

PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

2022-2023 FINAL REPORT



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
June 2023



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

11532 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603

Phone: (530) 886-5200

E-mail: info@placergrandjury.org

FAX: (530) 886-5201

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge, Superior Court
County of Placer
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

The Honorable Suzanne I. Gazzaniga
Advising Grand Jury Judge, Superior Court
County of Placer
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

Subject: 2022–2023 Grand Jury Final Report

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

It has been my honor to serve as foreperson for the 2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury. The final report contains individual reports on our investigations and inspections as required by law.

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. Their dedication and accomplishments cannot be overstated. 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 final report, which I am pleased to present to you, the Board of Supervisors, and the Citizens of Placer County.

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 Suzanne I. Gazzaniga. We also recognize Emily Taylor, Deputy County Counsel, Rosalinda Cruz, the Court Executive Assistant, and our Office Manager, Shane Campbell-Kaslin, for their invaluable support throughout the year.

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. A written report of the committee's findings and recommendations regarding any specific complaint may or may not be included in this year's final report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Ferguson, Foreperson
2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury

Placer County Grand Jury 2022-2023



It has been our honor to represent the citizens of Placer County during the 2022-2023 grand jury term. This year, the jury included residents from Auburn, Granite Bay, Lincoln, Meadow Vista, Newcastle, Ophir, Penryn, Rocklin, and Roseville.



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Instructions for Respondents	7
Final Report Summaries	11

Reports

Investigations

A Closer Look at Placer County Veterans Service Office	15
A Look into Mental Health Services in Placer County Schools	39
Placer County Animal Services to the Rescue!	51
South Placer Fire District – Fiscal Challenges and Station Closures	73
Spending on Homelessness Within Placer County	89

Inspections

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities – Annual Inspection	105
Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility – Annual Inspection	127

Continuity and Accountability

Five-Year Follow-Up to the 2017-2018 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report	135
Continuity and Accountability - Responses to the 2021-2022 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report	143



Introduction to the Grand Jury

What is the 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 60 days. Governing bodies of public agencies must respond within 90 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 2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury served a one-year term from July 11, 2022, through July 10, 2023. 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 all 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 California 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 web pages 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 to the above address.

Online: info@placergrandjury.org **OR**
forepersonprotm@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 is 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
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.

You are encouraged to use the Response to Grand Jury Report Form, attached, 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.

<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: _____.
- 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</u> , <i>with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe</i> 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 a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.

Final Report Summaries

A Closer Look at Placer County Veterans Service Office

The Placer County Veterans Service Office presented an overview of their services to the Placer County Grand Jury. As a result, the grand jury decided to further investigate the Veterans Service Office and its operations. During its investigation, the Placer County Grand Jury found the Veterans Service Office performs much needed services for veterans, regardless of county or state of residency.

The Veterans Service Office is an integral part of the county's Department of Health and Human Services. The veteran population in Placer County currently stands at 24,986, ranking fifteenth among the fifty-eight counties in the state. This office aids veterans in receiving benefits by confirming veteran status, assisting with filing compensation claims, and providing guidance with pension and tuition information for family members. The lack of accredited staff, however, has resulted in a loss of funding from the CalVet County Subvention Program.

Despite the office having a limited staff and ruled by federal regulations required in filing an application, the veterans service representatives strive to process all claims in a timely manner. The grand jury found the Veterans Service Office staff to be dedicated to their job and to the veterans seeking assistance.

A Look into Mental Health Services in Placer County Schools

The COVID-19 pandemic closed industries, businesses, and educational institutions across the nation. Those shutdowns were a visible precaution to curtail the spread of an invisible virus. The shutdowns, however, affected more than just buildings. Studies show students of all ages began to manifest mental health issues during the enforced closures of educational facilities. With the reopening of schools, educational administrators have noted a marked increase in behavioral issues in students. Not all students' emotional issues can be blamed on the pandemic.

The grand jury found Placer County schools have a multitude of interventions and mental health services and programs available to staff, students, and families. This report will detail many of the programs available within the school systems as well as community resources, which are accessible by the public and free to the community.

Placer County Animal Services to the Rescue!

The last report published by the Placer County Grand Jury, which focused on Placer County Animal Services, was published in June 2014. The report was titled, "Placer County Animal Services Facility—in a Perfect World." The report recommended the original facility be "fixed versus replaced" and disagreed with a proposal presented to the Placer County Board of Supervisors to build a new facility.

Given it has been nine years since the last report, and a new facility was constructed in 2016, the 2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury determined it was time to revisit

Placer County Animal Services. This report focuses on the new facility, animal shelter operations, and animal control procedures in the greater Placer County community. Placer County Animal Services faces unique challenges due to the growth of Placer County's Wildland Urban Interface and increased occurrences of wildfires. Their motto, "Saving people from animals and animals from people," drives Animal Control Officers and Animal Services personnel to provide the best care and services in its daily and emergency operations. The grand jury found that Placer County Animal Services lives up to its motto while administering the many duties of their department.

South Placer Fire District Fiscal Challenges and Station Closures

South Placer Fire District was formed in 1952 as a special district. Special districts are a form of local government created by a community to meet a specific need. Inadequate tax bases and competing demands for existing taxes can make it hard for cities and counties to provide services for citizens. When landowners want new services or higher levels of existing services, they can form their own district to pay for and administer them.

The South Placer Fire District has reported ongoing financial difficulties over the past several years, due in part to its operational costs increasing faster than its sources of funding. Increased administrative and operational costs, diminished revenue streams, and changing service provision demands have required Division 2 of the South Placer Fire District to make significant changes to maintain their level of community service. These challenges, however, are not unique to South Placer Fire District, as they are being reported throughout the State of California. Financial shortfalls within established revenue collections are requiring fire districts to become more creative in manpower distribution, facility usage, and asset allocations. In many instances, potential reorganization of districts is a necessary, viable solution, allowing for increased overall efficiency.

Spending on Homelessness Within Placer County

The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Placer County Grand Juries published reports on the homeless population in Placer County. On June 14, 2022, the Board of Supervisors published a chart showing Placer County government spending of approximately \$20 million for FY 2021 to 2022. The 2022-2023 grand jury found the total spending by city, town, and county during July 2021 through March 2023 amounted to more than \$80 million.

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Annual Inspection Report 2022-2023

The Placer County Grand Jury conducted required inspections at Placer County jails and holding facilities located in Roseville, Auburn, and Tahoe City between the months of August 2022 and February 2023. Multiple visits, both announced and unannounced, were made to the facilities. The grand jury found these facilities to be

secure and well organized but found that cleanliness at the Placer County Main Jail and the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility was substandard.

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility Annual Inspection Report

The California Penal Code § 919(b) authorizes county grand juries to inspect all jails and holding facilities within county boundaries. Historically, although not legally mandated, the Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) has also included the inspection of the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) located in Auburn. The 2022-2023 grand jury toured and inspected the facility on October 7, 2022.

A supervising deputy probation officer conducted the inspection tour. The grand jurors found the facility to be clean and well maintained. Services provided include education, health, mental health, social awareness, and special programs. These programs are taught by contracted providers, credentialed teachers, volunteers, and probation staff. The JDF staff are well-trained, knowledgeable, and supportive of the detainees and are involved in all aspects of services available.

Five-Year Follow-Up to the 2017-2018 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report

Every year the Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) publishes a final report. The reports provide citizens of the county an insight into county and city governments, special districts, schools, libraries, and jails. These reports may offer recommendations to the different entities for possible improvement in their procedures or operations. This year the 2022-2023 grand jury looked back five years to the recommendations from the 2017-2018 final report and investigated the updated status of those recommendations.

Continuity and Accountability – Responses to the 2021-2022 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report

The primary duty of the Placer County Grand Jury is to investigate the functions of city and county government, schools, 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 final report provides findings and recommendations for each investigation and inspection. Traditionally, a response report is issued in the November timeframe by the grand jury containing the responses from the investigated entities to their respective recommendations.

The 2022-2023 grand jury believes it is important to verify that the responses were compliant with Penal Code § 933.05, which outlines what each response is to include. The intent of this report is to confirm that entities complied with the penal code.

A Closer Look at Placer County Veterans Service Office



Stock Photo



A Closer Look at Placer County Veterans Service Office

Summary

The Placer County Veterans Service Office presented an overview of their services to the Placer County Grand Jury. As a result, the grand jury decided to further investigate the Veterans Service Office and its operations. During its investigation, the Placer County Grand Jury found the Veterans Service Office performs much needed services for veterans, regardless of county or state of residency.

The Veterans Service Office is an integral part of the county's Department of Health and Human Services. The veteran population in Placer County currently stands at 24,986, ranking fifteenth among the fifty-eight counties in the state. This office aids veterans in receiving benefits by confirming veteran status, assisting with filing compensation claims, and providing guidance with pension and tuition information for family members. The lack of accredited staff, however, has resulted in a loss of funding from the CalVet County Subvention Program.

Despite the office having a limited staff and ruled by federal regulations required in filing an application, the veterans service representatives strive to process all claims in a timely manner. The grand jury found the Veterans Service Office staff to be dedicated to their job and to the veterans seeking assistance.

Glossary

CalFresh: A California program for those who meet federal income eligibility rules and receive funds to purchase healthy and nutritious food.

CalVet: The California Department of Veterans Affairs works to serve California veterans and their families.

CalVet County Subvention Program: The County Subvention Program is a group of fund programs mandated by the state legislature to reimburse counties for a portion of the costs of presenting and pursuing any claim a veteran may have against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Medi-Cal: A California program that pays for a variety of medical services for children and adults with limited income and resources.

PACT Act: The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 is a new law which expands Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances during military service.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is an agency of the federal government that provides benefits, health care, and cemetery services to military veterans.

Veteran: A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

VetPro: A case management software program for creating and submitting veterans' claims to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and California Department of Veterans Affairs. This software program is used by Veterans Service Offices throughout the United States. Users must be credentialed through the California Department of Veterans Affairs to access this program.

Background

The objective of the Veterans Service Office (VSO) is to promote the interests and welfare of veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy.¹ They meet this objective of connecting veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).



Stock Photo

Following a presentation to the Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) by the Placer County VSO, it was decided to further explore services available to veterans, how veterans are informed of services and eligibility, and determine veterans' level of satisfaction with the VSO. This report will also address additional funding sources that may be available to the VSO.

The VSO has three locations in Placer County. The Rocklin office is open Monday through Friday for appointments and walk-ins. The Auburn office is open one day per week and takes both walk-ins and appointments. The Carnelian Bay/Tahoe office is open one day per month and sees clients by appointment.

Methodology

The Placer County Grand Jury conducted interviews with staff members from the VSO. The PCGJ also interviewed veterans who have utilized the services of the VSO. Veterans interviewed ranged in age from mid-thirties to over eighty years old and included those who served as far back as the Korean War (1950-1953).

¹ [Veterans | Placer County, CA www.placer.ca.gov/1875/Veterans](http://www.placer.ca.gov/1875/Veterans). Accessed January 23, 2023.

Following interviews, the scope of the investigation expanded to include the department's funding, resources, and operational expenses. Impacts related to the passage of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act)² also prompted this report. The VSO was last investigated by the 2011-2012 Placer County Grand Jury.³

Discussion

The Placer County Veterans Service Office oversees all matters regarding benefits to veterans. These services include counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. The PCGJ learned that Placer County has the fifteenth largest number of veterans of the fifty-eight California counties, with the number of veterans currently at 24,986.⁴

Duties of Staff

When fully staffed, the VSO, a division of the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), employs six full-time employees. Their duties include assisting veterans with filing compensation claims, tuition waivers, authorizing veteran status, and assistance with pension information for family members. The grand jury learned during interviews that in 2021-2022, the VSO served more than 5,600 veterans, received over 3,500 phone calls, and approximately 6,800 emails.

The VSO staff is trained and receives accreditation through the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).⁵ Only accredited staff, of which there are currently three, are permitted to file claims on behalf of their clients.

With the end of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and new legislation such as the PACT Act, the VSO has seen an increase in the number of veterans applying for services. Although the VSO is a division of the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services, the office serves all veterans regardless of county or state of residency.

² The PACT Act and your VA Benefits www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/. Accessed February 1, 2023.

³ [Grand Jury Reports & Resolutions | Placer County Superior Court \(ca.gov\)](https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions)
www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions.
Accessed February 22, 2023.

⁴ No Vet Left Behind, California Association of County Veterans Service Officers 2022 Annual Report [Veterans-Annual-Report-2022-2.pdf \(cacvso.org\)](https://www.cacvso.org/Veterans-Annual-Report-2022-2.pdf). Accessed March 29, 2023.

⁵ Accreditation Training Process [Accreditation, PIV cards & VA Systems Access \(cacvso.org\)](https://www.cacvso.org/Accreditation,PIV-cards-VA-Systems-Access) Accessed February 7, 2023.

The County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO), who heads the Veterans Service Office, must be a veteran for the office to receive CalVet Subvention funding. A CVSO was hired in October 2022, then resigned four months later. It was learned the position has since been filled with a new CVSO who started at the end of March 2023.

According to the CalVet Procedure Manual for Subvention and Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance (page one, part one):⁶

A County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) is a veteran and a county employee whose duty is to assist the veteran community in applying for and maintaining available benefits and entitlements for which they may be eligible. Veteran benefits come in many forms and are administered by federal, state, and local governments.

In addition to their own veteran community, the CVSOs must answer to their Board of Supervisors and must be aware of, and abide by, the vast network of requirements and regulations as prescribed by various agencies and levels of government. All CVSOs and their Veteran Service Representative (VSR) staff must achieve and maintain accreditation from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). This accreditation must be secured within the first 18 months of employment. CVSOs who are not accredited by CalVet within 18 months of appointment or within 18 months of the County Veterans Service Officer position becoming vacant, whichever occurs first, will lose Subvention payments from CalVet. In the case of a vacant CVSO position, the Board of Supervisors must provide the Department a Delegation of Authority letter within 30 days, and a new CVSO must be appointed within six months, of the position becoming vacant.

There have been three CVSOs since 2018 who have averaged seventeen months of service before vacating the position. In addition to a CVSO, there are five staff members in the VSO, three of which are accredited through the VA and CalVet. In Placer County, the functions of a VSR are officially performed by two Eligibility Specialists and an Eligibility Supervisor but are referred to as Veterans Service Representatives. Accredited staff work directly with clients to complete and upload their claims into the VA's VetPro system. To attain accreditation, a VSR attends a two-week academy, shadows another staff member for additional training, and passes an exam. There is also an Eligibility Specialist Trainee and an Administrative Clerk on staff.

⁶ CalVet Procedure Manual for Subvention and Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance www.calvet.ca.gov/Regulations/CVSO-Manual-Amendment-Manual.pdf. Accessed March 17, 2023.

The two primary functions of the VSO staff are: (1) compile required information and file claims for approval by the VA on behalf of veterans, and (2) once a claim has been approved, manually upload processed claims into VetPro. With the increased number of veterans seeking services, and a shortage of accredited staff, there is a backlog of VA approved claims waiting to be uploaded into VetPro. Interviews with VSO staff indicated, at the end of April 2023, there were more than 1,100 claims waiting to be processed. This delay in processing impedes the department from receiving CalVet County Subvention Program funds. The cost benefit of adding an accredited staff person to upload this data to VetPro could potentially be subsidized by subvention funding while reducing the current backlog.

Process of Applying for Services

Applicants submit an Intent to File⁷ claim form to begin the process of eligibility to determine level of disability. The intake process includes an interview and assessment. An accredited Veterans Service Representative is assigned to each client and acts as liaison and advocate, compiling the client's profile and additional required documents for the client's claim. Depending on the complexity of a claim, compiling all the required information can take up to four hours. All documents are submitted to the VA for review and approval.



Stock Photo

Once the claim is submitted, the veteran must obtain documentation to substantiate their disability claim such as a doctor's diagnosis. This must be completed within twelve months. The veteran may use private service providers for medical evaluations or seek services through the VA. The turnaround time for submitting a claim depends on the veteran's level of engagement and timeliness in providing the required documentation. It may take up to a year for a claim to be processed.

Once a claim has been approved, the veteran begins receiving compensation, which is retroactive to the intent to file date of their application. The length of time to process a claim depends on when the claim is approved by the VA. For instance, if there was an intent to file made in January 2022, the claim is submitted in July 2022, and approved in September 2022, the payments would be retroactive to January 2022.

⁷ Intent to File www.va.gov/resources/your-intent-to-file-a-va-claim/. Accessed March 14, 2023.

If a claim is denied by the VA, it can be appealed. The VSO routinely assists and acts on behalf of veterans with filing appeals. There are three ways a denial can be appealed:

1. The veteran provides a supplemental review of their injuries or illness with more evidence from a medical professional.
2. The veteran requests the case be reviewed by a Senior Adjudicator. This process can take between 125 days to a year to overturn an appeal.
3. The veteran may go through the Board of Veterans Appeals which involves going before a judge who reviews the claim, and the veteran can plead their case at a hearing. It takes a minimum of two years for this process.

Benefits and Services

Clients receive a service-connected disability rating (0–100%) when they file a claim with the VA. The veteran can file directly with the VA through their online system or with assistance from the VSO. Veterans receive additional benefits as their service-connected rating increases (see Appendix A). The disability compensation provides tax-free benefits directly to the veteran. An income-based program is available to provide supplemental assistance and a special monthly compensation, enhancing current benefits for those who qualify.

A VSR assists clients with filing VA claims to receive disability benefits for veterans and their families, pending approval of a claim. In addition to monetary benefits, veterans may qualify for the following:⁸

- Healthcare
- Loans for home purchase
- Disabled veteran property tax waiver
- State college tuition waiver
- Department of Motor Vehicles notation of veteran status on driver's license and veteran license plates
- Death and burial benefits
- State and National Park Passes

The Veterans Treatment Court⁹ offers honorably discharged veterans who subsequently commit minor offenses an opportunity to avoid consequences by participating in treatment programs and counseling. The Placer County Veteran's Court is for defendants who are veterans of the armed forces who suffer from qualifying disorders due to their military service. Veterans Treatment Court allows

⁸ [Benefits by Rating | Placer County, CA www.placer.ca.gov/1876/Benefits-by-Rating](http://www.placer.ca.gov/1876/Benefits-by-Rating). Accessed February 7, 2023.

⁹ Veterans Treatment Court www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Veterans-Treatment-Court.aspx. Accessed March 17, 2023.

them to receive alternative sentencing, mental health treatment, and other rehabilitative services in lieu of serving a sentence. Defendants are supervised by the Placer County Probation Department who routinely provide updates to the court regarding the defendant's progress with their individualized treatment plan. Treatment plans may include mental health services, substance abuse treatment, counseling, obtaining employment, and housing.



Stock Photo

Monetary Claims Awarded to Placer County Veterans

The following table details the money paid to Placer County veterans and their families by the VA between calendar years 2020 and 2022. The increase in claims has gone up substantially over the past two years due, in part, to the ending of COVID-19 restrictions and impacts from the PACT Act. It should be noted monetary benefits paid to veterans and their families listed below are dollars theoretically spent in Placer County, adding to the local economy.

- **Activity Award Count:** All claims submitted by Placer County VSO on behalf of veterans and all claim activity awards that were captured at the time of reporting.
- **Activity Retroactive Benefits:** The dollar amount of retroactive benefits the veteran/families received.
- **Activity Annualized Monthly Benefits:** The total amount veterans and their families received for the year based on their monthly benefit.
- **Activity Lump Sum Benefits:** Lump sum benefits are typically for burial payments and are a one-time payment, however, this amount could be based on one-time benefit due to the veteran/family only being eligible for one month of benefits.

For example, if a veteran/family submitted a claim on August 20, 2020, and the veteran passed away October 1, 2020, they would have been eligible for one month, September 2020, thus a one-time payment.

Awards and Benefits	Calendar Year 2020 ¹⁰	Calendar Year 2021 ¹¹	Calendar Year 2022 ¹²
Activity Award Count	188	1,327	2,036
Activity Retroactive Benefits	\$1,026,073	\$4,742,097	\$6,465,169
Annualized Monthly Benefits	\$1,573,137	\$8,433,052	\$10,913,952
Lump Sum Benefits	\$26,756	\$30,865	\$76,930

¹⁰ California Association of Veterans Service Officers 2020 Annual Report [CVSO-2020-Annual-Report-revised.pdf \(cacvso.org\)](#). Accessed April 10, 2023.

