advisory County Council handbook.

Recommendation 1 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine whether the current handbook is adequate or in need of updating.

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will commence a study to consolidate Municipal Advisory Councils within supervisorial districts.

Recommendation 2 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity and/or feasibility of such a consolidation.

- R3. By January 31, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will realign Municipal Advisory Council district boundaries to match the supervisors' district boundaries.**

Recommendation 3 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity and/or feasibility of such a consolidation.

- R4. By January 1, 2025, each Placer County Supervisor will increase public outreach of Municipal Advisory Council meetings through social media, newsletters, and email blasts.**

I agree partially with Recommendation 4.

Though I believe that my staff does an excellent job in this regard I will instruct them to look for ways to increase our reach to the residents of my district.

- R5. By November 1, 2024, the Placer County Planning Services Division will develop written procedures to inform Placer County Supervisors, Municipal Advisory Councils, and county staff how information is transmitted among these parties.**

Recommendation 5 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Planning Services Division" to take specific action. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit a County department or division to take specific actions. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity or feasibility of such an undertaking.

- R6. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will authorize mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils board members occurs.**

Recommendation 6 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that further analysis is required to determine the necessity or feasibility of such an undertaking.

R7. By September 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure all current and past meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted to the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

Recommendation 7 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is further analysis is needed to determine the necessity for this step.

R8. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will provide virtual access for all Municipal Advisory Councils meetings to the public.

Recommendation 8 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is further analysis is required to determine the financial feasibility of this recommendation and whether the IT Department has sufficient staff and equipment to carry it out.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Jones, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors
District 4

Cc: Hon. Alan V. Pineschi, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel

PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



MAIN OFFICE
175 FULWEILER AVENUE
AUBURN, CA 95603

CINDY GUSTAFSON
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT FIVE

CONTACT
(530) 889-4010
CINDYGUSTAFSON@PLACER.CA.GOV

September 1, 2024

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Re: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

Dear Foreperson and Members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the 2023-24 Grand Jury Final Report – Municipal Advisory Councils.

FINDINGS

I agree with findings F1, F2, F6, F8, F9.

I partially disagree with findings F3, F4, F5, F7.

F1. The Municipal Advisory Councils of Placer County Handbook was first developed in 1998 and has not been updated since 2013.

I agree with Finding 1.

F2. Municipal Advisory Council boundaries do not align with current supervisorial district boundaries.

I agree with Finding 2. Currently, District 5 shares the North Auburn MAC with District 3 even though the boundaries of this MAC are fully within the Fifth District. District 5 also shares the Newcastle Ophir MAC with Districts 3 and 4. Current supervisorial districts may split communities, resulting in divided recommendations.

F3. Municipal Advisory Councils, within some supervisorial districts, could be consolidated for greater efficiencies.

I partially disagree with Finding 3. Before the Grand Jury report was released, my office began the process of redrawing the District 5 MAC boundaries with the intention of 1) making sure everyone is represented by a MAC and 2) combining MACs as appropriate in order to maximize efficiency and community participation. While consolidation may make sense for certain MACs, others, like the Foresthill Forum, would be negatively impacted if we were to combine them with another MAC. The geographic size of District 5 makes it challenging to group areas together, and we want to ensure that MAC meetings are reasonably close to the communities represented and don't require excessive travel for constituents.

F4. Informing residents of Municipal Advisory Committee meetings is ineffective.

I partially disagree with Finding 4. District 5 has 8 MACs, each with a varying degree of participation and attendance. My office utilizes Nextdoor, Facebook, and newsletters to inform residents of MAC meetings, and we have asked the current MAC members to assist in getting the word out to their neighbors.

F5. Municipal Advisory Council board members are unaware of how they receive information on pending projects in advance of receiving the meeting agenda.

I partially disagree with Finding 5. District 5 MAC members are always welcome to request information on projects from our office, but this is not something that we've dealt with in the past. If there's a large item coming to the MAC that requires background materials, we ensure those are provided in a timely manner.

