

CONTINUITY AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

SUMMARY

The Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) monitors the required responses from government entities to findings and recommendations by previous juries. Jurors then determine whether those responses are complete and legally sufficient according to [Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05](#). This monitoring effort ensures a seamless, year-to-year transition. The 2023-24 CGJ reviewed responses from the previous five years of grand jury reports to determine that mandatory responses were received and posted to the CGJ website. In addition, the CGJ followed up with the entities regarding the implementation of the recommendations agreed upon in the 2022-23 reports.

BACKGROUND

The California Constitution requires each county to empanel a Civil Grand Jury and publish a report at the conclusion of its one-year term. The report identifies findings and recommendations for selected government entities and elected officials in each county to improve government operations and efficiency. Government entities are required to submit responses to the recommendations of the Civil Grand Jury to the presiding Superior Court Judge for the grand jury within 90 days of the date the report is published. Elected officials are required to submit responses within 60 days of publication.

The required responses must state whether the entity or elected official agrees or disagrees with the specific findings and recommendations of the report, and whether the recommendations have or will be implemented.

This report focuses on the Penal Code requirements for responding to the CGJ's recommendations. The responses must include whether each recommendation:

- was implemented with a summary of the action taken
- will be implemented with a specific timeframe provided

- requires further analysis or study with an explanation of the scope, parameters, and timeframe for conducting the analysis or study
- will not be implemented because the entity deems it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation provided

METHODOLOGY

The 2023-24 CGJ reviewed the final reports for the five-year period from 2018 to 2023 to determine which entities and elected officials were required to submit written responses and whether they had been submitted.

The CGJ sent follow-up letters to entities and elected officials who did not submit the required written responses. They were given a 30-day timeframe for compliance. The CGJ conducted detailed reviews of the submitted responses to determine compliance with the Penal Code provisions.

DISCUSSION

2018 to 2022 Required Responses

There were two responses received but not previously posted to the [Civil Grand Jury website](#). These have now been posted and include:

1. [The City of Monterey's Response](#) to the 2019-20 Report [Sexual Harassment Prevention #Training Compliance](#).
2. [The City of Del Rey Oaks Response](#) to the 2018-19 Report [Rape Kit Processing in Monterey County](#).

There were three reports for which responses were missing or incomplete. Responses have now been received and posted to the Civil Grand Jury website. They include:

1. [The County Administrative Officer's Supplemental Response](#) on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the 2019-20 Report titled [Monument to a Failed Process South County PLN](#).

2. [Assessor/Clerk Recorder’s Response](#) to the 2021-22 Report titled [Monterey County’s Cannabis Industry Up in Smoke](#).
3. [Chualar Union School District’s Response](#) to the 2021-22 Report titled [Excellence in Action, Monterey County’s Educational Response to Covid-19](#).

The MCCGJ 2023-24 is pleased to report that all individuals and entities have submitted the required responses since 2018. Future MCCGJs will be able to begin follow-up with 2023-24 compliance and responses.

2022-23 Report Mandatory and Supplemental Responses

All the required responses from the 2022-23 Reports have been received and posted to the [Civil Grand Jury website](#). The CGJ sent follow-up letters to the various entities to request status reports regarding agreed-upon recommendations.

While implementation status reports are not required by the Penal Code, various government entities provided them upon request. These supplemental status responses to the 2022-23 Reports have been posted to the CGJ website and are linked in the table below.

2022-23 Civil Grand Jury Reports and Responses

Report Title	Required Initial Response	Supplemental Response
City of Seaside: The Real Cost of Fireworks	City of Seaside	No supplemental response received by publication deadline
Human Resources, Help Wanted: A Speedier Way to Hire	Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors Civil Rights Officer Human Resource Director
The Monterey County Coroner’s Office: A Matter of Life and Death	Board of Supervisors Monterey County Sheriff	Monterey County Sheriff

<u>Noise Ordinance: Sleepless in Monterey County</u>	<u>Board of Supervisors</u> <u>Monterey County Sheriff</u>	<u>Board of Supervisors and Monterey County Sheriff</u>
<u>Public Guardian, The Final Helping Hand: A Mandate to Care</u>	<u>Board of Supervisors</u> <u>Monterey County Director of Social Services</u>	<u>Board of Supervisors</u> <u>Health Department Director</u> <u>Director of Social Services</u>
<u>Take the Bus: Ridership and the MST Fleet</u>	<u>MST Board of Directors</u>	<u>MST CEO</u>

CONCLUSION

The CGJ appreciates that the Board of Supervisors, the various department heads, and the MST CEO submitted supplemental responses providing additional organizational accountability and transparency.

Governmental entities or elected officials that do not submit required responses undermine the mission and the work of the Civil Grand Jury. It is a disservice to the residents of Monterey County and a missed opportunity to demonstrate accountability and transparency.

By publishing this report, the CGJ is holding the entities and elected officials accountable as required by law.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Civil Grand Jury Reports | Monterey County, CA
<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/participate-get-involved/civil-grand-jury/reports>

Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=933.&lawCode=PEN