¹¹ California Association of Veterans Service Officers 2021 Annual Report [Report-2021electronic.pdf \(cacvso.org\)](#). Accessed April 10, 2023.

¹² California Association of Veterans Service Officers 2022 Annual Report [Veterans-Annual-Report-2022-2.pdf \(cacvso.org\)](#). Accessed March 23, 2023.

Funding

Funding for the VSO comes primarily from the Placer County General Fund and CalVet Subvention Funds.¹³ General fund monies are administered by HHS. The fiscal year 2022-2023 VSO adopted budget is \$853,387. The HHS department funds \$576,454 with \$256,933 funded by CalVet County Subvention Program, which includes a “pro-rata” share based on the number of audited workload units reported, DMV fees, and the Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program.¹⁴ Additional contributions of \$10,000 each are received from Federal Aid and fees from Licenses and Permits (see Appendix B).

The total fiscal year (2022-2023) operating fund for the Placer County Health and Human Services is \$269,077,155 of which approximately 1/3 of 1 percent (.003) is allocated to the Veterans Service Office, making the VSO the lowest funded division of HHS. In comparison, the next-to-last lowest funded division is Animal Services, at \$5,662,980, which equals 2 percent of HHS budget; almost **seven times more** (6.6) than what the Veterans Service Office receives. Because of such a restrictive budget, subvention funding is critical to the VSO and its operations.

Health & Human Services					
Mission Statement:					
By placing people first, we provide a unified system of quality services to safeguard the health and well-being of people and animals in our communities. To realize our mission, we strive to keep all children, adults, and families healthy, at home, in school, at work, out of trouble, self-sufficient in keeping themselves safe, and to ensure that our animals are valued and cared for.					
Health and Human Services Cost Center Summary Fiscal Year 2022-23					
Cost Center	FY 2020-21 Actuals	FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget	FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget	FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget	YOY % Change
HHS Operating Fund					
Adult System of Care	\$ 67,252,466	\$ 69,081,806	\$ 85,758,760	\$ 85,758,760	24.14%
Children's System of Care	47,205,535	55,615,345	63,125,689	63,125,689	13.50%
Public Health	29,097,798	19,382,878	18,897,535	18,897,535	-2.50%
HHS Administration	5,407,454	3,330,501	3,069,187	3,069,187	-7.85%
Human Services	39,246,186	44,199,902	44,417,143	44,417,143	0.49%
Client Aid	34,081,230	37,549,343	39,539,235	39,539,235	5.30%
Environmental Health	6,606,286	7,327,292	7,753,239	7,753,239	5.81%
Animal Services	5,293,468	5,769,284	5,662,980	5,662,980	-1.84%
Veterans Services	592,550	809,046	853,387	853,387	5.48%
TOTAL HHS OPERATING FUND	\$ 234,782,973	\$ 243,065,397	\$ 269,077,155	\$ 269,077,155	10.70%

Source: Placer County 2022-2023 Budget

¹³ CalVet Subvention County Funds www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/County-Assistance.aspx. Accessed February 18, 2023.

¹⁴ CalVet Veteran Service Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Medi-Cal.aspx. Accessed March 20, 2023.

The process for receiving subvention funds is both time sensitive and labor intensive. Several steps are necessary to qualify to receive subvention funds. One step includes uploading VA approved claims into CalVet's VetPro online system within eighteen months. Only accredited staff may input this data into VetPro.

In addition to submitting the approved claims into VetPro, all claims must be supported with semi-annual reports approved by the Placer County Board of Supervisors or designee (see Appendices C and D). The grand jury learned that a portion of CalVet County Subvention funding expired due to the lack of accredited staff able to upload processed claims within the required time frame. The grand jury inquired into the amount of lost funding, but those interviewed were unable to provide this information.

Per the Placer County Schedule of Classification and Salaries,¹⁵ the current cost for an Eligibility Specialist ranges between \$47,819 and \$70,567. Adding another Eligibility Specialist dedicated to processing the backlog of claims to CalVet would allow the County to receive the subvention funding, that is currently being lost, with little to no impact on the HHS budget.

Interviews with Veterans

The grand jury learned from interviews with veterans that some:

- Utilized the Placer County VSO to obtain services.
- Learned of available benefits through sources other than the VSO.
- Were pleased with the level of benefits and assistance they received from the VSO.
- Stated Veterans Service Representatives made every effort to ensure veterans receive the maximum benefits available.
- Went directly through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website to obtain services.
- Indicated they were not seeking additional benefits because they felt others were more deserving of those benefits.

During the interview process, the grand jury learned phones at the VSO are unanswered and roll to voicemail. This was confirmed by VSO staff who acknowledged there is a lack of trained staff to respond to the diverse types of calls received.

¹⁵ Placer County Schedule of Classifications and Salaries
<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40092/Schedule-of-Classifications-and-Salary-Grades-PDF?bidId=>. Accessed March 17, 2023.

Callers are instructed to leave a detailed voicemail about the veteran benefits and services they are seeking. A staff person reviews calls daily and researches the information requested by the caller(s), ensuring clients receive detailed, pertinent information when their call is returned. Staff indicated calls are returned within forty-eight to seventy-two hours. Veterans can also contact the office by email at veterans@placer.ca.gov.

It was noted that while some veteran callers are seeking specific benefit information, some may be experiencing a mental health crisis. The message directs a caller who is suicidal or experiencing a mental health crisis to call 911.

Outreach and Collaborative Opportunities

Prior to his resignation, the former CVSO was connecting with the Placer County Veterans Advisory Council¹⁶ which includes veterans' organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled Veterans, and the American Legion. This advisory council meets monthly to discuss ways to further reach out to veterans and inform them of services for which they may be eligible, including those who now qualify for benefits under the PACT Act. Because the veterans who belong to these organizations are typically older, they may not have access to, or be adept with, online resources. The grand jury would like to see the Veterans Advisory Council continue under the new leadership.

Veterans are informed about the VSO through word of mouth, the Veterans Success Center at Sierra College, organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, Disabled Veterans, and the Placer County website. Staff at the VSO also send out mailers to veterans whose claims have previously been denied informing them of benefits for which they may now qualify.

The Veterans Service Office has a website that lists the services offered, office hours, and other useful information. Currently, they do not have a social media presence.

To view a short video of the Veterans Service Office, go to <https://vimeo.com/769309201>.

CalFresh/Medi-Cal

The VSO is under HHS and there are several services which overlap within the department. For example, if a client is applying for CalFresh benefits, there is a box that can be checked indicating veteran status. There is an opportunity for CalFresh employees to provide a brochure or brief information to the client, informing them of the VSO and its services. The same is true when a veteran is applying for Medi-Cal. If a veteran can move off Medi-Cal and into the VA system of care, the County is able to receive additional funds through the Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance program. Since Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and Veterans Services are co-located at both the Rocklin and

¹⁶ Placer County Veterans Advisory Council www.placer.ca.gov/2433/Veterans-Advisory-Council. Accessed April 5, 2023.

Auburn offices, there is an opportunity for cross promotion of services and providing the client with a “one stop” experience.

Mental Health/Homeless Services

Veterans seeking mental health services can receive services through Placer County Adult System of Care or via federal crisis programs offered through the VA. There is also a Veterans Crisis Line, which veterans or their loved ones can access by calling 988, texting 838255, or chatting online with trained operators who help them seek local services.¹⁷

Presently, there are thirty-seven homeless veterans in Placer County which accounts for 5 percent of the approximately 709 homeless population. There is a Veterans “by name” database which identifies homeless veterans within the county. Programs are in place to help unhoused veterans secure shelter, provided they meet specific guidelines. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH)¹⁸ is a collaborative program between HUD and the VA that combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help homeless veterans and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

Conclusion

The Placer County Veterans Service Office is drastically underfunded and understaffed. The dedicated staff sees a large volume of veterans, assists with filing claims on their behalf, and works to obtain the maximum benefits for veterans. The backlog for uploading the approved claims into VetPro, however, has resulted in a loss of funding from the CalVet County Subvention Program for the Veterans Service Office.

Despite the Veterans Service Office having a limited staff, the veterans service representatives strive to process all claims in a timely manner. The grand jury found the staff to be dedicated to their job and to the veterans seeking assistance.

The Placer County Veterans Service Office would benefit from consistent, long-term leadership and an increase in accredited staff positions to complete CalVet submissions, ensuring that future subvention funding is received.

¹⁷ Veterans Crisis Line www.veteranscrisisline.net. Accessed March 17, 2023.

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp. Accessed March 17, 2023.

Findings

The grand jury found that:

- F1:** The Veterans Service Office is underfunded.
- F2:** The Veterans Service Office does not have adequate accredited veteran service representatives to answer phones and process approved claims in a timely manner to receive subvention funds.
- F3:** There are opportunities to partner with other programs in the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services to further support veterans.
- F4:** The Veterans Service Office's social media presence is insufficient in providing online information and promotion of their services.
- F5:** The Veterans Service Office is working to increase their outreach through the Veterans Advisory Council.
- F6:** There are benefits available to veterans and their families of which they may not be aware.
- F7:** The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act broadens the benefits and services for which veterans may be eligible.
- F8:** There has been a high turnover of the County Veteran Service Officer over the past five years.
- F9:** The grand jury found the Veterans Service Office staff to be dedicated to their job and to the veterans seeking assistance.
- F10:** Depending on the complexity of the claim, it can take an accredited staff member up to four hours to compile required documentation and manually input into VetPro.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends that:

- R1:** The Veterans Service Office budget be increased dramatically to reflect the importance of our veterans and their service to our country by January 1, 2024.
- R2:** Additional accredited Veterans Service Office positions be added to process claims and answer phones by January 1, 2024.
- R3:** The Placer County Department of Health and Human Services will identify opportunities to cross train CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and Veterans Service programs by December 1, 2023.

- R4:** The Veterans Service Office will work with the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a social media presence by January 1, 2024.
- R5:** The Veterans Service Office continue with the Veterans Advisory Council to increase outreach among veterans.

Required/Requested Responses:

Required Responses:

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

	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Placer County Board of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Ave Auburn, CA 95603	R1, R2	October 1, 2023

Requested Responses:


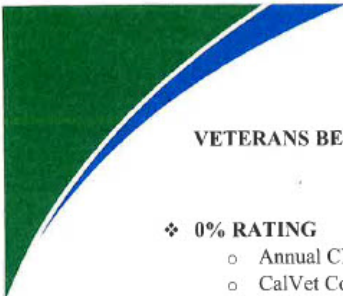
The Placer County Grand Jury requests a response from the following governing body as they are affected by the report:

	<u>Recommendations Requesting Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Placer County Department of Health and Human Services Director 3091 County Center Drive Suite 290 Auburn, CA 95603	R1, R2, R3, R4	September 1, 2023
Placer County Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Director 11512 B Ave Auburn, CA 95603	R1, R2, R3, R4	September 1, 2023
Placer County Veterans Service Office County Veterans Service Officer 1000 Sunset Blvd Suite 1500 Rocklin, CA 95765	R2, R4, R5	September 1, 2023

Disclaimer

In the process of preparing this report, two grand jury members were recused from all aspects of the investigation and report writing.

Appendix A – Veterans Benefits by Rating



VETERANS BENEFITS BY RATING

- ❖ **0% RATING**
 - Annual Clothing Allowance
 - CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents
 - Civil Service Preference (10 points)
 - Health Care for S/C Disabilities
 - Service-Disabled Life Insurance

- ❖ **10% & 20% RATING**
 - Annual Clothing Allowance
 - CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents
 - Civil Service Preference (10 Points)
 - Combat Related Special Compensation
 - Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids (no co-pay)
 - Golden Access National Park Pass
 - Health Care for S/C Disabilities
 - HISA Grant
 - Para 29/30 Benefits
 - Service-Disabled Life Insurance
 - VA Health Care (no treatment co-pays)
 - Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling

- ❖ **30% RATING**
 - A&A for Dependents
 - Additional Allowance for Dependents
 - Annual Clothing Allowance
 - CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents
 - Civil Service Preference (10 points)
 - Combat Related Special Compensation
 - Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids (no co-pay)
 - Golden Access National Park Pass
 - Health Care for S/C Disabilities
 - HISA Grant
 - Para 29/30 Benefits
 - Service-Disabled Life Insurance
 - VA Health Care (no treatment co-pays)
 - Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling

Veterans Services, 1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA 95765 • veterans@placer.ca.gov
916-780-3290 • www.placer.ca.gov/veterans • fax 916-780-3299



❖ **40% RATING**

- A&A for Dependents
- Additional Allowance for Dependents
- Additional Compensation Paired Limbs
- Annual Clothing Allowance
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment Grants
- Automobile Allowance (one-time)
- CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents
- Civil Service Preference (10 points)
- Combat Related Special Compensation
- Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids (no co-pay)
- Golden Access National Park Pass
- Health Care for S/C Disabilities
- HISA Grant
- Para 29/30 Benefits
- Service-Disabled Life Insurance
- VA Health Care (no treatment co-pays)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling

❖ **50% RATING**

- A&A for Dependents
- Additional Allowance for Dependents
- Additional Allowance Paired Limbs
- Annual Clothing Allowance
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment Grants
- Automobile Allowance (one-time)
- CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents
- Civil Service Preference (10 points)
- Combat Related Special Compensation
- Concurrent Receipt of Compensation and Retirement Pay
- Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids (no co-pay)
- Golden Access National Park Pass
- Health Care for S/C Disabilities
- HISA Grant
- No Prescription Co-pays
- Para 29/30 Benefits
- Service-Disabled Life Insurance
- State Fishing and Hunting License Discount
- State Park Pass
- VA Health Care (no treatment co-pays)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling

Veterans Services, 1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA 95765 • veterans@placer.ca.gov
916-780-3290 • www.placer.ca.gov/veterans • fax 916-780-3299



❖ **60% RATING**

- A&A for Dependents
- Additional Allowance for Dependents
- Additional Allowance Paired Limbs
- Annual Clothing Allowance
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment Grants
- Automobile Allowance (one-time)
- CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents
- Civil Service Preference (10 points)
- Combat Related Special Compensation
- Concurrent Receipt of Compensation and Retirement Pay
- Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids (no co-pay)
- Golden Access National Park Pass
- Health Care for S/C Disabilities
- HISA Grant
- No Prescription Co-pays
- Para 29/30 Benefits
- Service-Disabled Life Insurance
- State Hunting and Fishing License Discount
- State Park Pass
- VA Health Care (no treatment co-pays)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling

❖ **70%, 80%, & 90% RATING**

- A&A for Dependents
- Additional Allowance for Dependents
- Additional Allowance Paired Limbs
- Annual Clothing Allowance
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment Grants
- Automobile Allowance (one-time)
- CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents
- Civil Service Preference (10 points)
- Combat Related Special Compensation
- Concurrent Receipt of Compensation and Retirement Pay
- Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids (no co-pay)
- Golden Access National Park Pass
- Health Care for S/C Disabilities
- HISA Grant
- Individual Unemployability
- No Prescription Co-pays
- Para 29/30 Benefits

Veterans Services, 1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA 95765 • veterans@placer.ca.gov
916-780-3290 • www.placer.ca.gov/veterans • fax 916-780-3299



- Service-Disabled Life Insurance
- Skilled Nursing Care (VA Contract)
- State Hunting and Fishing License Discount
- State Park Pass
- VA Health Care (no treatment co-pays)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling

❖ **100% RATING**

- A&A for Dependents
- Additional Allowance for Dependents
- Additional Allowance Paired Limbs
- Annual Clothing Allowance
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment Grants
- Automobile Allowance (one-time)
- CalVet College Fee Waiver for Dependents and Spouses
- CalVet Disability Insurance
- CHAMPVA Health Care for Dependents
- Civil Service Preference (veteran & spouse, 10 points)
- Combat Related Special Compensation
- Concurrent Receipt of Compensation and Retirement Pay
- Dental Treatment
- Dependents Education (Chapter 35)
- Disabled Veteran License Plates w/ Registration Fee Waiver (S/C mobility issue)
- DOD Commissary Privileges
- Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids (no co-pay)
- Golden Access National Park Pass
- Health Care for S/C Disabilities
- HISA Grant
- Individual Unemployability
- No Prescription Co-pays
- Para 29/30 Benefits
- Property Tax Exemption
- Service-Disabled Life Insurance
- Skilled Nursing Care (VA Contract)
- Social Security Disability Benefits
- Specially Adapted Housing
- State Hunting and Fishing License Discount
- State Park Pass
- VA Health Care (no treatment co-pays)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling
- Waiver of VA Insurance Premiums
- Withdrawal from SBP (after 5-10 years)

Veterans Services, 1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA 95765 ☎ veterans@placer.ca.gov
916-780-3290 ● www.placer.ca.gov/veterans ● fax 916-780-3299

Appendix B – Veterans Service Office Adopted Budget 2022-23

Health & Human Services				
County of Placer Cost Center Budget Detail Governmental Funds Fiscal Year 2022-23				
Fund: HHS - SPR Operating Fund Cost Center: CC14400 Veterans Services				
Ledger Account	2020-21 Actuals	2021-22 Adopted Budget	2022-23 Recommended Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
1	2	3	4	5
Revenue				
Other Licenses and Permits	14,552	10,000	10,000	10,000
Federal Aid - Other Programs	5,803	4,000	10,000	10,000
State Aid - Other Programs	85,944	91,819	256,933	256,933
Total Revenue	\$ 106,299	\$ 105,819	\$ 276,933	\$ 276,933
Expenditures / Appropriations				
Salaries and Wages	267,720	307,338	327,318	327,318
Extra Help	-	9,000	13,440	13,440
Overtime and Call Back	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
Cafeteria Plans (Non-PERS)	13,883	16,238	17,197	17,197
Retirement	80,726	109,041	120,007	120,007
Payroll Tax	20,128	24,341	26,239	26,239
Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)	26,357	20,864	15,427	15,427
401 (k) Employer Match	750	773	773	773
Employee Group Insurance	65,223	82,642	76,604	76,604
Workers Comp Insurance	549	631	856	856
Communication Services Expense	1,952	2,434	2,520	2,520
Insurance	1,888	1,579	1,923	1,923
Maintenance - Building	13,756	16,773	18,627	18,627
Professional / Membership Dues	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Printing	5,586	5,701	5,713	5,713
Other Supplies	335	3,000	8,000	8,000
Postage	4,304	4,701	3,835	3,835
Professional and Special Services - General	823	25,725	1,222	1,222
Professional and Special Services - County	-	-	1,409	1,409
Professional and Special Services - Information Technology	67,334	66,823	61,521	61,521
Employee Benefits Systems	3,991	4,861	6,161	6,161
PC Acquisition	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
Advertising	388	400	500	500
Special Department Expense	-	500	3,000	3,000
Advisory / Comm Expenses	960	7,530	7,530	7,530
Training / Education	962	4,010	6,525	6,525
Transportation and Travel	183	8,305	8,310	8,310
Utilities	6,875	6,095	6,070	6,070
Transfer Out A-B7 Costs	(38,455)	(990)	26,726	26,726
Intrafund Transfers / Services Out	126	-	126	126
Cost Allocation	44,207	73,731	78,808	78,808
Total Expenditures / Appropriations	\$ 592,550	\$ 809,046	\$ 853,387	\$ 853,387
Total	\$ (486,251)	\$ (703,227)	\$ (576,454)	\$ (576,454)

Appendix C

CalVet County Subvention Program Guidelines for Receiving Funds

California allocates \$5.6 million statewide in its County Subvention Program annually to support California Veterans Services Office's efforts to provide veterans and their families with benefits and services. CalVet is charged with the responsibility for the distribution of subvention funding.