F6. Municipal Advisory Councils are not provided annual training, specifically on zoning laws and changes, land use regulations, and Brown Act rules and procedures.

I agree with Finding 6.

F7. Municipal Advisory Council meeting minutes are not posted consistently on the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

I partially disagree with Finding 7. Meeting minutes are posted by the MAC Coordinator after they are approved. If there is an extended period of time between meetings, it may appear as though minutes are missing. However, that is because draft minutes cannot be posted until they are approved by the MAC at the next MAC meeting. The process for approval is to add the draft minutes to the next meeting agenda for approval. After the minutes are approved by the MAC, they are posted.

F8. Many Municipal Advisory Councils are not set up for virtual meetings.

I agree with Finding 8.

F9. There are no term limits for how long a Municipal Advisory Council board member can serve.

I agree with Finding 9.

[Note: No response directed to F10.]

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. By January 31, 2025, the Placer Board of Supervisors will update the Municipal Advisory County Council handbook.

Recommendation 1 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it should be implemented in the given timeframe.

R2. By October 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will commence a study to consolidate Municipal Advisory Councils within supervisorial districts.

Recommendation 2 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it should be implemented in the given timeframe. While a study will be beneficial, the extent to which we consolidate will depend on a number of factors including community characteristics and geographic barriers. I recommend that we commence this study after the November election as there may be several new board members.

R3. By January 31, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will realign Municipal Advisory Council district boundaries to match the supervisors' district boundaries.

Recommendation 3 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it should be cautiously implemented in the given timeframe.

R4. By January 1, 2025, each Placer County Supervisor will increase public outreach of Municipal Advisory Council meetings through social media, newsletters, and email blasts.

Recommendation 4 has been implemented.

Our office already utilizes these methods of communication for MAC meetings.

R5. By November 1, 2024, the Placer County Planning Services Division will develop written procedures to inform Placer County Supervisors, Municipal Advisory Councils, and county staff how information is transmitted among these parties.

Recommendation 5 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Planning Services Division" to take specific action. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit a County department or division to take specific actions. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it should be implemented in the given timeframe.

R6. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will authorize mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils. Beginning in February 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure mandatory annual training on the Brown Act and new rezoning laws and procedures relevant to the Municipal Advisory Councils board members occurs.

Recommendation 6 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to

take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that it should be implemented in the given timeframe.

R7. By September 1, 2024, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will ensure all current and past meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted to the Municipal Advisory Council webpages.

Recommendation 7 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that this has already been handled by county staff.

R8. By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will provide virtual access for all Municipal Advisory Councils meetings to the public.

Recommendation 8 requires further analysis.

The Grand Jury has requested that I, an individual supervisor, respond. However, the Grand Jury's recommendation is directed to the "Placer County Board of Supervisors" ("Board"), as a legislative body, to take specific actions. As an individual supervisor I cannot bind or commit the Board to act. Speaking as an individual supervisor, my opinion of this recommendation is that a blanket approach isn't useful or fiscally prudent. Our office utilizes Zoom for certain MACs when there is a large item on the agenda that may lead to high turnout. For smaller MAC meetings, it is not cost efficient to have IT staff attend the meeting and run Zoom. We did an analysis last year and it costs approximately \$1,000 per meeting to have IT run Zoom at our Eastern Placer MAC meetings. We have also tracked virtual participation on MAC meetings that don't have large items of public interest, and consistently had fewer than 5 residents join the meeting via Zoom. Because we don't have a county-owned building in eastern Placer that we can use for large meetings, the locations we book for our meetings often don't have adequate IT equipment for staff to run Zoom.

Sincerely,



Cindy Gustafson
Supervisor, District 5
County of Placer

Cc: Placer County Superior Court
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel

LINCOLN CITY H2O RATES RESPONSE LETTER



August 27, 2024

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2024

PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
P. O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: Response to 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report by the City Council and Sean Scully, City Manager to its Review of the 2023 Water Rate Increase by the City of Lincoln

Dear Judge Pineschi:

The City of Lincoln has reviewed the 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report regarding its review of the 2023 water rate increase by the City of Lincoln, and hereby submits its response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury as requested.