In 2022-2023, appropriations under the current CalVet Subvention budget act are:

- \$5,600,000 is distributed in "pro-rata" shares to counties who have appointed a California Veteran Service Office (CVSO) in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 451 and who have submitted semi-annual reports illustrating their workload for the preceding six months.
- From the \$5,600,000, \$687,500 is allocated for training; \$1.1 million is allocated for Administration and approximately \$3,800,000 for workload units performed.

In addition, funds may be available if all the following requirements are met:

- A "Certificate of Compliance", as soon as it's signed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS), or appropriately delegated person, and must be submitted to CalVet, no later than January 31, of the current calendar year.
- The adopted/final current fiscal year budget for the CVSO must be submitted to CalVet, within 30 days of final adoption by the BOS.
- Semi-annual workload reports (form DVS 16) must be filed with CalVet, by January 31, the first 6 months; and by July 31, the second six months of the current calendar year.
- All workload activity reports must be fully and accurately completed and submitted via agency attachment feature in VetPro.¹⁹

¹⁹ [Subvention \(ca.gov\) www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Subvention.aspx](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Subvention.aspx). Accessed February 20, 2023.

APPENDIX D – ANNUAL SUBVENTION CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
1227 O Street
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
Telephone: (800) 952-5626



Annual Subvention Certificate of Compliance Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Charge:

Funds are distributed under this program to counties as partial reimbursement for expenses incurred in the operation of the County Veterans Service Office. Funds are distributed according to Military and Veterans Code Sections 972, and 972.1, a State General Fund Expenditure, and 972.2 a Special Fund Expenditure.

County Certification:

I certify that Placer County has appointed a veteran to serve as the County Veterans Service Officer according to California Code of Regulations Title 12, Subchapter 4. This County Veterans Service Officer will administer the aid provided for in Military and Veterans Code Division 4, Chapter 5. This County Veterans Service Officer must achieve and maintain accreditation from the California Department of Veterans Affairs within 18 months of employment or within 18 months of the County Veterans Service Officer position becoming vacant, whichever occurs first. Veterans Service Representative staff filing claims must also achieve and maintain accreditation from the California Department of Veterans Affairs within 18 months of employment.

I certify that the County Veteran Service Officer will assist every veteran of the United States, as well as their dependents and survivors, in presenting and pursuing such claim as they may have against the United States. The County Veterans Service Officer and all accredited staff will also assist in establishing veterans, dependents and survivors' rights to any privilege, preference, care or compensation provided for by the laws and regulations of the United States, the State of California, or any local jurisdiction.

I certify that information contained within the VetPro database will not be distributed to any entity outside of the County Veteran Service Office, including other County Departments. Additionally, I certify that all College Fee Waiver Approval and Denial letters will be generated within the VetPro database. I also authorize the County Veterans Service Officer to actively participate in the promotion of the California Veterans License Plate program.

I certify that this county, through the County Veterans Service Office, will maintain records for audit. These records will be maintained for a minimum of two years. The county agrees to submit reports in accordance with the procedures and timelines established by CalVet and in accordance with the *CalVet Procedure Manual for Subvention and Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance* for the current state fiscal year. The County Veterans Service Officer will permit CalVet representatives to inspect all records upon request.

Greg Geisler
Digitally signed by Greg Geisler
Date: 2022.12.28 08:23:38 -08'00'

12/28/2022

Chair, County Board of Supervisors
(or other County Official authorized
by the Board to act on their behalf)

Date

SCAN AND UPLOAD THIS COMPLETED FORM VIA THE AGENCY ATTACHMENTS IN VETPRO

Rev (6/22)



A Look into Mental Health Services in Placer County Schools



A Look into Mental Health Services in Placer County Schools

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic closed industries, businesses, and educational institutions across the nation. Those shutdowns were a visible precaution to curtail the spread of an invisible virus. The shutdowns, however, affected more than just buildings. Studies show students of all ages began to manifest mental health issues during the enforced closures of educational facilities. With the reopening of schools, educational administrators have noted a marked increase in behavioral issues in students. Not all students' emotional issues can be blamed on the pandemic.

The grand jury found Placer County schools have a multitude of interventions and mental health services and programs available to staff, students, and families. This report will detail many of the programs available within the school systems as well as community resources, which are accessible by the public and free to the community.

Background

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced school districts to implement distance learning for all Placer County schools. According to the United States Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy:¹

During the pandemic, children, adolescents, and young adults have faced unprecedented challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed their world, including how they attend school, interact with friends, and receive health care.

Since the pandemic began, rates of psychological distress among young people, including symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders, have increased. Recent research covering 80,000 youth globally found that depressive and anxiety symptoms doubled during the pandemic ... In early 2021, emergency department visits in the United States for suspected suicide attempts were 51% higher for adolescent girls and 4% higher for adolescent boys compared to the same period in early 2019.

In the same article, Dr. Murthy states "... technology has improved our lives in important ways." However, "When not deployed responsibly and safely, they can also have adverse effects ... these tools can pit us against each other, reinforce negative behaviors like bullying and exclusion, and undermine the safe and supportive environments young people need and deserve."

¹ Murthy, Vivek, Protecting Youth Mental Health www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/youth-mental-health. Accessed March 20, 2023.

Though state and federal laws related to school violence continue to be refined, such as expanding anti-bullying policies, efforts to promote safety and security are being aligned with creating and maintaining a supportive school environment that focuses on student learning and mental well-being.

The Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) interviewed several Placer County school staff and Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) administrators. The PCGJ learned that school-based health programs provide resources, support, and information to address the physical, mental, and/or behavioral health needs of students; however, each interviewee acknowledged monitoring mental health is complex and a one-size-fits-all approach is unrealistic. One school administrator stated:

Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Districts have made a significant commitment to the health and safety of our students in Placer County. As a county we work in partnership with multiple agencies, community-based agencies, and partners to support our education community... schools are meeting the obligations for student mental health services.

Methodology

The PCGJ conducted a series of interviews with key staff from the PCOE, school district superintendents, and school mental health professionals. Additionally, the grand jury reviewed federal, state, and local legislation together with numerous local and national websites.

Discussion

Throughout Placer County school districts, there is a collaborative effort between schools, district administrators, and other partners to develop intervention strategies to address students' physical, behavioral, and mental well-being. According to school administrators, mental health services in place prior to COVID-19 no longer meet the needs of today's students. Upon returning to the classroom, schools noted academic learning loss, depleted school readiness skills, and lack of social skills. Adding to the crisis, experienced teachers and administrators are leaving the classrooms or retiring early and school districts cannot find qualified personnel to fill the empty positions.

A school superintendent stated that mental health programs were in place at least seven years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. When students returned to the classroom, district leadership realized current mental health programs needed to be strengthened. Staff noted students relied on social media for self-worth and value. As a result, students began exhibiting inappropriate behavior. Students were struggling with the fallout of self-isolation that occurred during the time they were forced to attend school online. Anxiety, bullying, drug, and alcohol abuse increased. Schools began using advisory periods for mental health interventions.

Interventions

The Placer County Grand Jury found school districts focused primarily on two types of intervention programs, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS). A survey of the sixteen school districts in Placer County was conducted by the PCGJ. Of the sixteen districts queried, thirteen responded. The grand jury found eleven districts are using PBIS and thirteen are using MTSS (see Appendix A). Below is an overview of intervention programs.

Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports

Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports is an evidence-based, tiered program for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. According to Center on PBIS:

A defining feature of PBIS is continuous improvement driven by data. Teams collect and analyze data to diagnose problems or gaps and select strategies to address these challenges. Data tell us which strategies are most effective, so we continue to include them in our repertoire.²

While PBIS strategies can be adapted for high schools, it is geared toward kindergarten through eighth grade students.

Multi-Tiered System of Support

Multi-Tiered System of Support uses three tiers of support to assist all students at various levels. These three tiers include:

Tier 1 (Majority of students 75-90%): Supports everyone including students, educators, and staff and may include setting behavior expectations, enforcing positive behaviors, assisting with social skills, and creating a healthy environment where everyone feels engaged.

Tier 2 (Small groups of students 10-25%): Offers a more focused approach for students who are not successful with Tier 1 support alone. Students are at-risk for academic, social, or behavioral challenges. Intervention may include small group counseling or academic support.

Tier 3 (Individual students less than 10%): Tier 3 students need individualized intervention and/or have intensive chronic or behavioral challenges. The program offers an effective way to address dangerous and disruptive behaviors. Students in Tier 3 are those who do not respond to the interventions and supports of Tier 1 and Tier 2.

The Multi-Tiered System of Support can be used as a stand-alone program or used in conjunction with PBIS. The "MTSS is a framework that helps educators provide academic and behavioral strategies for students with various needs. Instead of

² Center on PBIS (2020). References for the Evidence Base of PBIS. Eugene, OR. University of Oregon. Retrieved from www.pbis.org. Accessed March 18, 2023.

waiting for failure, MTSS takes a proactive approach to identifying students with academic or behavioral needs. Early assessment and intervention ... can help them catch up with their peers sooner.”³

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

There are several mental health and wellness resources available to schools and their students. Below is a partial listing of programs offered at Placer County schools. Students, parents, and staff are informed of these programs through assemblies, back to school night meetings, open houses, internet websites, and social media postings.

- **California Parent & Youth Helpline:** The California Parent & Youth Helpline⁴ (855-427-2736) provides emergency emotional support for parents and youths. The trained counselors who answer the Helpline teach mindfulness techniques, help people build support systems, and connect them with free online support groups. The Helpline offers six different languages to choose from for the non-English speaking caller.
- **Care Solace:** Placer County Unified School District partners with Care Solace,⁵ a free and confidential mental health concierge that assists parents and students to connect with outside mental health providers. The organization partners with school systems to ensure staff, students, and their families can quickly connect with mental health care providers and substance use treatment programs matched to their needs. It is an online resource with a live 24/7 concierge line meant to assist individuals.
- **GRITX:** GritX⁶ website offers a judgment free guide to facing life challenges and personal growth. The caller will chat with GritX, an emotionally intelligent, conversational artificial intelligence (AI) and get in depth skill building resources. The site lists crisis and text lines, teen help, a lifeline for LGBTQ+ youth, and much more. The site offers English and Spanish languages. The website address is GRITX.org or text “home” to 741741.
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 800-273-TALK (8255) or 988.
- **On-Site Mental Health Specialists/Therapists:** Many schools in Placer County employ mental health specialists and mental health assistants. The specialists are Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) and the assistants are registered Associate Clinical Social Workers (ACSW).

³ What Is MTSS? www.pbisrewards.com/blog/what-is-mtss. Accessed March 19, 2023.

⁴ California Parent & Youth Helpline | Parenting Help. www.carentyouthhelpline.org. Accessed March 27, 2023.

⁵ Care Solace. www.caresolace.org. Accessed March 6, 2023.

⁶ GritX. www.gritx.org. Accessed March 23, 2023.

- **Placer County Crisis Hotline:** 916-787-8860.
- **Suicide Prevention Training for School Staff and Parents:** Schools in Placer County have suicide prevention policies that outline how youth, staff, and parents can identify the warning signs of suicide and provide resources for those in crisis. The PCOE offers Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)⁷ a two-day suicide intervention skills workshop. This workshop is available to anyone over sixteen years old and welcomes students, educators, and parents. Participants learn to intervene and help prevent the immediate risk of suicide.
- **Take Action for Mental Health:** Take Action for Mental Health⁸ is part of California's mental health movement and provides self-care activities, support, and tools so an individual can recognize when it's time to seek professional support. The site offers various podcasts, apps, and other mental health websites in both English and Spanish.
- **Wellness Centers:** Most schools in Placer County have a Wellness Center⁹ on campus. If a student is feeling anxious or upset, the Wellness Center provides a safe space for a mental health reset. Students check in with a counselor for advice or assistance, and when ready, return to the classroom. If an administrator or teacher recognizes a student is in distress, they can refer the student to the Wellness Center.
- **211 Connecting Point:** An information hub that connects people with community programs and services through a searchable web page and 24/7 local call center. The program is free and confidential and serves Placer and Nevada Counties, and the Tahoe-Truckee region. Anyone may access 211 Connecting Point by visiting the webpage¹⁰ or by calling 211 or 1-833-DIAL211 (1-833-342-5211). The website's main page is multilingual. There are eleven different languages to choose from to serve the non-English speaking person. An individual may select from twenty different topics including mental health, substance abuse, disability services, housing, and children and youth resources.

⁷ SafeTALK Training. www.placercoe.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=886. Accessed March 19, 2023.

⁸ Take Action 4 Mental Health Take Action for Mental Health. www.takeaction4mh.com. Accessed March 27, 2023.

⁹ <https://vimeo.com/630596512>. Accessed December 8, 2022.

¹⁰ 211 Connecting Point. www.cde.211connectingpoint.org. Accessed March 14, 2023.

Mental health programs are offered as short-term solutions through Placer County school districts and the PCOE. All administrators interviewed admitted that the mental health of students and their families remain a long-term issue. In addition to the current, on site, school mental health programs, many districts have linked resources on their webpage. This allows parents quick access to review a variety of mental health programs and services (see Appendix B).

California Healthy Kids Survey

The California Department of Education has developed the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). Per the California Department of Education website:¹¹

The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is an anonymous, confidential survey of school climate and safety, student wellness, and youth resiliency. It is administered to students at grades five, seven, nine and eleven. It enables schools and communities to collect and analyze data regarding local youth health risks and behaviors, school connectedness, school climate, protective factors, and school violence. The CHKS is part of a comprehensive data-driven decision-making process of improving school climate and student learning environment for overall school improvement.

The CHKS is research-based and provides indicators to “... promote student engagement and achievement, safety, positive development, health, and overall well being.” Many high schools take advantage of the supplemental modules that address social, emotional health and learning, mental health, drug use, and feelings of safety and exposure to school violence.

The grand jury chose the following questions as they are relevant to the subject of this report. On Q3 through Q6 below, students were presented with four multiple choice options: zero times, one time, two or three times, or four or more times. The chart represents students’ responses to four or more times. Below is a sampling of the questions asked of ninth and eleventh grade students under the Social and Emotional Health portion of the CHKS survey:

Q1 - During the past twelve months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that you stopped some usual activities?

Q2 - During the past twelve months, did you actively consider suicide?

Q3 - During the past twelve months, on school property, have you had mean rumors or lies spread about you four or more times?

Q4 - During the past twelve months, in school only, have you had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you four or more times?

¹¹ California Healthy Kids Survey. www.calschls.org/reports-data/public-dashboards/secondary-student. Accessed February 8, 2023.

Q5 - During the past twelve months, have other students spread mean rumors, lies, or hurtful pictures, about you online, on social media, or on a cell phone four or more times?

Q6 - During the past twelve months, have you seen someone carrying a gun, knife, or another weapon four or more times?

The CHKS is given to fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grade students. The grand jury chose to focus on high school students. Follow the link below to view complete data for fifth and seventh grade students. Responses are the percentage of ninth and eleventh grade students responding “yes” to Q1 through Q6.

High School District	Q1 - Chronic Sadness and Hopelessness		Q2 - Seriously Considered suicide		Q3 - Had mean rumors or lies spread about you		Q4 - Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you		Q5 - Had rumors, lies, hurtful photos shared		Q6 - Seen someone with a gun, knife, or other weapon	
	9 th	11 th	9 th	11 th	9 th	11 th	9 th	11 th	9 th	11 th	9 th	11 th
Placer Union	37%	47%	19%	23%	8%	9%	13%	14%	6%	6%	3%	3%
Roseville Joint	30%	37%	13%	16%	6%	15%	11%	19%	4%	5%	1%	1%
Rocklin Unified	34%	43%	17%	18%	8%	6%	12%	10%	6%	5%	1%	2%
Tahoe Truckee*	34%	41%	17%	11%	6%	3%	8%	8%	5%	2%	0%	1%
Western Placer	36%	47%	18%	21%	10%	7%	12%	12%	7%	6%	3%	4%

*All districts listed above reflect data collected for the 2021-22 school year, with exception of Tahoe Truckee, which was 2020-21.

The CHKS results are not posted by individual schools but are compiled by each district and can be found at: www.calschls.org/reports-data/public-dashboards/secondary-student. When accessing the site, choose Placer County (drop down menu), an individual school district, and which report the reader would like to access (i.e., All Reports, County Reports, Student Reports, or Staff Reports).

Conclusion

As Placer County schools recover from COVID-19, there is an opportunity to build and implement new programs and services. School mental health specialists and administrators interviewed by the grand jury stated that mental health services in place prior to COVID-19 no longer meet the needs of today's youth. According to Dr. Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General, this generation faces "... unprecedented pressures and stresses, day in and day out. Change can't come soon enough"

The grand jury found Placer County schools have implemented several free and confidential mental health programs that are available to students, families, and staff. Individual school districts have put into place mental health services to meet the needs of students attending their school(s). Each interviewee told the grand jury that health and wellness services will continue to evolve as students' mental health needs change.

Findings

The grand jury found that:

- F1:** Placer County schools have numerous free mental health services available to staff, students, and families.
- F2:** School districts focus primarily on two types of intervention programs: Multi-Tier System of Support and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports.

Recommendations

The grand jury has no recommendations.

Copies sent to:

**Placer County Office of Education
Superintendent**
360 Nevada St
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Appendix A – Table of Mental Health and Wellness Programs by District

School District	PBIS	MTSS	Other	Care Solace	On Campus Therapists	Wellness Center	Suicide Prevention Training	ASIST	SafeTALK	Virtual Wellness Program	Other Mental Health Services or Programs	Additional Info/Notes
Ackerman Charter		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					ESSER (Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief)	
Alta Dutch Flat	Y	Y			Virtual		Y				MH Funds	
Auburn Unified	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y					Virtual Chill Zone	
Colfax Elementary	Y	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		
Dry Creek Joint Elementary	Y	Y		N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N		
Eureka Union	PCGJ did not receive a response from the school district											
Foresthill	PCGJ did not receive a response from the school district											
Loomis Union	Y	Y	Y				Y					Intervention (including risk assessments)
Newcastle Elementary	PCGJ did not receive a response from the school district											
Placer Hills Union	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				1.6 School Psychologists for two schools	PREPaRE Trained
Placer Union High School		Y		Y			Y				GritX, Mental Health Newsletters	Resources for Parents and Teachers
Rocklin Unified	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y				Y	
Roseville City	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y				Y	
Roseville Joint Union High	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y					
Tahoe Truckee Unified	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y					
Western Placer	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y					

Appendix B – Links to Mental Health and Wellness Programs by School District

School District	Mental Health and Wellness Resource Links
Ackerman Charter	www.ackerman.k12.ca.us/district/health-and-wellness
Alta Dutch Flat	www.alta.k12.ca.us/our-school/pbis
Auburn USD	www.auburn.k12.ca.us/departments/education-services/student-support/mental-health
Colfax Elementary	www.colfax.k12.ca.us/article/944271
Dry Creek Joint Elementary District	www.drycreek.k12.ca.us (search Multi-Tiered System of Support)
Eureka Union	www.eurekausd.org (Instructional Programs – select Interventions and Supports)
Foresthill School District	There is no direct link to mental health services for students, parents, or staff
Loomis School District	www.loomis-usd.k12.ca.us (Board Policy 5030)
Newcastle Elementary	There is no direct link to mental health services for students, parents, or staff
Placer Hills Union SD	www.husd.k121.ca.us/school-board/board-goals
Placer Union HSD	www.sites.google.com/puhsd.k12.ca.us/puhsd-mental-health-services/home
Rocklin Unified SD	www.rocklinusd.org/Departments/Health-Services/Mental-Health-Supports
Roseville City School District	www.sites.google.com/puhsd.k12.ca.us/puhsd-mental-health-services/home
Roseville Joint Union HSD	www.rjuhsd.us/Domain/14
Tahoe/Truckee Unified	www.ttusd.org (Parents & Students – two options: Wellness Centers and Wellness Resources for Parents and Students)
Western Placer SD	www.wpusd.org/in-our-schools/programs-resources/mental-health-resources



Placer County Animal Services to the Rescue!



Photo credit: Placer County Animal Services



Placer County Animal Services to the Rescue!

Summary

The last report published by the Placer County Grand Jury, which focused on Placer County Animal Services, was published in June 2014. The report was titled, “Placer County Animal Services Facility—in a Perfect World.” The report recommended the original facility be “fixed versus replaced” and disagreed with a proposal presented to the Placer County Board of Supervisors to build a new facility.

Given it has been nine years since the last report, and a new facility was constructed in 2016, the 2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury determined it was time to revisit Placer County Animal Services. This report focuses on the new facility, animal shelter operations, and animal control procedures in the greater Placer County community. Placer County Animal Services faces unique challenges due to the growth of Placer County’s Wildland Urban Interface and increased occurrences of wildfires. Their motto, “Saving people from animals and animals from people,” drives Animal Control Officers and Animal Services personnel to provide the best care and services in its daily and emergency operations. The grand jury found that Placer County Animal Services lives up to its motto while administering the many duties of their department.

Glossary

ASPCA: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

California Senate Bill 1785 (1998): The Bill addresses stray animals and the duties of pounds and shelters.

Chameleon: Software application used by animal shelters to manage daily operations.

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency, the operation of FEMA is to lead America to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Nextdoor.com: A hyperlocal social networking service for neighborhoods.

PawBoost.com: A website designed to assist people with lost pets by raising local awareness of the missing pet.

Petco Love Lost: A program sponsored by Petco retailer to help reunite pets with their people by using a photo of the pet.

Wildland Urban Interface: A zone of transition between wilderness and land developed by human activity.

Background

The initial proposal for a new animal shelter was presented to the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS) in September 2008.¹² During the next five years, several more revised proposals were presented to the BOS.

The 2013-2014 Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) report¹³ focused on the proposed construction of a new shelter to replace the existing shelter. At that time, the PCGJ found the existing shelter met many of the goals defined in an assessment report prepared by an outside consulting firm. It was recommended that before the county move forward with the construction of a new facility, a “fix versus replace” cost analysis be completed for the existing animal shelter. The grand jury, at that time, found the consultant’s report to be too broad-based, lacking focus on Placer County’s specific needs.

While the 2013-2014 BOS agreed with the PCGJ’s findings, they concluded the existing facility did not meet Placer County’s twenty-five-year, long-term needs and a new facility was warranted. On February 5, 2013, the BOS gave approval to proceed with a new Animal Services facility.¹⁴ The BOS approved the construction of the new animal shelter on August 26, 2014.

The newly built Placer County Animal Services (PCAS) shelter complies with a set of standards put in place by California Senate Bill 1785 (1998)¹⁵ which expanded the policies related to stray animals and the duties of animal shelters. Senate Bill 1785 provides that animal shelters shall:

- Provide a safe, healthy environment to house lost animals.
- Have adequate capacity to hold the animals.
- Facilitate reunification of animals with their caregivers.
- Promote good health and prevent the transmission of contagious diseases.
- Provide an adequate opportunity for each adoptable animal to find a home.
- Reduce the killing of shelter animals.
- Increase shelter holding periods.
- Enable rescue groups to take shelter animals scheduled for death.

¹² www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/26935/bosd13020507ap49p52-PDF. Accessed March 20, 2023.

¹³ www.placer.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/gj_final_report_2013_2014.pdf. Accessed March 20, 2023.

¹⁴ www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30571/11-PDF. Accessed March 20, 2023.

¹⁵ Senate Bill 1785 (1998). [SB 1785 Senate Bill - Chaptered \(ca.gov\)](http://www.ca.gov). Accessed March 20, 2023.

Placer County Animal Services has received several recognition awards in recent years including:

- 2022 California State Association of Counties which spotlights the most innovative programs developed and implemented by California counties (PetSmart Adoption Partnership).¹⁶
- LEED Gold Certification for the Animal Shelter Facility (2017).¹⁷
- National Animal Care and Control Association 2016 through 2019 Awards Winner; 2020-2021 Award Nominees.¹⁸

Placer County Animal Services is divided into three operational units: Field Services Division, Animal Shelter, and Administration (see Appendix A). In addition, there are currently 150 volunteers, a number which has tripled since the opening of the new facility in 2016.

Methodology

The 2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury:

- Attended a presentation of overall services offered to the public by PCAS staff.
- Participated in a tour of the new facility, led by PCAS staff.
- Reviewed:
 - Previous Placer County Grand Jury reports.
 - Other counties' grand jury animal services reports.
 - Newspaper and web articles, as well as community postings on social media sites.
- Interviewed:
 - Representatives of PCAS.
 - Private citizens who have interacted with PCAS.
- Attended a hands-on demonstration of Chameleon,¹⁹ the software application used for internal management and reporting by PCAS.
- Utilized Chameleon in gathering information for this report.

¹⁶ <https://www.placer.ca.gov/8472/Placer-County-HHS-programs-receive-state#:~:text=Placer%20County%20HHS%20programs%20receive%20state%2C%20national%20awards,innovative%20programs%20developed%20and%20implemented%20by%20California%20counties>. Accessed March 24, 2023.

¹⁷ www.dreyfussblackford.com/press-release/placer-county-animal-services-center-receives-prestigious-leed-gold-award-from-u-s-green-building-council/. Accessed March 24, 2023.

¹⁸ www.nacanet.org/2021-award-nominees/. Accessed March 24, 2023.

¹⁹ <https://chameleonbeach.com>. Accessed March 8, 2023.

Discussion

Animal Shelter Services

The current Placer County Animal Services Center, located at 11232 B Ave, in Auburn, opened in October 2016. The building sits on 4.3-acres of county land and can house approximately 80 percent more dogs and 75 percent more cats than the previous facility (see chart below). The modern, 29,500 square-foot facility was built in compliance with 2016 Humane Society Standards. Placer County Animal Services also worked with the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program for guidance and facility design.²⁰



Photo credit: Richard Ferguson

The new center has the capability to house more than twice the capacity of animals during large incidents, such as wildfires, than the previous shelter. The grand jury found the facility to be clean, well-organized, and inviting to potential animal adopters. In addition, the grand jury observed the standards set forth in Senate Bill 1785 (1998) are being followed.

This state-of-the-art facility showcases a large public lobby and reception area with touch screen informational kiosks, as well as a small retail store. Past the reception area there is a veterinary clinic/operating room and administrative offices. The dog enclosures and cat condos, and their respective exercise courtyards, are in opposite areas from each other, reducing the stress on the animals. Housing for feral cats is in a separate section of the facility. A barn and pasture are available for livestock.

The facility's multipurpose room serves the employees as well as outside groups. Community education classes are offered at the new facility with a focus on responsible pet ownership. This room is available for non-profit organizations and volunteer partners to use for training, meetings, and other activities that are beneficial to the animals.²¹

A comparison between the old and new shelter shows that capacity has doubled, and there is now a state-of-the-art veterinary clinic with on-site veterinarian and medical technicians. The facility provides offices for Animal Control Officers (ACOs), field services, and administrative offices all under one roof.

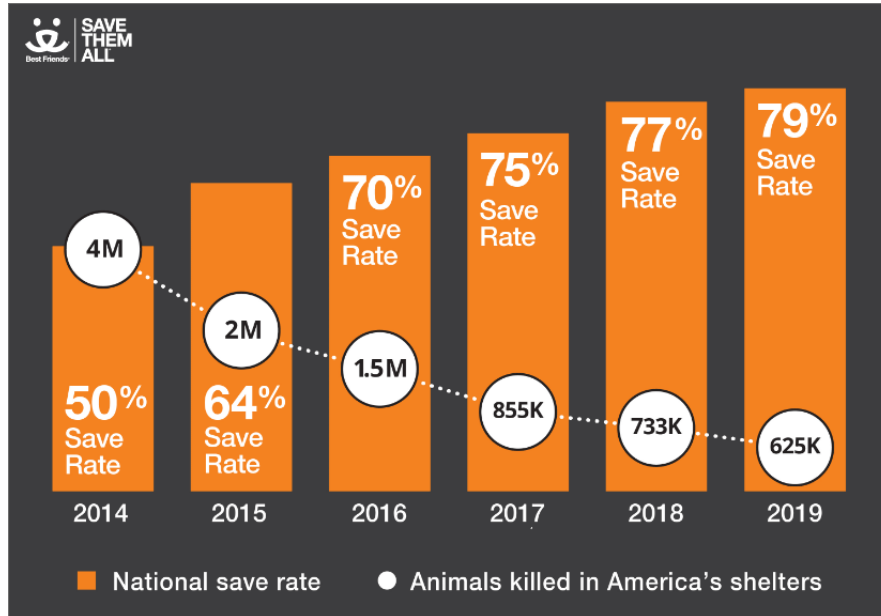
²⁰ <https://www.sheltermedicine.com/uc-davis-koret-shelter-medicine-program-awards-animal-shelters-more-than-5-8million-dollars-through-california-for-all-animals-spring-grant-cycle/>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

²¹ www.placer.ca.gov/1037/New-animal-services-center. Accessed November 7, 2022.

Old Shelter	New Shelter
115 animal capacity.	193 kennels, many of which provide group housing (adoptable cat and feral cat areas) or opportunity to double up animals that prefer companionship. Shelter has housed upwards of 225 animals during the busy summer season and nearly 400 animals during the Mosquito Fire.
Received approximately 2,300 animals per year.	Receives more than 3,400 animals annually.
Contracted veterinarian on-site three days per week.	State of the art, 2,105-square-foot veterinary clinic. Contracted veterinarian on-site three days per week. Contracted registered veterinary technician on-site three to four days per week. All full-time animal care attendants trained to vaccinate, perform diagnostic testing for heartworm, FIV/FelV, giardia, parvo, and panleuk and have received the Certification for the Veterinarian Assistance Controlled Substance Permit to provide medication to shelter animals.
Did not euthanize animals for time and space, only if sick or vicious and unadoptable; live release rate 77 percent.	Does not euthanize for time and space, only if sick and untreatable, aggressive, and untreatable, or declared vicious and unadoptable. Live release rate has increased to 94 percent.
Six-stall stable for horses and larger animals.	Ten-stall stable for horses and other livestock and a large pasture area for routine exercise of large animals.
Portable, modular unit type building for the veterinary clinic.	In-house state of the art, 2,105-square-foot veterinary clinic includes exam room, surgical suite, wet table and prep area, dental cleaning and treatment machine, and dental x-ray unit. All spay/neuter surgeries now done on-site along with specialized treatment and surgeries.
Portable, modular unit for animal control staff and dispatcher.	A 1,409-square-foot ACO work area and dispatch office attached to the administrative offices within the building. Secured parking area for Animal Control vehicles. Covered 1,320-square-foot sally port for unloading animals into the shelter.

Intake Process

Placer County Animal Services takes in an average of 2,500 animals each calendar year. In 2022, PCAS had a live release, or save rate, of 94.2 percent, higher than the no-kill threshold of 90 percent. The national animal rescue organization, Best Friends, considers a shelter “no-kill” when it consistently euthanizes no more than 10 percent of all the animals coming in the door.²²



*Progress in national save rate and number of animals killed, 2014-2019*²³

²² www.aol.com/news/no-kill-animal-shelters-100000560.html#:~:text=To%20account%20for%20these%20cases%2C%20animal%20rescue%20organization,down%20is%20referred%20to%20as%20a%20kill%20shelter. Accessed March 9, 2023.

²³ [The State of U.S. Animal Sheltering, 2019 | Network Partners \(bestfriends.org\) https://network.bestfriends.org/research-data/research/state-us-animal-sheltering-2019#key.](https://network.bestfriends.org/research-data/research/state-us-animal-sheltering-2019#key) Accessed March 11, 2023.

Animal intake occurs in the following ways:

- Stray or abandoned animal picked up by county officials or a “good Samaritan” citizen.
- Owner surrendered animal.
- Animal transferred in from another shelter or rescue group.
- Adopted animal returned by adopter.
- Animal seizure due to bite quarantine, cruelty, or neglect investigation, potentially dangerous or vicious dog investigation, protective custody (owner hospitalized or arrested).

Upon intake, the following initial tasks are completed in order and as soon as possible:

1. Collect information, history, and circumstances for intake.
2. Enter information and photo of animal into Chameleon database, creating a unique identification number.
3. Full body scanning of animal for a microchip.
4. Physical examination of animal, with a follow-up veterinarian visit, if necessary.
5. Administer intake vaccination(s) and preventative treatment, depending on age and medical condition of animal.

Throughout this process, Chameleon is continuously updated with detailed information on the animal. Information entered in Chameleon, including location found, photo, and description of the animal, will appear on the shelter website within one hour. The PCAS volunteers post stray and found animals on Nextdoor.com to the four closest neighborhoods where the animal was found. Animals will also appear on Petco Love Lost and PawBoost.com. The PCAS uses an electronic billboard on Interstate 80 in Placer County to alert passersby of animals being held at the facility. After the intake process is completed, the animal is housed in a clean kennel with a bed, blanket, food, and water and held anywhere from four to ten days for the owner to claim.



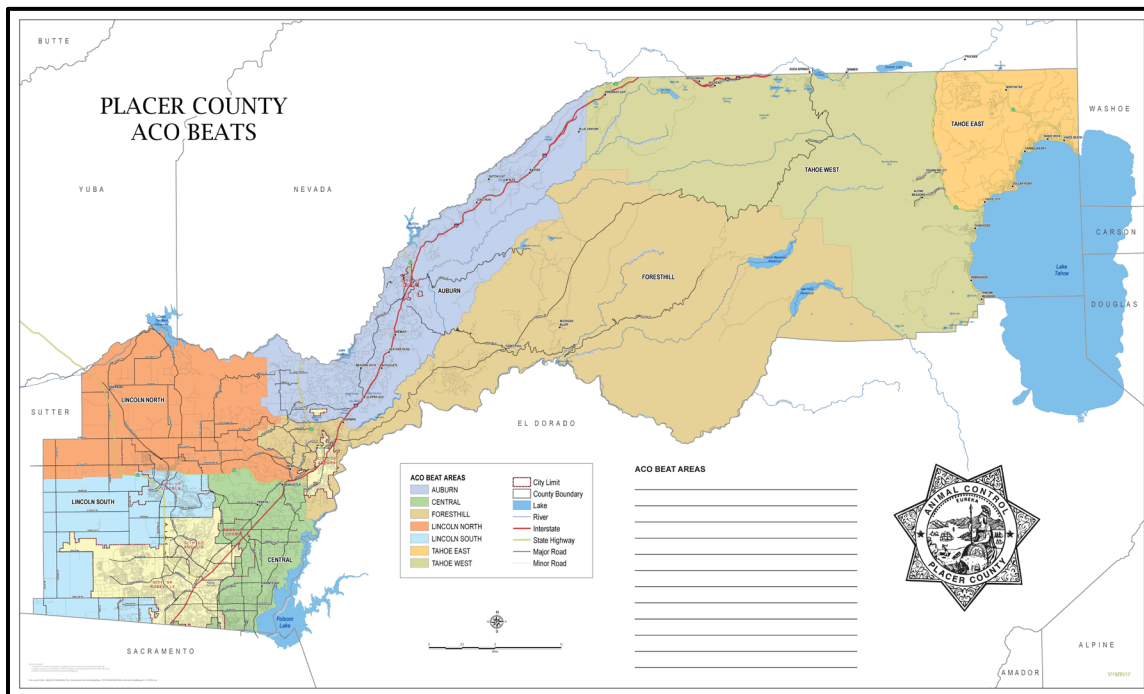
Photo credit: Placer County Animal Services

See Appendix B for a summary of the Intake and Release totals for calendar year 2022.

Field/Animal Control Services

During the tour, the grand jury examined the Field Services division's office facilities. Field Services receives approximately 300 complaints per week which are processed by a dedicated dispatcher. All calls are logged and categorized. Calls are dispatched to the appropriate officer(s) based on location and complaint type.

The county is separated into geographic areas, or beats, which are assigned to individual ACOs. Generally, the ACOs stay assigned to their beats throughout their tenure with the county, assisting fellow ACOs when needed. When a new officer is hired, they shadow a senior officer to learn protocols and procedures. Once trained, the new ACO will be assigned to their own beat.



Map courtesy of Placer County Animal Services

Coverage in the cities of Roseville and Rocklin is managed directly by each city. Placer County Animal Services provides assistance to these cities when needed. Placer County Animal Services has contracts with the cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, and Loomis to provide field services (see Appendix C). Placer County Animal Services' goal is to provide optimum coverage throughout the entire county.

All ACOs are required to have PC 832 Certification before they are hired. The PC 832 Arrest and Firearms Course²⁴ is the minimum training standard for California Peace Officers as specified in Commission Regulation 1005. All Placer County ACOs obtain National Animal Care & Control Association certification within the first two years

²⁴<https://post.ca.gov/pc-832-arrest-and-firearms-course>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

after hiring.²⁵ In addition, all Placer County ACOs are Certified Animal Control Officers by the California Animal Welfare Association,²⁶ having completed the approved sixty hours of training in Animal Care and State Laws. After certification, personnel participate in continuing education courses throughout their tenure with PCAS, the most recent being tranquilizer training sponsored by the San Diego Zoo.

Placer County ACOs receive an average of 7,000 to 10,000 calls for service each year. The average ACO response time during 2022 for priority calls was twenty-five minutes. Priority levels are assigned a range from one to five, with one being the most urgent (i.e., an animal bite) to five being the least urgent (i.e., a dead animal on the road). Calls are also assigned a category as noted below:

1. INV (investigation)
2. STRAY
3. BITE
4. BARK
5. ASSIST (assistance required)
6. WILD (wild animal involved)
7. KENINSP (kennel inspection)
8. DEAD

According to PCAS data, from January through December 2022, ACOs responded to 7,362 calls for service:

- 2,327 Investigations including:
 - 1,171 Bite and Quarantine Calls
 - 513 Welfare Checks
 - 517 Barking Complaint Calls
 - 55 Neglect Calls
- 1,893 Stray Animal Calls including:
 - 763 At large/loose
 - 589 Aggressive
 - 309 Confined or housed with finder
 - 64 Repeated/habitual stray
- 1,374 Calls to assist other Animal Control, Police, Sheriff's department, and other agencies
- 820 Deceased animal pickups
- 191 Animal Transport Calls
- 96 Patrols
- 58 Kennel Inspections
- 41 Protective Custody Calls

²⁵ <https://www.nacanet.org/naca-aco-certification/>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

²⁶ <https://www.calanimals.org/certified-animal-control-officer-pr>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

Complaint Process

All calls to PCAS are logged into Chameleon. From Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., calls are answered directly by the Animal Control Dispatcher. After-hours and weekend calls are answered by the Placer County Sheriff's Office Dispatch and transferred to an on-call ACO. The Animal Control Dispatcher, or on-call ACO, logs the date and time the call was received and the date and time the call was dispatched. The responding ACO logs the date and time they began working on the call, as well as the date and time the call was completed. The ACO inserts notes, attaches pictures (if applicable), and documents outcome information on each call when completed.

If a call requires a follow-up visit, the ACO or dispatcher creates a call for the future date of follow-up to be assigned to an ACO. Some examples of calls that require follow-up are barking complaints, rabies quarantine re-checks/releases, kennel inspections, follow-up patrols, animal cruelty/neglect, notice to comply, and feeding at a location during evacuation. Depending on the type of complaint, an ACO may do the following:

- **Provide education or resources to address the issue**, for example:
 - Suggest adequate shelter solution if animal is housed outside.
 - Offer to spay/neuter if animal frequently gets loose.
 - Offer a free microchip to assist in reunification.
 - Connect with a trainer for animal behavior problems.
 - Refer to a veterinarian or rescue for assistance with medical care.
 - Discuss methods to control barking.
 - Advise owner of the expectation to isolate an animal during a bite quarantine.
- **Give owner a notice to comply within a fixed time frame**, allowing owner to obtain a license, seek veterinary care, provide grooming, repair a fence, etc. Usually, this is a period of ten to fourteen days, with a follow up by an ACO. If compliance is not forthcoming, an ACO may issue a citation or seize the animal.
- **Issue a citation to owner**. This occurs if owner refuses to comply, or has been given a previous opportunity to comply, and has not done so. Citations may also be issued if the matter is severe and education and/or a notice to comply would not effectively resolve the situation.
- **Issue a third-party citation to owner**. This is used when the ACO is not a witness to the incident and another party would like to be a witness and ensure a citation is issued. This is generally done for barking and nuisance complaints.
- **Seize animal**. There are very specific situations where PCAS is legally allowed to seize an animal. It is done only when it can be proven that it is immediately necessary to protect the health and safety of the animal and/or the public. The owner of the animal is entitled to a post-seizure hearing and opportunity to appeal in some of these situations. Seizure would be used in the following situations:

- Severe bite or attack, while leashed or unleashed, to a person or another animal: may include bite quarantine and a Potentially Dangerous/Vicious Animal Investigation and Declaration.
- Cruelty/Neglect investigation: will also include PCAS working with the district attorney's office to proceed with a case to pursue a successful court outcome. Successful prosecution may include restitution, surrender of animals to the shelter, probation/jail time, and restrictions on owning or caring for animals in the future.
- **Repeat offenders may be handled differently depending on the situation.** Most county codes and state laws allow for increasing fines and fees if the owner is not in compliance. On occasion, PCAS may seize an animal or require it be housed at the shelter.²⁷ Cases that involve the district attorney may result in increased sentencing.