F1: The Lincoln City Council agreed with the 2023 Raftelis Water and Wastewater Study Report and findings.

Response to F1: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this finding.

R1: By March 1, 2025, the Lincoln City Council will continue to support the ten-year water rate increase outlined in the Raftelis Water and Wastewater Study Report.

Response to R1: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this recommendation, and to the extent these parties are able to bind future Councils, it will be implemented.

R2: Beginning March 1, 2025, the Lincoln City Council will review the ten-year water rates plan annually at a public meeting.

Response to R2: The City and Mr. Scully agree with this recommendation, it has already been implemented as City staff already provide annual update and review of the rates plan at a public meeting.

City Hall

600 Sixth Street

Lincoln, CA 95648

(916) 434-2400

www.lincolncalifornia.gov

City Manager's Office • Community Development • Engineering • Fire
Library • Recreation • Police • Public Works • Support Services

RE: 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Report - 2023 Water Rate Increase by the City of Lincoln
July 9, 2024
Page 2 of 2

This concludes Mr. Scully and the City's response to the Grand Jury's recommendations from its 2023-2024 report regarding the 2023 water rate increase by the City of Lincoln. Please do not hesitate to contact the City if you have questions regarding this response.

Sincerely,



Sean Scully
City Manager



Dan Karleskint, Mayor
City Council

cc: Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Response to Placer County Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Review of the 2023 Water Rate Increase by the City of Lincoln
Response By: Dan Karleskint Title: Mayor
Sean Scully City Manager

What is a Compliant Response?

Penal Code § 933.05 is very specific in what is required in a response. First, a respondent must address the findings listed in the report. There are only two responses allowed by the penal code. However, additional information is required if the respondent disagrees with a finding. If a report only lists findings and there are no recommendations, a response agreeing or disagreeing with each finding is not necessary.

FINDINGS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following two actions with regards to each finding.

<u>The respondent agrees with the finding.</u>
<u>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding; in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reason(s) therefore.</u>

- I (we) **agree** with the finding(s) numbered: F1.
 - I (we) **disagree** wholly or partially with the finding(s) numbered: _____.
- Describe any portions of the finding(s) that are disputed or not applicable; include an explanation of the reason(s).*

RECOMMENDATIONS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following four actions with regards to each recommendation.

The recommendation has been implemented with a summary regarding the implemented action.
The recommendation has not yet been implemented , but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for the implementation .
The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury's report.
The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation , therefore.

- Recommendations numbered R2 **have been** implemented.
(Describe the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R1 **have not yet been** implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a targeted completion date of March 1, 2025
Per Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2), a time frame for implementation must be included.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **require further analysis**. The further analysis will be completed by _____
Describe 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 (6) months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **will not be** implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Provide an explanation.

Date: 8/28/24

Signed: 

Number of pages attached 2

RESOLUTION 2024 - 165

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LINCOLN APPROVING THE ATTACHED RESPONSES TO PLACER GRAND JURY REPORTS "REVIEW OF THE 2023 WATER RATE INCREASE" AND "FROM MISSILES TO MEADOWS: RESTORING NATURE'S BALANCE" .

WHEREAS, the Placer Grand Jury has issued reports "Review of the 2023 Water Rate Increase" and "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance"; and

WHEREAS, the reports contain a number of findings and recommendations and the Placer Grand Jury has requested that the City of Lincoln respond to multiple Findings and Recommendations contained in the reports; and

WHEREAS, staff have drafted responses which are attached to this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby approves the attached responses to the Placer Grand Jury reports and hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute the response and transmit it to the Placer Grand Jury and Presiding Judge.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of August, 2024:

- AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Joiner, Brown, Andreatta, Lauritsen, Karleskint
- NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
- ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

Daniel Karleskint
Dan Karleskint, Mayor

ATTEST:
Gwen Scanlon
Gwen Scanlon, City Clerk

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of
Resolution 2024-165
adopted by the City of Lincoln City Council on the
following date August 27, 2024
Gwen Scanlon
City Clerk

CEMETARY DISTRICTS: No response required

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FORM 700 & ETHICS COMPLIANCE RESPONSES

COPY



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

11532 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95602
Email: info@placergrandjury.org

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2024
PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY
Phone: 530-886-5200
530-886-5201

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDENTS

The legal requirements affecting respondents and responses to grand jury findings and recommendations are contained in California Penal Code § 933.05. The full text of the law is attached.

The two different time periods for responses, and to whom you must respond is defined in Penal Code § 933(c). They are as follows:

Type of Agency	Time Frame	To Whom
Governing Boards	Ninety (90) Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presiding Judge of the Placer County Superior Court • Placer County Grand Jury
Elected County Officials	Sixty (60) Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presiding Judge of the Placer County Superior Court • Placer County Grand Jury • Information copy to the Placer County Board of Supervisors

An original signed copy of the response must be provided to both of the following:

1. Placer County Superior Court at the address listed below:
The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661
2. Placer County Grand Jury at the address listed below:
Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

When responding to more than one report, respondents must respond to each report separately. Use the Response to Placer County Grand Jury Report Form, attached, to help format and organize your response. An electronic version is available upon request by contacting the grand jury at (530) 886-5200 or info@placergrandjury.org.

Response to Placer County Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Special District Compliance Regarding Form 700 and Ethics Training
Response By: Earl Wilson Title: President - Board of Trustees

What is a Compliant Response?

Penal Code § 933.05 is very specific in what is required in a response. First, a respondent must address the findings listed in the report. There are only two responses allowed by the penal code. However, additional information is required if the respondent disagrees with a finding. If a report only lists findings and there are no recommendations, a response agreeing or disagreeing with each finding is not necessary.

FINDINGS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following two actions with regards to each finding.

<p>The respondent agrees with the finding.</p>
<p>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding; in which case the <i>response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reason(s) therefore.</i></p>


- I (we) **agree** with the finding(s) numbered: FL
- I (we) **disagree** wholly or partially with the finding(s) numbered: _____
Describe any portions of the finding(s) that are disputed or not applicable; include an explanation of the reason(s).

RECOMMENDATIONS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following four actions with regards to each recommendation.

The recommendation has been implemented with a summary regarding the implemented action.
The recommendation has not yet been implemented , but will be implemented in the future, <i>with a timeframe for the implementation.</i>
The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion. <i>This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury's report.</i>
The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, <i>with an explanation</i> , therefore.

- Recommendations numbered R 2 **have been** implemented.
(Describe the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ **have not yet been** implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a targeted completion date of _____.
Per Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2), a time frame for implementation must be included.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **require further analysis.** The further analysis will be completed by _____.
Describe 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 (6) months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **will not be** implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
Provide an explanation.

Date: July 19, 2024 Signed: 

Number of pages attached _____



PLACER
MOSQUITO
& VECTOR
CONTROL
DISTRICT

2021 Opportunity Drive
Roseville, CA 95678
(916) 380-5444
placermosquito.org

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2024
PLACER COUNTY
GRAND JURY

July 7, 2024

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: RESPONSE TO 2023-2024 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT: SPECIAL DISTRICTS
COMPLIANCE REGARDING FORM 700 AND ETHICS TRAINING

Dear The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi:

Thank you for providing the Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) the opportunity to review the above referenced Grand Jury Report (Report). The District, however, disagrees (wholly) to Finding F1's application to the District.

The District received the Grand Jury's request (via email) On October 9, 2023, and submitted its response to on October 19, 2023 (via email); providing copies of each Trustee's then current ethics training certificates. Because of this, the District's position is that Finding F1 is in error and that the District should be considered to be in full compliance with ethics training regulations.

Recommendation R5 requests that the District provide "current biannual ethics training certificate for their [two] board members." The District's response to Recommendation R5 is that it is unwarranted or, alternatively, has already been implemented when the District provided current ethics certificates for all Trustees on October 19, 2023.