The PCAS must respond to citizen complaints that are received by their office. While PCAS has a presence on social media, posting a message on social media does not constitute a complaint to Animal Services. Animal Service's Field Services division has a robust information tracking system for responding to and investigating complaints. It is the policy of PCAS for ACOs to follow up with the originating party when possible.

At times, the public does not see the full scope of a PCAS investigation and its resolution. Therefore, they may submit a public records request with PCAS to learn what steps were taken regarding a specific complaint. The PCGJ noted the amount of work, due diligence, rules, regulations, and legal procedures each ACO must follow and document for every complaint received.

Emergency Response—The 2022 Mosquito Fire

The PCAS has a written disaster response plan, which is reviewed and updated regularly. Staff completes national training developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). In addition, there is targeted training depending on staff position. All officers are required to take FEMA's National Incident Management Training courses and ASPCA disaster

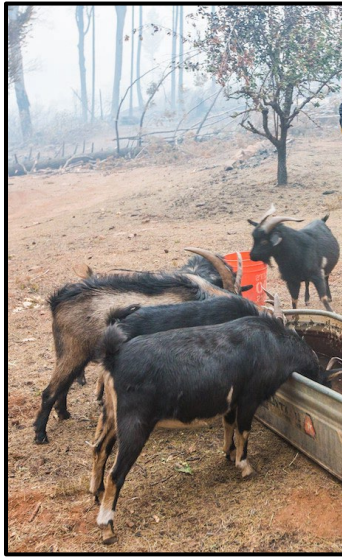


Photo credit: Placer County Animal Services

²⁷ https://california.public.law/codes/ca_penal_code_section_597.1.

Accessed March 19, 2023.

preparedness training courses.^{28, 29} Disaster response supplies are restocked annually to ensure that Animal Services response vehicles, trailers, and supplies are adequate and in good working order.



*Photo credit: Placer County
Animal Services*

The capacity of the new shelter was challenged during the Mosquito Fire in September and October of 2022. The Mosquito Fire burned in Placer and El Dorado Counties and was California's largest wildfire in 2022 and Placer County's largest in history.³⁰ All Placer County ACOs are fire-line trained by CAL FIRE and allowed to go behind established fire lines during a wildfire.³¹

During the Mosquito Fire, PCAS received between 150-200 calls a day, compared with an average of forty to fifty. Calls for field services by ACOs for the period September 7–October 22, 2022, increased to 1,707, compared with 842 during the same period in 2021. The shelter was open for extended hours and PCAS staff stayed overnight at the shelter and Gold Country Fairgrounds to provide care for animals and assist customers that needed immediate sheltering.

From September 7 through October 22, 2022, 851 animals were received by the shelter (373 during the same period in 2021), of which 485 animals were Mosquito Fire evacuees. In addition to dogs and cats, other types of animals were received. These included livestock, horses, birds, bunnies, guinea pigs, lizards, and fish. The animals were housed at the shelter and fairgrounds. Due to the Avian Influenza, Animal Services was unable to accommodate poultry, but offered



Photo credit: Placer County Animal Services

²⁸ <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

²⁹ <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

³⁰ <https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/55478/Appendix-G-Fire-History>. Accessed March 7, 2023.

³¹ www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/state-fire-training/. Accessed March 19, 2023

alternative options for housing at boarding facilities or on properties donated by community members. Large livestock, herds of animals, and feral cats were sheltered in place if they could not be corralled, handled, or transported in areas that were in the evacuation zone, but not in the path of the fire. Animal Services staff provided food, water, and conducted daily welfare checks on these animals.

Strategic Alliances & Partnerships

Placer County Animal Services maintains alliances with other organizations to broaden its services. These may include additional shelters, animal transfer services, and wildlife care. In addition to the veterinary services available onsite, PCAS contracts with over a dozen independent veterinary clinics and hospitals throughout the region that offer emergency and specialized services. The PCAS partners with PetSmart for in-store adoptions as well as over fifty non-governmental organizations that provide rescue and adoption services.

Placer County Animal Services has a strong relationship with the University of California Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program. When designing the new shelter, Koret provided guidance in setting forth shelter policies and procedures. In 2022, through the state's California for All Animals program,³² Koret was awarded a grant of more than \$5.8 million to expand and include statewide shelter initiatives.³³

See Appendix C for a listing of the alliances, contracts, and relationships that are currently in place.

Conclusion

The grand jury investigated the facility and operations of Placer County's Animal Services and found the agency to be organized, well-run, dedicated, and compassionate in carrying out its duties. Nine years after approval of the construction of a new animal shelter facility, the Placer County Board of Supervisors' commitment and foresight have paved the way for Placer County to be a leader in providing optimal care of animals with a full range of services, allowing its colleagues to follow their creed of "Saving people from animals and animals from people."

³² <https://www.californiaforallanimals.com/about/>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

³³ <https://www.sheltermedicine.com/uc-davis-koret-shelter-medicine-program-awards-animal-shelters-more-than-5-8million-dollars-through-california-for-all-animals-spring-grant-cycle/>. Accessed March 19, 2023.

Findings

The grand jury found that:

- F1:** Placer County Animal Services is following all local and state ordinances, laws, policies, and procedures.
- F2:** Placer County Animal Services is organized, well-run, dedicated, and compassionate in carrying out its duties.
- F3:** Placer County Animal Services has set the standard for award-winning shelter operations and programs.

Recommendations

The grand jury has no recommendations.

Copies sent to:

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Health and Human Services

Director

3091 County Center Dr
Suite 290
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Health and Human Services

Deputy Director

11512 B Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Animal Services

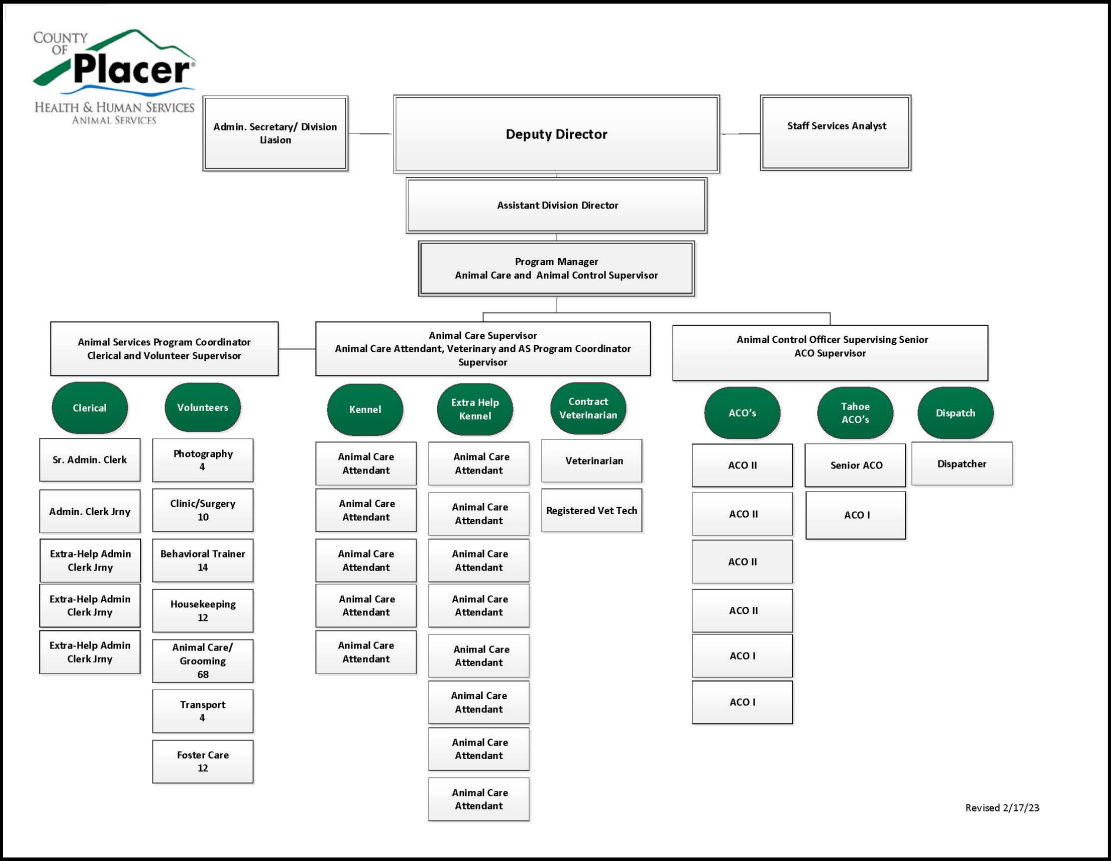
Program Manager

11232 B Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Disclaimer

In the process of preparing this report, one grand juror withdrew from the investigation due to previous interactions with Placer County Animal Services. Once this juror was recused, they no longer took part in the remainder of the investigation, including interviews, deliberations, writing, and approval of this report.

Appendix A – Animal Services Organization Chart



Revised 2/17/23

Chart courtesy of Placer County Animal Services

Appendix B – Intake and Release Totals

		Dog	Cat	Total
Asilomar / Maddies Fund Report				
Date Range: 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022				
LIVE RELEASE RATE: 94.0%				
The Live Release Rate does not include 10 owner/guardian requested euthanasias which were unhealthy and untreatable (see line R) and 56 animals that died or were lost in shelter care (see line U).				
A	BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT	63	31	94
INTAKE (Live Dogs and Cats Only)				
B	From the Public	1506	1569	3075
C	Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition	7	8	15
D	Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition	0	0	0
E	From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia	9	1	10
F	Total Intake [B + C + D + E]	1522	1578	3100
G	From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	-9	-1	-10
H	ADJUSTED TOTAL INTAKE [F minus G]	1513	1577	3090
<hr/>				
I	ADOPTIONS	581	921	1502
J	OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations within Community/Coalition	2	1	3
K	OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Community/Coalition	66	68	134
L	RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN	736	235	971
DOGS & CATS EUTHANAZED				
M	Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	0	0	0
N	Treatable-Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	0	0	0
O	Treatable-Maneageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	0	0	0
P	Uhealthy & Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	105	73	178
Q	Total Euthanasia [M + N + O + P]	105	73	178
R	Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	-9	-1	-10
S	ADJUSTED TOTAL EUTHANASIA [Q minus R]	96	72	168
T	SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES [I + J + K + L + S] Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	1481	1297	2778
U	DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE	4	52	56
V	TOTAL OUTCOMES [T + U] Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	1485	1349	2834
W	ENDING SHELTER COUNT	85	74	159

Chameleon Report

Appendix C – Strategic Alliances & Partnerships

Organization Name	City	Services
Truckee-Tahoe Humane Society	Truckee	Contract Partner (PCAS Tahoe ACO's work out of this facility and their shelter takes in animals from Tahoe Basin)
Placer SPCA	Auburn	Shelter Partner – Animal Transfer Partner
FieldHaven Feline Center	Lincoln	Shelter and Emergency Response Partner
Northern California Association of Equine Practitioners		Large Animal Emergency Response Veterinarian
Gold Country Wildlife Rescue	Auburn	Wildlife Partner
Kindred Spirits Fawn Rescue	Loomis	Wildlife Partner
UC Davis Koret School of Shelter Medicine	Davis	Shelter Medicine and Policy Partner
CalAnimals	Sacramento	Shelter Management/Leader Professional Organization and Partnerships
Humane Society of the Sierra Foothills	Auburn	Humane Officer Partner
Kitten Central of Northern California	Newcastle	Contract Partner Neonatal Kitten Raising
Animal Spay & Neuter Clinic	Auburn	Spay/Neuter Partner
City of Auburn	Auburn	Contract City Shelter Services
City of Citrus Heights	Citrus Heights	Contract City Field Services
City of Colfax	Colfax	Contract city Field & Shelter Services
City of Lincoln	Lincoln	Contract City Field & Shelter Services
Town of Loomis	Loomis	Contract City Field & Shelter Services
Animal Medical Center	Auburn	Contract Emergency Veterinarian
Auburn Equine	Auburn	Contract Emergency Veterinarian – Horses
Blue Pearl Pet Hospital	Reno	Contract Emergency Veterinarian
Burton Creek Veterinary Clinic	Tahoe City	Contract Emergency Veterinarian
Companion Veterinary Clinic	Auburn	Contract Emergency Veterinarian – Bunnies and exotics
Critter Creek Veterinary Hospital	Lincoln	Contract Emergency Veterinarian
Donner Truckee Veterinary Hospital	Truckee	Contract Emergency Veterinarian
Ethos Veterinary Health (Atlantic Street Veterinary Hospital)	Roseville	Contract Emergency Veterinarian
Loomis Basin Equine Medical Center	Loomis	Contract Emergency Veterinarian – Horses
Meadow Vista Veterinary Clinic	Meadow Vista	Contract Emergency Veterinarian

Organization Name	City	Services
VCA Animal Hospitals (Loomis Basin Emergency Veterinary Clinic)	Loomis	Contract Emergency Veterinarian
Ziva II Veterinary Corporation (Gold Country Veterinary Hospital – Formerly Edgewood Veterinary Clinic)	Auburn	Contract Emergency Veterinarian – Bunnies and exotics
Best Friends Los Angeles	Los Angeles	Animal Transfer Partner – Receiving shelter
PetSmart Adoption Program	National U.S.	In Store Animal Adoption Partner – In-Kind and Monetary Donation
American Black & Tan Coonhound Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
American Bulldog Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Animal Save		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Apex Protection Project		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Bad Rap		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Bay Area German Shepherd Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Best Friends		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Broketail Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Canine Rehabilitation Center and Sanctuary		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Central California Labrador Retriever Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Central Coast Herding Dog Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Chihuahua Rescue Truckee Meadows		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Chow Chow Rescue of the Sierra Foothills		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Chows Plus		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Dachshund Rescue of Northern California		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Doberman Pincher SOS		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
El Dorado County German Shepherd Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
FieldHaven Feline Center		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
German Shepherd Rescue of Sacramento Valley		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Gold Country Wildlife		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter

Organization Name	City	Services
Golden State Golden Shepherd Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Great Dane Rescue of Northern California		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Greater California German Shepherd Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Haven Dog Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Hearts for Paws Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Herd it Through the Grapevine		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
High Sierra Lifeline K9 Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Homeward Bound		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Humane Farming Association		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Humane Society Tahoe Truckee		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Itsie Bitsie		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Kitten Crossing Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Labs 2 Love Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Leaps and Bounds (rabbit rescue)		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Muttville		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
NorCal Aussie Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Norcal Boxer Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
NorCal Bully Breed Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
NorCal Cocker Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
NorCal GSP Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Northern California Border Collie Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Northern California Doberman Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
One Planet Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Passion for Paws		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Pug Rescue of Northern California		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Pug Rescue of Sacramento		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter

Organization Name	City	Services
Purebreds plus cat rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Recycled Pets NorCal		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue Northern California		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Rotts of Friends		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Sacramento SPCA		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Sierra Pacific Great Pyrenees Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
TNT Small Animal Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Tony LaRussa’s Animal Rescue Foundation		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Umbrella of Hope		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Umbrella of Hope		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
West Coast Bloodhound Rescue, Inc.		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
West Coast Boxer Rescue		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter
Woof Project		Non-Profit Animal Rescue Partner – Actively pulls animals from our shelter

Chart courtesy of Placer County Animal Services

South Placer Fire District

Fiscal Challenges and Station Closures

South Placer Fire District Station 15



Photo credit: Barbara Ferguson



South Placer Fire District Fiscal Challenges and Station Closures

Summary

South Placer Fire District was formed in 1952 as a special district. Special districts are a form of local government created by a community to meet a specific need. Inadequate tax bases and competing demands for existing taxes can make it hard for cities and counties to provide services for citizens. When landowners want new services or higher levels of existing services, they can form their own district to pay for and administer them.

The South Placer Fire District has reported ongoing financial difficulties over the past several years, due in part to its operational costs increasing faster than its sources of funding. Increased administrative and operational costs, diminished revenue streams, and changing service provision demands have required Division 2 of the South Placer Fire District to make significant changes to maintain their level of community service. These challenges, however, are not unique to South Placer Fire District, as they are being reported throughout the State of California. Financial shortfalls within established revenue collections are requiring fire districts to become more creative in manpower distribution, facility usage, and asset allocations. In many instances, potential reorganization of districts is a necessary, viable solution, allowing for increased overall efficiency.

Glossary

Benefit Assessment: An amount levied to fund the cost of providing services, improvements, as well as maintenance and operation expenses to a public improvement, which benefits the assessed property.

CAL FIRE: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Cost-Of-Living Allowance: An increase in fees, benefits, or salaries to counteract inflation.

Insurance Services Office A company that provides statistical, actuarial, underwriting, and claims information and analytics.

Local Agency Formation Commission: A state mandated independent regulatory body whose role is to encourage the orderly formation of local governmental agencies, preserve agricultural and open space resources, and discourage urban sprawl through the review of city and special district boundary changes and the extension of the services they provide.

Municipal Service Review A comprehensive study performed by and designed to better inform the Local Agency Formation Commission, local agencies, and the community about the provision of municipal services.

Proposition 13 (1978): Proposition 13 requires assessment of each taxable property based on its fair market value and limits a property owner's general levy tax to 1 percent of the assessed value.

Proposition 218 (1996): Proposition 218 restricts local governments' ability to impose assessments and property-related fees and requires elections to approve many local government taxes.

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Provides fire protection and emergency medical services to many unincorporated areas of Sacramento County and a small portion of Placer County.

South Placer Fire District: Serves the communities of Granite Bay, Loomis, and southern areas of Penryn and Newcastle. It is comprised of two divisions.

Special Assessment: A tax levied on property owners to pay for specific local infrastructure services or projects.

Special Districts: Local governments created by the people of a community to deliver specialized services essential to their health, safety, economy, and well-being. A community forms a special district to provide specialized services the local city or county do not provide.

Sphere of Influence: A region or concept over which a state or organization has a level of exclusivity.

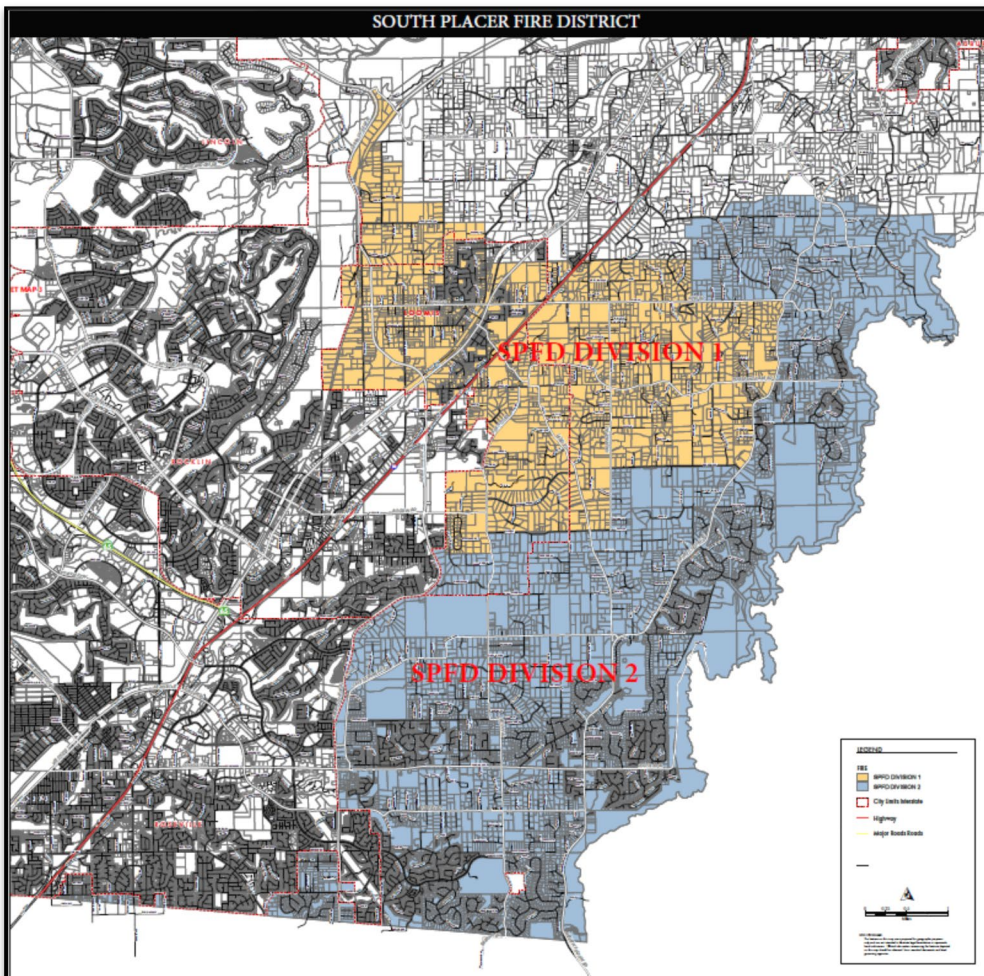
Background

South Placer Fire District (SPFD) serves the communities of Granite Bay, Loomis, and southern areas of Penryn and Newcastle, encompassing fifty-five square miles of territory and a population of more than 42,000. The district responds to structure, wildland, vehicle, and other types of fires. Medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, rescue emergencies, public service calls, and hazardous material response are all part of the services provided.

Formed in 1952, SPFD was administered as part of the Citrus Heights Fire District (CHFD). The Citrus Heights Fire District operated a paid fire district and brought paid administrative staff to SPFD to oversee volunteer operations. In 1962, SPFD formally ended its agreement with CHFD, and the chiefs working at SPFD became full-time paid personnel. In 2017, Loomis Fire District consolidated with SPFD and transferred its fiscal responsibility to SPFD. Fire districts are funded by a portion of the parcel owners' overall property taxes. Special Districts include fire protection, cemetery, water, utility, community services, and park & recreation districts. Special districts receive an average of 5.83 percent of the base Proposition 13 property taxes.

Along with property tax revenues, SPFD Division 2 also receives a special tax assessment of seventy dollars per parcel within its area of coverage. This amount has remained unchanged since 1981. Other funds received are derived from the ambulance transport division fees, cellular tower leases, cost recovery from emergency incidents, fire prevention, and mitigation charges. The SPFD is not funded by the Placer County or the State of California.

Since 1981, the SPFD region has gone through significant levels of growth in population and residential development. The Annex Q South Placer Fire Protection District flyer (see Bibliography #3) of 2016 stated SPFD served thirty-seven square miles and 21,600 residents. As of 2022, the area of coverage is fifty-five square miles, servicing more than 42,000 residents, an increase in area and population of 69 percent and 54 percent, respectively. A major portion of this growth is in the Granite Bay area, part of Division 2 of SPFD.



SPFD Neighborhood Meeting Presentation, April 25, 2022

In contrast, the SPFD's revenues have not increased proportionately to the growth of the district and the increase in service calls. Costs for training, employee retention, code enforcement, salaries, benefits, health care, as well as other operating costs, have steadily increased. Division 2 of SPFD coordinated a special ballot initiative in 2022, asking district homeowners to amend and increase the seventy-dollar flat-rate special tax assessment established in 1981. This initiative failed to pass.

Methodology

The Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) conducted interviews with SPFD and the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Research documents obtained by the PCGJ, via the SPFD website, included an accounting of all revenues and expenses beginning in 2011 and annual budgets from 2019 to present. Also obtained through the SPFD and LAFCO websites, were the independent audit report prepared on the South Placer Fire District Financial Statements and the Independent Auditor's Report (see Bibliography #5), for the year ending June 30, 2021. The 2022-2023 Preliminary Engineer's Report on SPFD was prepared by SCI Consulting Group (see Bibliography #6). Reports, budgets, audits, and related LAFCO observations from fire districts within neighboring counties were reviewed and compared for perspective and continuity of the PCGJ's investigation (see Bibliography). The PCGJ reviewed local news reports and articles (see Bibliography).

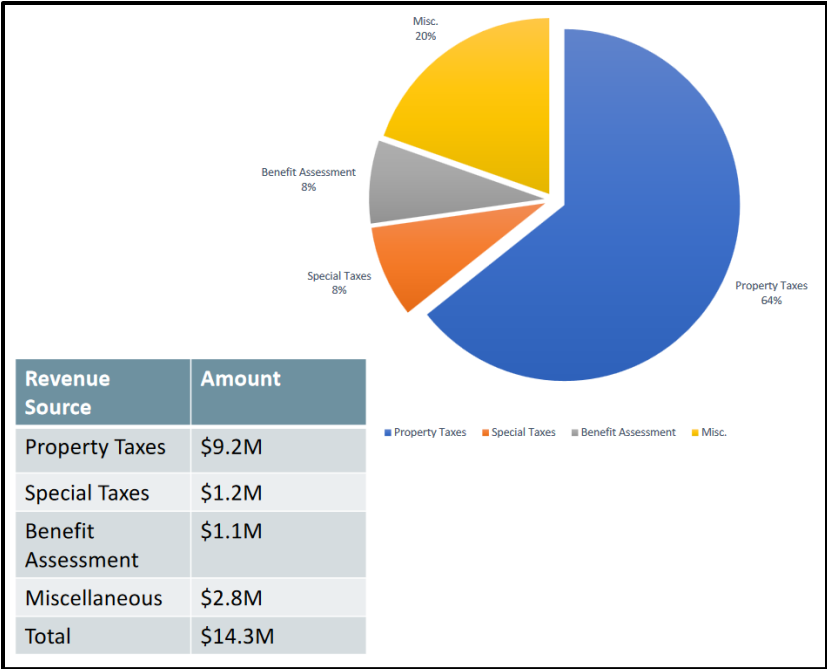
Discussion

Since the early sixties, the SPFD has operated successfully on the primary funds obtained through property taxes from parcels within the boundaries of the fire district. These tax revenues were controlled by provisions within Proposition 13 (1978), and later by Proposition 218 (1996), which constrained local governments' ability to raise property taxes, the mainstay of local government financing. Proposition 13 also specified if a raise in local taxes is sought to pay for specific governmental programs, this special tax assessment must be approved by a two-thirds majority of voters. Such a tax was put in place in 1981 for Division 2 of the SPFD, establishing a seventy-dollar fee assessed to property owners. No Cost-Of-Living Allowance (COLA) provision was written into the funding regulations.

Following the economic downturn of 2008, budgetary concerns became more urgent. Operational costs for the fire district increased. Property development continued in the area, requiring more services to be provided, without generating tax reassessments to increase revenues. These cost increases are in direct correlation to the number of additional structures that have been built in Division 2 during the past forty years. According to the 2000 – 2020 U.S. Census reports, the housing units in Granite Bay increased by 1,317 units from 6,626 to 7,943, an increase of approximately 16.5 percent.

In 2017, SPFD consolidated with its neighboring fire department, Loomis Fire Protection District (now SPFD Division 1), with the support and approval of LAFCO. The consolidation of the two districts has been operationally complete for several years. Yet, there are still ongoing revenue issues including training costs, competitive wages, employee retention, and population growth.

SPFD Funding Sources

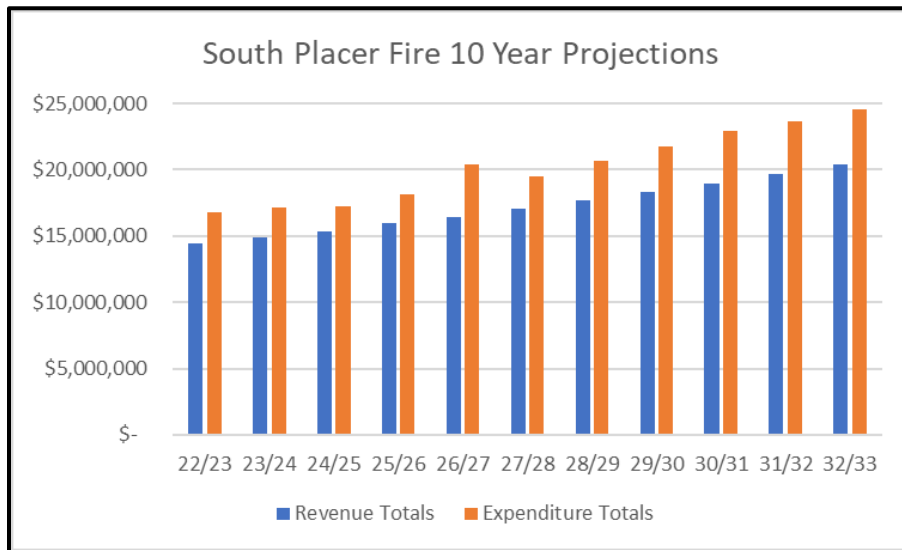


SPFD Neighborhood Meeting Presentation, April 25, 2022

Today, the two divisions of SPFD are governed by an independent, seven-member board of directors and serves the communities of Granite Bay, Loomis, and the southern areas of Penryn and Newcastle. The SPFD covers fifty-five square miles and serves a population of more than 42,000. It operates fire stations in Granite Bay and Loomis. The SPFD responds to over 3,500 service calls per year, including structure fires, brush fires, vehicle fires, traffic collisions, industrial accidents, hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical calls, and search and rescue. Additionally, SPFD provides fire prevention services, community education, emergency preparedness, and other safety amenities.

The PCGJ’s research indicates that over the last forty years, the cost of providing fire protection and emergency services continues to grow with inflation and is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. The SCI Consulting Group report states:

The cost of providing fire protection and emergency response services continues to rise each year due to increasing emergency calls, enhanced firefighter training requirements, the growing wildfire risk to the community, and substantial increase in operational costs, including fuel, utilities, equipment, insurance, and personnel over the last 40 years.



SPFD Neighborhood Meeting Presentation, April 25, 2022

The SCI Consulting Group Report supports a proposed new assessment rate to enhance existing funding sources. The proposed rates for this assessment are shown in the table below from the report. The proposed assessment rates are based on the Insurance Services Office (ISO) fire score factor and a travel time factor for each parcel. Insurance Services Office creates ratings for fire departments. These ratings determine the efficiency of fire departments in their communities. The ISO provides this score, often called the "ISO fire score," to homeowners insurance companies. Insurers then use it to help set homeowners insurance rates. Greater fire department performance directly correlates to reduced fire insurance rates. What this means to the homeowner is, the better equipped a fire department is to put out a fire, the less likely a house is to burn down. This makes your home less risky, and therefore, less expensive to insure.

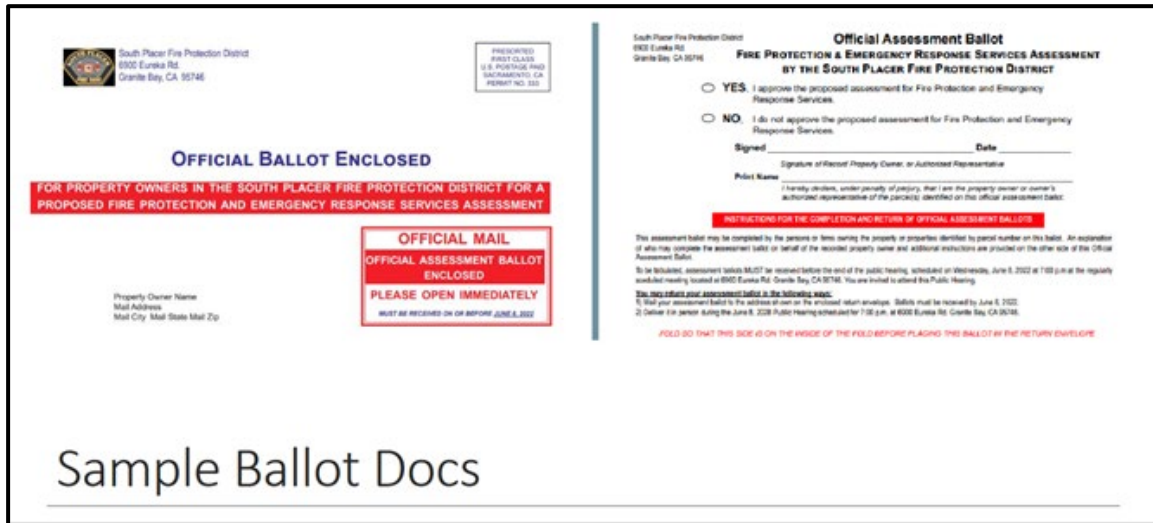
Proposed Assessment Rates for South Placer Fire Protection District

<u>Property Type</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
Single Family	\$214.16
Multi-Family	\$125.82
Commercial/Industrial	\$619.83
Office	\$434.79
Storage	\$1,281.47
Parking Lot	\$15.72
Vacant	\$57.41
Agriculture	\$8.47
Range Land & Open Space	\$0.17

SPFD Neighborhood Meeting Presentation, April 25, 2022

The Special Assessment for Division 2 voters, the base additional cost to property owners, would be \$214 per year per the Preliminary Engineer's Report published by SCI Consulting Group, the consultant overseeing the Proposition 218 election process. An annual COLA would have been included in the new assessment.

Special Assessment for Division 2 Sample Ballot



SPFD Neighborhood Meeting Presentation, April 25, 2022

The first ballot initiative occurred in June 2022, forty-one years after the department's formation. The special assessment elections require a two-thirds majority (66 percent) voter approval. This assessment failed to pass. Of the 8,900 ballots that were sent out only 3,010 ballots were returned, a 30 percent return rate. Of the returned ballots, 46.9 percent voted for the measure.

Information about the ballot initiative was shared through social media and the district website in a document titled "South Placer Fire District Questions & Answers" (see Bibliography #26). Numerous in-person public town hall meetings were also held around the district to explain the need and the possible consequences if the measure did not pass. These consequences included:

- Closure of stations
- Reduction in staff
- Increased response times
- Unavailable resources
- Home insurability jeopardized
- Merger/consolidation with an outside district or agency

With the failure of the special assessment initiative, the SPFD implemented necessary budget cuts. These included the closure of Stations 15 and 19 with redeployment of personnel and assets to remaining stations in the district. Also, district personnel hired with short-term grant money were laid off and will not be replaced.

SPFD Station Locations with Closures



Photo credit: Barbara Ferguson

The Placer County LAFCO 2017 Municipal Service Review (MSR) stated SPFD was one of only two fire agencies that were diligent about strategic planning for the future, including preparing timely budgets and completing financial audits. Despite this, the report anticipated a possible, or inevitable, need for SPFD to reorganize to further increase efficiency. One contingency plan that has been considered by SPFD is the prospect of reorganization with one or more local fire districts. The MSR recommended that in western Placer County, all the fire districts and departments be consolidated into one agency. Combining the fire districts, the LAFCO report stated, would greatly increase efficiency when dealing with the county's rapid growth in expenses and population. An example of this type of consolidation is what occurred in June of 2021 when Placer County signed a three-year, \$39 million deal with CAL FIRE who will now manage the Colfax, Placer Hills, and Placer County Fire Departments (see Bibliography #15).

According to the LAFCO 2017 MSR, in the section titled Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies:

Governance structure options for SPFD include consolidation with Loomis FPD, and possibly with Penryn and Newcastle FPDs. An additional option is consolidation with other fire districts to create a single Western Placer fire protection agency or a fire protection district to serve the unincorporated areas. The District will only consider revenue neutral consolidation options.

According to the LAFCO 2017 MSR, in the section titled Recommended Sphere of Influence (SOI) Boundary:

On the other hand, the study has shown that all the fire districts in Western Placer County already demonstrate extensive collaboration with one another and several agencies have taken significant steps towards consolidation. It is recommended, therefore, that the Commission adopt a single SOI for unincorporated Western Placer (excluding the portion within SMFD's boundaries and Rocklin FPD), the City of Colfax and Town of Loomis, thus encouraging all the fire districts and the County to work together to achieve the goal of a single agency serving a majority of the western territory of the County. Consolidation would aid in resolving some of the districts' challenges and constraints, including SPFD's financing difficulties, and reduced service levels, through enhanced economies of scale, greater leveraging of resources, and unified procedures.

The MSR also notes there are extensive mutual and automatic aid arrangements for fire and emergency medical services throughout Placer County. These include, but are not limited to:

SPFD participates in the Placer County Closest Resource Agreement, Placer County Emergency Operations plan, and Region Four Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan.

SPFD is a signatory of the Western Placer County Cooperative Fire Services Response Agreement, along with 12 other fire protection agencies in western Placer County according to which, the agencies provide automatic aid to each other and make use of the closest resource dispatching.

SPFD has automatic and mutual aid relationships with Sacramento Metropolitan FPD, City of Folsom FPD, and American Medical Response. The District participates in the California State Mutual Aid Plan.

Further research by PCGJ has found that fire districts within counties throughout California are experiencing the same financial obstacles as SPFD. The LAFCO MSRs, trade periodicals, and regional news articles relating to El Dorado, Yuba, Sutter, and Sonoma Counties were reviewed (See Bibliography). All reported that fire districts should anticipate increases in

service demand due to population growth and other factors. These include drought-related increases in fire prevention activities, higher traffic levels, and wildfire response.

Conclusion

While the SPFD has made recent adjustments to their operations, such efforts are unsustainable in the long term. Revenues and efficiencies must increase if the SPFD is to survive the ongoing code and training requirements, salary deficiencies, benefits cost increases, and expanding public service demands.

The PCGJ commends the SPFD's efforts to maintain their level of service within their 2022 budget. Without additional funding, however, the financial condition of the department is going to require the SPFD to make additional adjustments, while trying to maintain established service levels.

Due to SPFD's past performance, its community seems unaware of its impending crisis. South Placer Fire District constituents seem unaware of the district's financial needs.

Fire districts work with each other during emergencies. Neighboring fire departments have been operating with extensive mutual and automatic aid arrangements for years. If resources can be shared between districts during emergencies, the same resources should be shared when there are no emergencies. South Placer Fire District's governing board and fire chiefs should meet and define their expectations and agree on common, acceptable outcomes, even if those outcomes require annexations, consolidations, or other methods of reorganization.

Findings

The grand jury found that:

- F1:** South Placer Fire District existing revenue streams are insufficient for the district to maintain their current level of operations.
- F2:** South Placer Fire District Division 2 parcel assessment is insufficient for the division to maintain their current level of operations.
- F3:** South Placer Fire District constituents seem unaware of the district's performance and operating needs.
- F4:** Budget shortfalls will result in additional justification for reorganization of South Placer Fire District.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends that:

- R1:** South Placer Fire District explore other revenue resources by September 20, 2023, to maintain their current level of operations.
- R2:** South Placer Fire District Division 2 continue efforts to reintroduce a special assessment ballot measure, that will also adjust for inflation, by November 30, 2023.
- R3:** South Placer Fire District increase constituents' awareness of district performance and operating costs by proactively advising the public through town hall meetings, newsletters, social media, email, and direct mail before the next special election date by November 30, 2023.
- R4:** South Placer Fire District and the Local Agency Formation Commission reorganize and consolidate administrative and/or operational functions with neighboring districts by December 31, 2023.