Without specific information in Finding F1 as to why two Trustees ethics training compliance was described as "unverified" in the Report, the District reviewed the previously submitted documents. Two possible reasons were identified:

- Trustee Will Stockwin's submitted ethics certificate expired 10/30/2023. Trustee Stockwin had completed ethics training on 10/18/2023, however, the District had not received the new certificate before submitting its response. The current certificate with an expiration date of 10/17/2025 is listed on the website below.
- Trustee Peter Gilbert's submitted ethics certificate was current as of the date submitted, but subsequently expired on 10/20/2024. Trustee Gilbert completed ethics training on 12/6/2023. The current certificate with an expiration date of 12/05/2025 is listed on the website below.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Gilbert City of Lincoln • Merry Holliday-Hanson, PhD Placer County • Russ Kelley Town of Loomis
Will Stockwin City of Colfax • Ross Hutchings City of Roseville • Jill Gayaldo City of Rocklin • Sandy Bendorf City of Auburn

Response to Placer County Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: 2023-2024 Grand Jury Final Report: Special Districts Compliance Regarding Form 700 and Ethics Training
Response By: Joel Buettner **Title:** General Manager

What is a Compliant Response?

Penal Code § 933.05 is very specific in what is required in a response. First, a respondent must address the findings listed in the report. There are only two responses allowed by the penal code. However, additional information is required if the respondent disagrees with a finding. If a report only lists findings and there are no recommendations, a response agreeing or disagreeing with each finding is not necessary.

FINDINGS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following two actions with regards to each finding.

<p><u>The respondent agrees</u> with the finding.</p>
<p><u>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially</u> with the finding; in which case the <i>response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reason(s) therefore.</i></p>

- I (we) **agree** with the finding(s) numbered: _____
- I (we) **disagree** wholly or partially with the finding(s) numbered: F1 & R5
Describe any portions of the finding(s) that are disputed or not applicable; include an explanation of the reason(s). See attached letter

RECOMMENDATIONS

For purposes of subdivision (b) of Penal Code § 933.05, the respondent shall report one of the following four actions with regards to each recommendation.

The recommendation has been implemented with a summary regarding the implemented action.
The recommendation has not yet been implemented , but will be implemented in the future, <i>with a timeframe for the implementation</i> .
The recommendation requires further analysis , <i>with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury's report.</i>
The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, <i>with an explanation</i> , therefore.

- Recommendations numbered F1, R5 **have been** implemented.
(Describe the implemented actions.) See attached letter
- Recommendations numbered _____ **have not yet been** implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a targeted completion date of _____.
Per Penal Code § 933.05(b)(2), a time frame for implementation must be included.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **require further analysis**. The further analysis will be completed by _____.
Describe 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 (6) months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- Recommendations numbered _____ **will not be** implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
Provide an explanation.

Date: 9/11/2024

Signed: 

Number of pages attached 4.

PLACER COUNTY JAILS RESPONSE LETTERS

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, California 95603
(530) 889-4010
bos@placer.ca.gov

BONNIE GORE
District 1
SHANTI LANDON
District 2
JIM HOLMES
District 3
SUZANNE JONES
District 4
CINDY GUSTAFSON
District 5



October 1, 2024

Placer County Grand Jury
11532 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Board of Supervisors Response – *Placer County Jails, Holding Facilities, and Coroner's Office: Annual Inspections*

Dear Foreperson and Members of the Grand Jury:

After careful review of the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, the Placer County Board of Supervisors ("Board") is pleased to submit the following responses to the *2023-24 Grand Jury Report - Placer County Jails, Holding Facilities, and Coroner's Office: Annual Inspections*.

FINDINGS

Finding No. 15: Tahoe Substation - The Placer County Board of Supervisors recently authorized land use consulting, project planning, and entitlements to facilitate the design of the new Tahoe Justice Center.

The Board agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

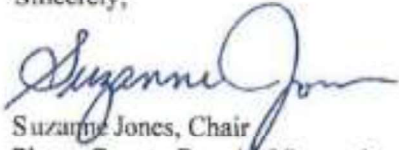
R6. Tahoe Substation - By January 1, 2025, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will continue moving the process of replacing the Tahoe Substation.