Required Response:

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

	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
South Placer Fire District Board of Directors 6900 Eureka Rd Granite Bay, CA 95746	R1, R2, R3, R4	October 1, 2023
Placer County LAFCO Board of Directors 110 Maple St Auburn, CA 95603	R4	October 1, 2023

Copies sent to:

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

**South Placer Fire District
Fire Chief**
6900 Eureka Rd
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Bibliography

1. ROSEVILLE TODAY: Property Taxes in Placer County Go Where? (*Originally published Dec 2018*) [rosevilletoday.com/news/roseville/property-taxes-in-placer-county-go-where/](https://www.rosevilletoday.com/news/roseville/property-taxes-in-placer-county-go-where/). Accessed February 19, 2023.
2. [FAQ — Save South Placer](https://www.savesouthplacer.com/faq) www.savesouthplacer.com/faq. Accessed February 19, 2023.
3. Annex Q South Placer Fire Protection District Flyer www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/385/Annex-Q-South-Placer-Fire-Protection-District-PDF. Accessed February 19, 2023.
4. Part 1 Introduction to LAFCO www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7695/Part-1-Introduction-to-LAFCO-PDF?bidId=. Accessed February 19, 2023.
5. South Placer Fire District Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report for the year ended June 30, 2019, www.southplacerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/SPFD-Audit-FY-2018-19.pdf. Accessed February 19, 2023.
6. [Preliminary Engineer’s Report—South Placer Fire Protection District Fire Protection and Emergency Services Assessment Fiscal Year 2022-2023](https://www.southplacerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/SPFD-Div-2-Prelim-ER-FY-2022-23.pdf) www.southplacerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/SPFD-Div-2-Prelim-ER-FY-2022-23.pdf. Accessed February 19, 2023.
7. Ahumada, Rosalio, South Placer Fire District closing two fire stations indefinitely due to limited revenue, September 22, 2022, 5:36 pm www.sacbee.com/news/local/article266203736.html#storylink=cpy. Accessed March 10, 2023.
8. Northern California fire district closing stations due to budget restraints, inflation September 25, 2022 www.kcra.com/article/south-placer-fire-district-closing-stations-budget-restraints-inflation/41362767. Accessed March 10, 2023.
9. [Placer County Fire Districts: Complex, Cash-Strapped System Protects Fire-Plagued County](https://www.californialocal.com) ([californialocal.com](https://www.californialocal.com)). Accessed March 14, 2023.
10. [South Placer Fire District closing two fire stations](https://www.abc10.com) | [abc10.com](https://www.abc10.com) www.abc10.com/article/news/local/roseville/granite-bay-fire-stations-closing/103-2ee09d18-3a5b-4264-87b4-68b257cc5d58. Accessed February 19, 2023.
11. [Municipal Service Review for Fire and Emergency Services West Placer County Area Draft Final](https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7732/Final-MSR-West-Slope-Fire-PDF), May 25, 2017, www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7732/Final-MSR-West-Slope-Fire-PDF. Accessed March 14, 2023.
12. [Fire District Consolidations](https://sonomalafco.org/Microsites/LAFCO/Documents/2022%20Meetings/July%202022%20Commission%20Meeting/Item%203.1%2004-06-2022%20Draft%20Commission%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf), Sonoma LAFCO, July 2022 <https://sonomalafco.org/Microsites/LAFCO/Documents/2022%20Meetings/July%202022%20Commission%20Meeting/Item%203.1%2004-06-2022%20Draft%20Commission%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf>. Accessed March 14, 2023.
13. Rosenbaum, Rachel, [Report Says CA County FD in “Dire Straits”](https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/news/21088342/annual-report-sutter-county-ca-fire-department-staffing-funding-concerns), Appeal-Democrat, Marysville CA, July 13, 2019, www.firehouse.com/operations-training/news/21088342/annual-report-sutter-county-ca-fire-department-staffing-funding-concerns. Accessed March 14, 2023.
14. [Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report, 2018-2019](https://www.sutter.courts.ca.gov/system/files?file=final-report-2018-2019-sutter-county-grand-jury-filed-6-28-19.pdf) www.sutter.courts.ca.gov/system/files?file=final-report-2018-2019-sutter-county-grand-jury-filed-6-28-19.pdf. Accessed March 14, 2023.
15. Vankin, Jonathan, [Fire-Plagued County](https://www.californialocal.com/localnews/placer/ca/article/show/941-placer-county-fire-district-explainer/), California Local, June 2021 www.californialocal.com/localnews/placer/ca/article/show/941-placer-county-fire-district-explainer/. Accessed March 14, 2023.

16. South Placer Fire District, Public website, managed by SPFD, 6900 Eureka Road, Granite Bay, CA 95746 www.southplacerfire.org. Accessed March 14, 2023.
17. Newcastle Fire Protection District Measure F, Placer County Grand Jury Report, 2015-16 www.placer.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/nfpd_measure_f_report-v2-individual.pdf. Accessed March 15, 2023.
18. McEldowney, John, Statement on Special Fire Districts, May 19, 2015, Placer County Office of Emergency Services Program Manager. www.placer.ca.gov/1193/Statement-on-special-fire-districts. Accessed March 14, 2023.
19. Jaramishian, Eric, LAFCO Reports County fire agencies “limited”, Mountain Democrat, Placerville, May 16, 2022. www.mtdemocrat.com/news/lafco-reports-fire-agencies-limited-in-service/#:~:text=LAFCO%20reports%20county%20fire%20agencies%20'limited'%20By%20Eric,chief%20of%20El%20Dorado%20County%20Fire%20Protection%20District. Accessed March 14, 2023.
20. McGrath, Drs. Tim and Victoria, consultants, 2022 Fire Service Consolidations: Is It Inevitable? www.mcgrathconsulting.com/municipal-consultant/articles/fire-service-consolidation-is-it-inevitable.php. Accessed March 14, 2023.
21. Request for Proposal, Western Placer County Fire Agencies MSR and SOI Study, Placer County LAFCO, August 18, 2022. www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/62502/Placer-LAFCO-Western-Fire-Agencies-MSR-SOI-RFP. Accessed March 14, 2023.
22. South Placer Fire Station 15 Expansion, southplacerfire.org, 2018. www.southplacerfire.org/south-placer-fire-station-15-expansion/. Accessed March 14, 2023.
23. Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report, SPFD, June 30, 2021. www.southplacerfire.org/budgets-plans/. Accessed March 14, 2023.
24. SPFD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, September 14, and October 12, 2022. www.southplacerfire.org/board-documents/. Accessed March 14, 2023.
25. SPFD Neighborhood Meeting Presentation, April 25, 2022 placergrandjury.sharepoint.com/sites/PlacerGrandJuryDocuments/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPlacerGrandJuryDocuments%2FDocuments%2FGJ%20Confidential%2FCommittees%2FSpecial%20Districts%2FResearch%2FSouth%20Placer%20FD%2FSPFPD-Community-Meeting%2Epdf&viewid=2d1fe87d-2797-43f1-b82e-4bf455c3e849&parent=%2Fsites%2FPlacerGrandJuryDocuments%2FDocuments%2FGJ%20Confidential%2FCommittees%2FSpecial%20Districts%2FResearch%2FSouth%20Placer%20FD. Accessed March 15, 2023.
26. SPFD Questions & Answers, Granite Bay MAC meeting, October 2022. www.placer.ca.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_11022022-459, www.placer.ca.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/_10052022-4538. Accessed March 14, 2023.



Spending on Homelessness Within Placer County



Photo Credit: Richard Ferguson, February 2, 2023



Spending on Homelessness Within Placer County

Summary

The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Placer County Grand Juries published reports on the homeless population in Placer County. On June 14, 2022, the Board of Supervisors published a chart showing County of Placer government spending of approximately \$20 million for FY 2021 to 2022. The 2022-2023 grand jury found the total spending by city, town, and county during July 2021 through March 2023 amounted to more than \$80 million.

Glossary

Advocates for Mentally Ill Housing: Non-profit organization dedicated to the homeless and operating in Placer County. Advocates for Mentally Ill Housing has been granted the contract to manage the Hampton Inn/Sun Rose Apartments in Roseville and the 7 Pines Motel in Tahoe.

All-States Funding Report: The Department of Housing and Urban Development annually publishes the All-States Funding Report. This report shows Housing and Urban Development funds for the homeless by county.

American Rescue Plan Act: Known as the federal COVID-19 stimulus package.

First Step Communities: A non-profit organization dedicated to the homeless.

IRS Form 990: An IRS tax form on revenue and expenses filed by organizations exempt from income tax.

Low/no barrier shelter: An overnight or temporary housing accommodation for individuals who are homeless, provided directly by or through county contracted service agencies, for the purpose of providing shelter to individuals without the imposition of identification, time limits, or any other program requirements.

PIT Count: Point-in-Time head count conducted annually, on one night typically in January, of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness. For the year 2023 the count was 709 individuals.

The Gathering Inn: A non-profit organization dedicated to the homeless and operating in Placer County.

Sun Rose Apartments: Formerly the Hampton Inn, a Roseville hotel being converted into an eighty-two-room permanent housing facility for the homeless.

Background

The 2021-2022 grand jury published an extensive report covering a variety of concerns related to the homeless population. The grand jury report found that “No Placer County official was able to provide the grand jury accurate statistics related to costs and funding of the homeless.”¹ The Board of Supervisors (BOS) later provided a chart, dated June 14, 2022, listing the county’s annual homeless budget at approximately \$20 million (Appendix A). The 2022-2023 grand jury is seeking to quantify how much money is actually spent on homelessness throughout the county.

During its investigation, the grand jury experienced challenges in determining sources, amounts, and uses of funding. Some of this is due to different reporting periods by many stakeholders. Despite these challenges, the 2022-2023 grand jury was able to identify many, but not all, sources of funding, amounts, and reporting periods.

The grand jury learned there is a lack of coordination and budgeting among city, town, county, state, and federal sources providing funding. Additionally, there are no line items identifying homeless spending in the five city budgets, one town budget, or in the county budget.

Methodology

The grand jury interviewed numerous cities, town, and county officials. Past grand jury reports and responses, city, town, and county budgets, state grants, IRS Form 990 filings, and Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants were also reviewed. The entities listed in this report do not follow the same reporting principles; therefore, a definitive time span regarding overall spending within the county, as a whole, could not be reconciled by the grand jury.

Discussion

In its detailed budget, the county can quantify monies received and disbursed by department. Similarly, city budgets do the same. An example of this is the Enterprise Fund in the county’s 2022-2023 budget (Appendix B). This budget item is broken down with line items for revenues and shows expenditures for that same department. Specific monies received and disbursed for homeless services, however, are not listed in any county or city departments’ line-item budgets.

¹ Placer County Grand Jury 2021-2022 Final Report, page 65, Finding 3, [final-report-v3-release-june-30.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#). Accessed February 7, 2023.

Cities and Towns

The grand jury conducted interviews with officials from the five cities and one incorporated town in Placer County. The chart below contains information received.

City/Town	Expenditure	Detail
Auburn	\$0	No funds budgeted
Colfax	\$0	No funds budgeted
Lincoln	\$45,000	Funds for clean-up only
Loomis	\$0	No funds budgeted
Rocklin	\$110,475	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$60,475 for The Gathering Inn (TGI) Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Asset Fund. • \$50,000 for the TGI Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program in the CDBG Coronavirus 2019 CARES Act Fund.
Roseville	\$17,200,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15.1 million for its Economic Development and Housing Department budget for affordable housing programs and homeless prevention. Of this amount the city estimates that \$8.5 million is federal funding and \$3.8 million is state funding. • Police estimates its budgeted costs to be \$1.625 million in the current fiscal year. • Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department staff estimates the current fiscal year budget includes \$330,000 for open space cleanup. • Public works department estimates \$47,000 in its current year budget for debris cleanup and \$81,000 for facilities maintenance and custodial services. • The city attorney's office estimates its current budget includes \$53,000 for time spent on homelessness issues.
Total	<u>\$17,355,475</u>	

Roseville is the largest city in Placer County and accounts for nearly 38 percent of the county's population. The response from Roseville was a complete accounting of their expenditures and lists many of the ancillary homeless costs not mentioned by other cities.

State Funding

A large percentage of funding that comes into Placer County is in the form of state grants. A portion of this money was spent in acquiring hotels for housing. In 2022 the purchase of the Hampton Inn in Roseville, now the Sun Rose Apartments, was approved for conversion into an eighty-two-room permanent housing facility to be managed by AMI.² The cost of the purchase, including improvements and management, through June 30, 2023, is \$23.5 million.

Using various grant funding sources, the 7 Pines Motel in Tahoe, consisting of fourteen units, was purchased by the Placer County in 2020 for \$1.45 million. The motel will be owned and managed by AMI Housing, who was awarded the contract to operate this facility for the period October 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023. Furthermore, on January 24, 2023, the BOS authorized increasing the base contract by an additional \$700,000, not to exceed a total of \$2,207,835.³ The contract also stipulates that the additional funds must be expended by June 25, 2023.

The Sun Rose Apartments and the 7 Pines Motel are in the process of being retrofitted. The following amounts include purchase price, retrofitting, ongoing management, closing, and remodeling costs:

Sun Rose Apartments in Roseville ⁴	\$23,500,000
7 Pines Motel in Tahoe ⁵	\$2,207,835
Total	\$25,707,835

Legal Settlement

On January 24, 2023, because of a settlement reached with thirty-three unhoused individuals, the BOS approved a six-month agreement with First Step Communities (FSC) to manage a temporary low-barrier shelter located on the Placer County Government Center grounds. As a further outcome of this settlement the BOS increased the value of the contract with FSC from \$100,000 to \$1.088 million. These funds were awarded to the county through an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal grant.

In addition to the \$1.088 million spent on the temporary low-barrier shelter, the BOS approved each of the thirty-three plaintiffs be awarded \$4,000. The attorney representing the plaintiffs received \$50,000. This increased the settlement costs by \$182,000, bringing the total amount to \$1.27 million for the first six months of operation. At the end of six

² AMI Housing Inc., www.amihousing.org. Accessed November 27, 2022.

³ [Board of Supervisors Agenda - PLACER COUNTY \(ca.gov\)](#). Accessed May 17, 2023.

⁴ [Roseville hotel to be converted into permanent housing for homeless - Roseville Today](#) April 28, 2022. Accessed November 12, 2022.

⁵ [County acquires Tahoe property as part of ‘Project Homekey’ | Placer County, CA](#). Accessed November 11, 2022.

months the county will re-evaluate whether to extend the program and put the contract through a bidding process.

Further, the BOS at its February 28, 2023 meeting, approved providing two meals a day to individuals who reside at the low barrier shelter. This adds an additional \$40,000 to the settlement cost bringing the total cost to \$1.31 million.⁶



Photo credit: Placer County Public Affairs

Federal Funding

The Department of Housing and Urban Development annually publishes the All-States Funding (ASF) Report. The report of the funds granted to Placer County in calendar year 2021 is listed below. The amount of money granted by HUD, in calendar year 2021, totaled \$1,499,064. At the time of this writing, ASF for Placer County has not been published for 2022.

⁶ [Placer County to provide meals at temporary shelter in Auburn - Roseville Today](#). Accessed March 1, 2023.

2021 All-States Funding Report (excerpt) ⁷
Department of Housing and Urban Development

<u>State</u>	<u>City/County</u>	<u>Funding Recipient</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras	CA-515 Planning Grant 2021	\$39,247
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Stand Up Placer, Inc.	Stand Up Placer Permanent Housing 2021	\$298,899
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Placer County Health and Human Services Adult System of Care	ASOC Permanent Supportive Housing FY2 021	\$502,979
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Placer County Health and Human Services Adult System of Care	ASOC Project Based SPC FY2021	\$49,860
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Placer County Health and Human Services Adult System of Care	Shelter Plus Care Renewal FY2021	\$421,628
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Placer County Health and Human Services Adult System of Care	AMIHPSH FY 2021	\$21,060
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras	CA-515 HMIS Renewal FY2021	\$51,266
California	Roseville, Rocklin/Placer County	Stand Up Placer, Inc.	Stand Up Placer DV Bonus 2021	\$114,125
<u>Total</u>				<u>\$1,499,064</u>

⁷ <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/All-States-2021-Funding-Report.xlsx>.
Accessed November 11, 2022.

Non-Profits

The grand jury examined the funding provided by non-profit organizations by reviewing IRS forms 990. Two of the larger and dedicated non-profits are The Gathering Inn (TGI) and Advocates for Mentally III Housing (AMI). These organizations support the approximately 709 homeless individuals per the 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count.^{8, 9}

The most recent IRS form 990 filings the grand jury could obtain were for the year 2020. The filings by TGI and AMI showed revenues of \$6,506,165 and \$8,138,694, respectively. Both organizations receive a portion of revenues from government funds. The Gathering Inn disclosed that \$3,949,302 came from government grants, which accounts for 60.7 percent of their funding. For the same period AMI reported that \$3,963,600 came from government grants, or 48.7 percent. For the purpose of this report, non-profits account for approximately \$15 million. Additional money from other non-profits varies from year to year.

Total Funding

Source of Funds	Amount	Percentage of Total Funding
Placer County	\$20,000,000	24.7%
Cities	\$17,355,475	21.5%
Legal settlement	\$1,310,000	1.6%
State funding	\$25,707,835	31.8%
Federal funding	\$1,498,884	1.9%
Non-profits (estimate)	\$15,000,000	18.5%
Total	\$80,872,194	100%

Future Spending

In next year's state budget approximately \$3 billion, from the general fund, has been earmarked for homelessness. It is unknown at this time how much of this money will be allocated to Placer County, its cities and town.

⁸ HUD Exchange "Point-in Time Count and Housing Inventory count", www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/pit-hic/. Accessed April 18, 2022.

⁹ [Homelessness appears to decline in Placer County: new data | The Sacramento Bee \(sacbee.com\)](https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/homelessness/article241111111.html). Accessed May 17, 2023.

Conclusion

The grand jury discovered over \$80 million was spent in the county for the periods covered in this report. The money came from funds distributed by county, cities, town, state, federal, and non-profits. The 2023 PIT count of 709 individuals represents 0.2 percent of the Placer County population of 412,300.¹⁰

Through all of its research, the grand jury found no evidence that the county, town, and cities coordinate or discuss monies being spent or possible funding opportunities.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1: Spending for homelessness in Placer County exceeded \$80 million for the periods covered in this report and is made up of funding by city, town, county, state, federal, and non-profit organizations.
- F2: The Placer County does not clearly define or report all sources of funding and expenditures on homelessness in the county budget.
- F3: It appears there is little to no communication or coordination of spending among the incorporated cities and town, and the county.
- F4: Funding for homelessness services comes from various sources including city, town, county, state and federal governments, and non-profit organizations.
- F5: The five incorporated cities and one incorporated town in Placer County do not have homeless budget line items that define sources of funding and expenditures.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends that:

- R1: Placer County establish a full accounting of homeless funding and expenditures to citizens on an annual basis by January 1, 2024, and include in the annual budget going forward.
- R2: Each of the five incorporated cities and one incorporated town in Placer County establish a full accounting of homeless funding and expenditures to its citizens on an annual basis by January 1, 2024, and include in the annual budget going forward.

Request for Response:

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

¹⁰ July 1, 2021 census, www.census.gov/quickfacts/placercountycalifornia, [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Placer County, California](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/placercountycalifornia). Accessed March 9, 2023.