Recommendation 6 has been implemented.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors has identified the Burton Creek Substation as a high priority and continues to demonstrate commitment to the project for as long as the project remains feasible. The Burton Creek Substation is included in the Tahoe Justice Center project, with an estimated total cost of \$50 million. Placer County has identified existing and future funding sources for approximately half of the funding needed for this project, or just over \$25 million, with additional funding still being sought for the remainder of the

construction costs as well as operational costs once the project is complete. Placer County's current Capital Improvement Plan can be found online here: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/80666/Placer-County-CIP-24-29>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Suzanne Jones, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Karin Schwab, Placer County Counsel



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER/MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDER-SHERIFF

October 21, 2024

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 6169072
Roseville, CA 95661

Dear Judge Pineschi,

After carefully reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Placer County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit the following responses to the Grand Jury Final Report – Continuity and Accountability- Review of Placer County Grand Jury Reports from 2019-2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

By October 31, 2024, the Placer County Sheriff's Office will provide an updated response to the recommendations from the 2019-2020 grand jury report indicating a timeline for implementation in compliance with § 933.05.

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities

R1: By October 1, 2020, develop a plan and cost analysis of expanding successful work programs for inmates at the minimum-security jail

Response: Recommendation numbered R1 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The Placer County Sheriffs Office, Corrections Division, offered a variety of work programs through the Minimum Security facilities that had to be placed on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. The programs below are, or will be, coordinated from within the Placer School for Adults out of the South Placer Jail. Costs for inmate programs are funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF).

- In the short term, the following programs are ready to be started again with minimal cost as soon as the pandemic resolves: Call rans Work Crew, CalFire Chipper Crew, Sewing, Embroidery, PCSO Fleet Vehicle Maintenance, Placer County Small Engine Repair.

HEADQUARTERS
2009 RICHARDSON DRIVE
ALBURN, CA 95613
(530) 689-1800

ALBURN MAINT. JAIL
2775 RICHARDSON DRIVE
ALBURN, CA 95613
(530) 740-1500

SOUTH PLACER STATION
8148 HERRINGHIDE BAR ROAD, SUITE 0
LOGANS, CA 95662
(916) 552-2000

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11801 COLFORD BROOK ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 489-0100

NORTH LAKE TRAIL STATION
P.O. BOX 1710
TRUCKEE CITY, CA 95415
(530) 581-6300



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-COLONEL/MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

- In the near term, the following programs were nearing implementation, but again were put on hold because of the pandemic: Culinary Training, California ServSafe Certification, Forklift Operator Certification, Placer County Landscaping, Media Design/Printing. Each of the programs will be implemented with minimal cost, as they involve contracts already in place in the Corrections Division, and/or equipment previously purchased and re-tasked within the Sheriffs Office.
- Within 2-3 years, The Corrections Division will begin construction on a \$30 Million vocational training center to be located on the South Placer Jail campus. The training programs will be based around partnerships with local businesses and could include options in construction, automotive repair and bodywork/painting, cosmetology, etc. The training center is being funded through state grants and as the program moves closer to implementation, costs of the training itself will be determined based on the courses offered and community involvement.

Update 10/24- Recommendation number R1 has been implemented with modifications. The Placer County Sheriffs Office, Corrections Division, offered a variety of work programs through the Minimum Security facilities that had to be placed on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. The programs below are, or will be, coordinated from within the Placer School for Adults out of the South Placer Jail. Costs for inmate programs are funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF). The following programs are now available.

- *The following programs have been started again with minimal cost from the Inmate Welfare Fund: Sewing, Embroidery, PCSO Fleet Vehicle Maintenance, Culinary Training, Serve Safe, Forklift Operator Certification*
- *In the near term, the following programs will be considered (in conjunction with PSA) upon completion of the new Medium Security Vocation Training unit: Media Design/Printing/Engraving, Commercial Truck Driving, Welding, Carpentry. Each of the programs will be implemented with minimal cost, as they involve contracts already in place in the Corrections Division, and/or equipment previously purchased and re-tasked within the Sheriffs Office. The training center is being funded through state grants and as the program moves closer to implementation, costs of the training itself will be determined based on the courses offered and community involvement.*

R2: By October 1, 2020, replaced the keyed gate to the sally port at the Historic Courthouse with a magnetic fob to allow for easier operation of the gate.

Response: Recommendation numbered R2 requires further analysis.

HEADQUARTERS
1200 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603
(530) 885-7300

AUBURN MAIN AVE
2775 RICHARDSON DRIVE
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(530) 745-9344

SOUTH PLACER STATION
6148 HORNESBIDGE BAR ROAD, SUITE 11
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-2400

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11801 GO FOR BROKE ROAD
ROOSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 454-0100

NORTHLAKE TANKS STATION
P.O. BOX 1710
TAYLOR CITY, CA 95645
(530) 581-0200



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF CORONER MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

While replacing the keypad gate with a magnetic fob may provide easier access, the keypad is currently operational and not posing any notable significant safety concern. This will be reviewed over the next six months to determine the frequency of safety issues as they arise.

Update 10/24– This recommendation has been implemented. Through the months of December 2022-March 2023 the Historic courthouse replaced many locks within the building from “keyed only” locks to FOB controlled. This included the sally port gate as indicated in the 2019/2020 Grand Jury Report.

R3: By October 1, 2020, evaluate surveillance cameras at the Historic Courthouse. Replace poorly functioning security camera and add cameras in a few key areas. Install new cameras and surveillance improvements with 180 days of the evaluation.

Response: Recommendation numbered R3 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The Sheriff's Office agrees the security cameras at the Historic Courthouse are in the need of upgrades but defers to the AOC (Administrative Office of the Courts) for further analysis on this issue, as they are responsible for the Auburn Historic Courthouse facility.

This request has been made through the Judicial Council, and Sheriff's Court Security staff will work with the Court and Judicial Council on implementation efforts once funding is approved. Unfortunately, due to a statewide Trial Court budget reduction of \$168 million, there are no allocated funds or time-frame available for the video system upgrade.

Update 10/24–This recommendation has been implemented. During the months of November- December 2021, in partnership with the Judicial Council of California, the camera system at the Historic Court house were changed to improve surveillance and safety around and within the courthouse. Several “hot spots” were located in the building where cameras were needed and eventually installed.

Sincerely,

Wayne Woo
Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal

cc: Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer

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AUBURN, CA 95603
(530) 889-7830

AUBURN SQUAD
3775 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603
(530) 745-8100

SOUTH PLACER STATION
8840 HORNED LICE BAR ROAD, SUITE D
LUTHERS, CA 95659
(530) 602-2400

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11001 DO FOR BUCKE ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
(916) 409-8100

NORTH LAKE TOWN STATION
P.O. BOX 1719
TOWN OF CITY, CA 95140
(530) 631-0200



**PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

Julia Reeves, Deputy County Counsel
Gary Haynes, Foreperson of the Placer County Grand Jury



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

August 26, 2024

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
PO Box 6169072
Roseville, CA 95661

Dear Judge Pineschi,

After carefully reviewing the findings of the Placer County Grand Jury 2023-2024, I am pleased to submit the following response to the Grand Jury Final Report – the Placer County Jails, Holding Facilities, and Coroner's Office Inspection.

Findings- Jails, Holding Facilities Inspection and Coroner's Office:

The Placer County Sheriff's Office agrees with F5, F15, F16 and partially agree with F4, F6, F11, F14.

Agree:

F5. The upper control booth was cluttered with staff personal items

Agree- Sergeants are making daily rounds to each housing unit to ensure cleanliness.

F15. The Placer County Board of Supervisors recently authorized land use consulting project planning, and entitlements to facilitate the design of the new Tahoe Center.

Agree- Facilities has agreed that they are working with a land use consultant to start the EIR and entitlements process for this project in Tahoe. This will be a slow and long process.

F16. Training programs that are taught at this facility include sewing, printing, embroidery, crafts, culinary arts, and landscaping.

Agree.

Partially Agree:

F4. No correctional staff or sheriff's deputies were observed wearing department-issued body-worn cameras.

HEADQUARTERS
2629 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603

AUBURN MAIN JAIL
2725 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603

SOUTH PLACER STATION
1140 WINDSHUTE BAR ROAD, SUITE D
Loomis, CA 95650

SOUTH PLACER JAIL
11801 GO FOR BROKE ROAD
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678

NORTH LAKE TAHOE STATION
P.O. BOX 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96146



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MAJESTRAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

Partially Agree- Body worn cameras were issued and implemented in March 2023. Body Worn Cameras are required to be worn by policy and the policy is enforced. If an employee was not wearing their body worn cameras it was not within Sheriff's Office policy.

- F6. The facility is not compliant with The Americans with Disabilities Act, and all inmates who require this accommodation must be transferred to South Placer Adult Correctional Facility.

Partially agree- Inmates requiring ADA accommodations are accommodated accordingly within our capabilities. If the facility is unable to provide the necessary ADA accommodations, these inmates are transferred to the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility.

- F11. Future mail technology may include all correspondence being electronically scanned and sent to inmates via email.

Partially Agree- Future mail technology will include all correspondence being scanned and sent to inmates via electronic tablet.

- F14. There is no covered entry or walkway to protect staff, visitors, detainees, or evidence from inclement weather.

Partially Agree- There is no covered entry or walkway to protect staff, detainees, or evidence from inclement weather. We do have a covered entry in the front of the building for visitors and the two records clerks who generally use that entrance.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends:

- R1. While on duty, all uniformed staff wear department-issued body-worn cameras by October 1, 2024.

This recommendation has been implemented.

Response: The Placer County Sheriff's Office – Corrections division implemented the wearing and use of body worn cameras in March 2023. PCSO General Order Operations 26 – Digital Evidence Capture Systems was effective March 1, 2024. Section 5 of the listed general order states:

"All employees issued a BWC are required to wear (powered on) and use their BWC's per this policy while working in uniform, unless exemption exists. For the purpose of this order, a uniform shall be defined as any apparel that visibly identifies the wearer as a peace officer or correctional officer of the Placer County Sheriff's Office, regardless of rank."

- R2. Respiratory Personal Protection Equipment will be easily accessible for staff by October 1, 2024.

This recommendation has been implemented.



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

Response: PPE (facemasks) are readily available to all staff in the event they need them.

- R3. The upper control booth will be cleared of all unnecessary staff personal items and the remaining items be organized by October 1, 2024.

This recommendation has been implemented.

Response: This response was noted and immediately corrected. Sergeants check workstations daily to ensure cleanliness.

- R4. The Placer County Sheriff's Office expand the incoming mail scanning equipment and procedures to all jail facilities by July 1, 2025.

This recommendation has not yet been implemented.

Response: As of July 30, 2024, contract negotiations are underway for these services. The implementation of the paperless mail will be completed prior to the July 1, 2025, date.

- R5. The ten-year-old current software used to record and categorize evidence to be updated by July 1, 2025.

This recommendation needs further analysis.

Response: The Evidence Unit has been using the Revolution Property and Evidence Management System since May 2013. The Sheriff's Office is exploring replacement software but there are many considerations that need to be explored before implementation.

One of the major challenges we face is the task of entering and barcoding 11 years of evidence data, which amounts to approximately 100,000 items. This includes capturing all notes, chain of custody information, and attached documents, as the vendor is currently unable to transfer this data effectively. Additionally, we need to find and purchase a new digital evidence system to store all digital media, aside from VMEL. We are currently in beta testing for the Revolution Digital Evidence System.

The Sheriff's Office is actively exploring new software options for evidence management to address these challenges and improve our overall efficiency.



**PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

WAYNE WOO
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

SHAYNE WRIGHT
UNDERSHERIFF

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Wayne Woo'.

Wayne Woo
Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal

cc: Board of Supervisors
Daniel Chatigny, Placer County Executive Officer
Julia Reeves, Placer County Counsel
Barbara Ferguson, Foreperson of the Placer County Grand Jury