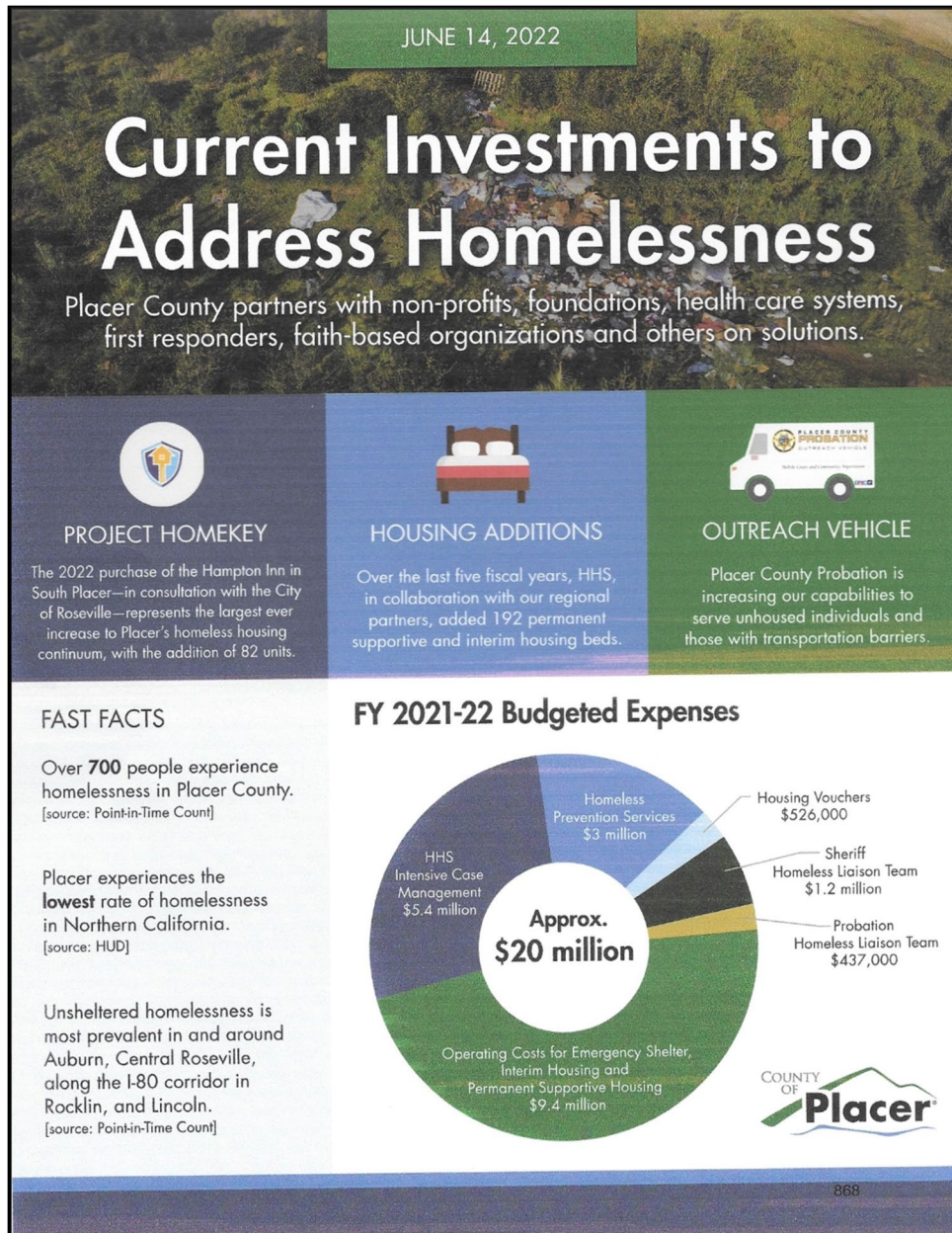
	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Placer County Board of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Ave Auburn, CA 95603	R1	October 1, 2023
Auburn City Council 1225 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 95603	R2	October 1, 2023
Colfax City Council 33 South Main St Colfax, CA 95713	R2	October 1, 2023
Lincoln City Council 600 6th St Lincoln, CA 95648	R2	October 1, 2023
Loomis Town Council 3665 Taylor Rd Loomis, CA 95650	R2	October 1, 2023
Rocklin City Council 4060 Rocklin Rd Rocklin, CA 95677	R2	October 1, 2023
Roseville City Council 311 Vernon St Roseville, CA 95678	R2	October 1, 2023

Copies Sent to:
Placer County Executive Officer
175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Health and Human Services
Director
3901 County Center Dr
Auburn, CA 95603

Appendices

Appendix A County Spending¹¹



¹¹ Current Investments to Address Homelessness, [Investments in Homelessness 6.14.22 v5 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/62346/Investments-in-Homelessness), www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/62346/Investments-in-Homelessness. Accessed February 7, 2023.

Appendix B - Budget Example¹²

Public Works				
County of Placer Cost Center Budget Detail Governmental Funds Fiscal Year 2022-23				
Fund: Road Fund Cost Center: CC19006 Engineering				
Ledger Account	2020-21 Actuals	2021-22 Adopted Budget	2022-23 Recommended Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
1	2	3	4	5
Revenue				
Sales and Use Taxes	25,000	-	-	-
Vehicle Code Fines	6,538	7,500	7,500	7,500
Investment Income	996	-	-	-
Federal Aid - Construction	12,631,811	30,073,000	15,125,000	15,125,000
Federal Aid - Other Programs	439,387	298,000	-	-
State Highway Users Tax	404,940	-	2,570,000	2,570,000
State Aid - Construction	508,899	2,773,000	4,422,000	4,422,000
State Aid - Other Programs	248	-	-	-
Aid from Other Agencies	(18,249)	-	-	-
Planning and Engineering Services	33,079	40,000	40,000	40,000
Road and Street Services	1,424,571	-	-	-
Other Fees and Charges	3,728,119	3,120,000	2,503,000	2,503,000
Insurance - Other	5,660	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	975	-	-	-
Contributions from General Fund	884,109	-	-	-
Operating Transfers In	4,857,338	19,307,584	19,960,000	19,960,000
Total Revenue	\$ 24,933,420	\$ 55,619,084	\$ 44,627,500	\$ 44,627,500
Expenditures / Appropriations				
Salaries and Wages	3,635,811	3,774,716	3,683,615	3,683,615
Salary Savings	-	(262,081)	(249,320)	(249,320)
Employee Paid Sick Leave	71,044	-	-	-
Extra Help	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Overtime and Call Back	5,838	5,000	5,000	5,000
Cafeteria Plans (Non-PERS)	184,499	200,574	195,865	195,865
Uniform Allowance	1,077	1,200	1,200	1,200
Retirement	1,167,000	1,397,615	1,409,810	1,409,810
Payroll Tax	268,021	279,347	274,825	274,825
Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)	201,131	137,280	98,145	98,145
401 (k) Employer Match	2,345	2,250	2,250	2,250
Employee Group Insurance	510,521	523,633	554,830	554,830
Workers Comp Insurance	16,874	17,286	23,695	23,695
Communication Services Expense	20,042	25,000	17,000	17,000
Janitorial Supplies	203	-	-	-
Refuse Disposal	7,347	500	7,000	7,000
Insurance	68,362	95,939	73,660	73,660
Parts	2,081	-	-	-
Maintenance	33,831	35,000	30,000	30,000
Maintenance - Building	23,983	29,228	32,450	32,450
Materials - Buildings & Improvements	128	-	-	-
Services	9	-	-	-
Professional / Membership Dues	16,433	10,000	10,000	10,000
Services and Supplies	79	-	-	-
Misc Expense	346	-	-	-

¹² Placer County FY 2022-2023 Budget, Page 363, [FY-22-23-Budget-Book-Final \(ca.gov\)](http://www.placer.ca.gov/FY-22-23-Budget-Book-Final), www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/62118/FY-22-23-Budget-Book-Final. Accessed February 7, 2023.

Additional Photos



Photo Credit: Richard Ferguson, February 2, 2023





Photo Credit: Barbara Ferguson, February 12, 2023





**Placer County Jails
and
Holding Facilities
Annual Inspection Report
2022-2023**



Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Annual Inspection Report 2022-2023

Summary

The Placer County Grand Jury conducted required inspections at Placer County jails and holding facilities located in Roseville, Auburn, and Tahoe City between the months of August 2022 and February 2023. Multiple visits, both announced and unannounced, were made to the facilities. The grand jury found these facilities to be secure and well organized but found that cleanliness at the Placer County Main Jail and the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility was substandard.

Glossary

Bill Santucci Justice Center: Located in Roseville, the center consists of the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility, Placer County Minimum Security Facility, Howard G. Gibson Courthouse, Placer County Probation Department, Coroner's Unit, and the District Attorney's office.



Photo Credit: Barbara Ferguson

Board of State and Community Corrections: Provides services to the county adult and juvenile systems through inspection of county jails and detention facilities.

Detainee: Any person held in custody.

Holding Facility or Cell: A small, secure room in a police station or courthouse in which a detainee is held temporarily, pending charge, trial, or sentencing.

Inmate: A person confined to an institution such as a prison or county jail.

Jail: A confinement facility of a local law enforcement agency whose primary use is to hold persons pending settlement of criminal charges.

Pods: Self-contained housing units designed to hold a maximum of sixty inmates. They are arranged around exercise yards or support facilities in a decentralized campus pattern. The pods are supervised by prison officers.

Sally Port: A secure, controlled entry way to a facility or enclosure.

WellPath: An outside contractor who manages the medical and mental healthcare in jails, prisons, and inpatient and residential treatment facilities.

Background

California Penal Code § 919(b) mandates: “The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.” While Placer County does not have any prisons within its boundaries, California Attorney General Opinion 18-103, issued on March 10, 2022, states, “Section 919(b)’s reference to public prisons includes local detention facilities.” Penal Code § 921 states, “The grand jury is entitled to free access, at all reasonable times, to the public prisons, and to the examination, without charge, of all public records within the county.”

Methodology

The grand jury reviewed the 2020-2022 Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Biennial Inspection Report, the 2021-2022 Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) Final Report, the PCGJ Responses to the 2021-2022 Final Report, and the Placer County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO) Corrections Division Policy Manual. The PCGJ conducted multiple interviews, and observed inmates in housing, work, and activity areas. The PCGJ performed both announced and unannounced visits to the following facilities:

Jails

- Placer County Main Jail (PCMJ) in Auburn
- South Placer Adult Correctional Facility (SPACF) in Roseville
- South Placer Minimum Security Facility (SPMSF) in Roseville

Holding Facilities

- Howard G. Gibson Courthouse in Roseville
- Historic Courthouse in Auburn
- Placer County Sheriff’s Substation in Tahoe City - Burton Creek

Discussion

JAILS

Placer County Main Jail

The grand jury inspected the Placer County Main Jail located at the Placer County Government Center in Auburn. Jail staff escorted the grand jurors through the facility and provided needed information.



Photo Credit: Bob Bettencourt

This facility, managed and operated by PCSO, was built in 1985 for 108 inmates and has been expanded twice, once in the 1990s and once in the 2000s. According to the corrections officer providing the tour, the capacity is now approximately 380.

At the time of the grand jury’s scheduled inspection on September 12, 2022, there were 321 individuals in custody. Jail staff provided information, answered questions, and escorted the grand jury members to various parts of the jail.

Upon arriving at the PCMJ, detainees enter through the sally port and are checked for COVID-19 only if they are showing symptoms. After test results, and upon entering the facility, the detainees are given a general screening and checked for contraband. If a detainee claims to have a medical condition, jail staff stated they are sent to the hospital for treatment and are subsequently returned to the jail.

Detainees are classified by the jail staff to determine in which area of the facility they will be placed (i.e. COVID-19 positive, gang affiliation, propensity to violence, previous record, time left to serve, etc.). Once detainees are classified, they are assigned to a pod. Depending on classification and population, detainees occupy cells either separately or with a cellmate.

The grand jury conducted multiple unannounced visits to the PCMJ between December 2022, and February 2023. The grand jury noticed trash on the floor in the holding cells on both occasions. The grand jury observed dirty ceilings, what appeared to be mold on the walls, and a lack of ventilation in the women's showers. In addition, there were sanitary napkins on windows, doors, and lighting fixtures.



*Placer County Main Jail Holding Cells
Photos taken by grand jurors on December 5, 2022*

Ceiling



Shower



Lighting Fixture



*Placer County Main Jail
Photos taken by grand jurors on
February 7, 2023*

The grand jury was informed specific inmates are responsible for cleaning the PCMJ twice a day. The grand jury was also informed there were no follow-up inspections done by staff. Based on observations, a request for the policy and procedures for cleaning was made. The grand jury was provided with Policy No. 4-6, Issuance of Cleaning Supplies (Appendix A). This policy does not include written step-by-step procedures for cleaning the facility. When asked why they have no such written procedures, staff stated “We’ve never been dinged by the BSCC.” The BSCC minimum standards for local detention facilities states:

The facility administrator shall develop written policies and procedures for the maintenance of an acceptable level of cleanliness, repair, and safety throughout the facility. Such a plan shall provide for a regular schedule of housekeeping tasks and inspections to identify and correct unsanitary or unsafe conditions or work practices which may be found.¹

The Placer County Sheriff’s Office policy addresses, briefly, what areas are to be cleaned on a nightly basis. It does not address regular housekeeping tasks and inspections to identify and correct unsanitary and unsafe conditions or work practices.

The 2021-2022 grand jury also found there were some areas where cleanliness could be improved, notably the holding area at PCMJ. The current grand jury reviewed the Grand Jury Response Report - Placer County Jails & Holding Facilities – Inspection Report 2021-2022. In that response, the Placer County Sheriff stated:

We partially disagreed with the finding that the Auburn Jail holding cells in booking were unclean. Holding cells are cleaned, at a minimum, twice a day by inmate workers.

In addition to twice daily cleanings, anytime an arrestee is removed from the holding cell for processing, housing in the jail after booking, or released, custody staff enters the cell to inspect and clean it with a hand-held spray gun, Victory Electrostatic Model #MGR20, that contains a liquid formula packet called ProKure V. ProKure V is a spray solution that deodorized, disinfects, and acts as a fungicide to sterilize the cell.

On the date that the Grand Jury inspected the holding cells, it is likely their inspection fell at a time between the twice-daily cleaning sessions. It is common for arrestees to leave trash in the holding cells or markup walls, which would have been visible between the cleaning sessions.

Three different inspections of the PCMJ by the grand jury were conducted in different months and at different times of the day. Each time, the grand jury found trash in the holding cells and cleanliness issues.

¹ <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-C-Title-15.pdf>. Page 72. Accessed March 27, 2023.

South Placer Adult Correctional Facility

The grand jury conducted an announced inspection of the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility (SPACF) on October 11, 2022. This facility was built in 2015 and is located at the Santucci Justice Center in Roseville. Jail staff escorted the grand jury members to various parts of the jail from the detainee entrance to the cell blocks, provided information, and answered questions. The population, at the time of this visit, was 262 detainees. The SPACF has a rated capacity of 300.

The public counter area, located inside the main entrance, provides access to the inmate visiting area. Attorney visits and mental health visits are unlimited and conducted elsewhere within the facility.

The grand jury inspected the intake area, booking area, visitor video area, kitchen, and laundry facilities. The medical services unit, the medium and high security detention pods, and the recreational areas were inspected during the same visit. In the booking area, the grand jury observed several workstations for doing intake interviews, medical screening, fingerprinting, and sobriety evaluations.



Photo credit: Barbara Ferguson

Detainees are brought into the facility through a sally port. The arresting officer processes paperwork and notifies the correctional staff, medical staff, and Central Control that a new detainee has arrived. Part of the intake process includes a complete body search by using a full body scanner. Body cavity searches are also conducted as deemed necessary.

Detainees are assessed based on gender, classification of past criminal convictions, prior assaults on inmates and staff, behavior or psychological problems, escape risk, prison history, and those requiring protective custody. The assessment results determine where the detainee will be housed.

If problems are noted during medical screening, detainees may be sent to a local hospital for further evaluation. Detainees who are extremely intoxicated due to alcohol or drugs, or suffering from significant behavioral health issues, are housed in special sobriety or mental health appropriate cells. Staff physically checks on detainees occupying cells in the medical and psychiatric observation area. Detainees on suicide watch are under constant staff observation.

The inmate facilities are divided into pods, which can hold either thirty or sixty individuals based on configuration. Pods are self-contained with a recreation area and communal television. The pods also contain showers, a commissary kiosk, attorney rooms, monitors for video visits, classrooms, and common areas. Each pod contains cells which hold one or two inmates. Library services, meal delivery, and minor medical attention are also

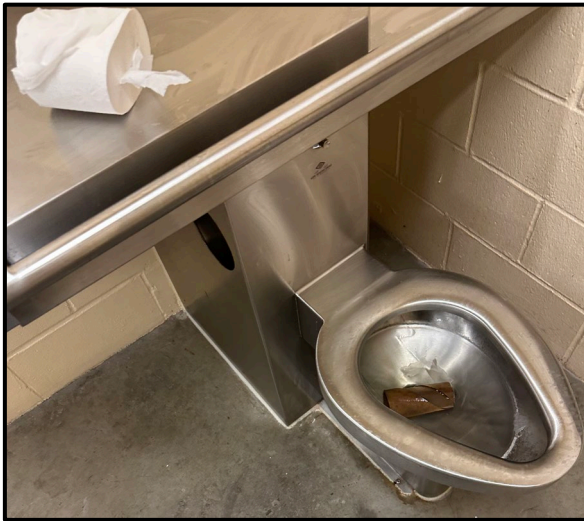
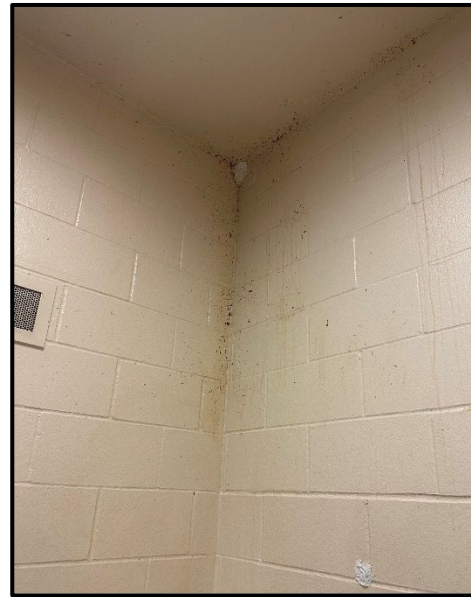
provided in the pods. Inmates share tablets which are used for various functions such as ordering commissary items, filing complaints, and remote education. There is no internet access through these tablets.

The Sheriff's office provides programs to inmates including educational instruction, administered by the Placer School for Adults. These educational opportunities are held via distance learning or educational packets. Inmates can participate in lessons or programs such as anger management, life skills, parenting, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, employment seeking skills, GED, math, and reading. Inmates receive one day off their sentences for every eight days of participation in educational programs. This same formula is used to encourage inmates to work within the facility, including laundry operations, facility cleaning, food preparation, and other chores.

The grand jury was informed a select group of detainees are responsible for cleaning the SPACF. Per staff, cells are cleaned multiple times a day. The Placer County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division policy for the issuance of cleaning supplies also applies to SPACF (see Appendix A).

An unannounced visit to the SPACF was done on January 26, 2023. Jail staff escorted the grand jury through the facility. During the visit, inquiries were made about the temperature of the facility and the grand jury members were informed the temperature is set at approximately 68 degrees. The grand jury also inspected the clothing area and was told detainees are issued color coded jumpsuits, underwear, footwear, and bedding. If a detainee comes in improperly dressed, jumpsuits are provided. There is a weekly schedule for exchanging soiled clothing and bedding. The grand jury found this area to be neat and orderly.

The grand jury observed conditions of both the PCMJ and SPACF were cleaner on the day of the announced visits versus unannounced visits. One staff member, when questioned, told the grand jury members, "We clean up when we know you are coming."



*South Placer Adult Correctional Facility
Photos taken by grand jurors on January 26, 2023*

Shared Procedures and Resources

Operations of the Placer County Main Jail and the programs offered match the operations and programs in the South Placer facilities. These commonalities in procedures and programs are:

- Booking procedures
- Types of cells
- Visitation policies
- Medical evaluation
- Shifts for jail personnel
- Clothing
- Commissary
- Tablets for inmates
- Inmate welfare fund
- Classification
- Staff training, initial and continuing

There are some differences between the two facilities. The SPACF programs come to the inmates since they are housed in self-contained pods. In the earlier designed PCMJ, inmates move to the programs, so the hallways are in constant use as inmates are moving from area to area. This makes traffic control at the Auburn facility critical to maintain inmate physical separation while moving about the facility. This movement is monitored and coordinated through the Central Control station.

From time to time, inmates from other jurisdictions are housed in Auburn. For example, in past years, inmates from neighboring counties were housed in an area set aside exclusively for them, after they had been evacuated due to local emergencies.

The county contracts with WellPath to manage the medical, dental, and behavioral health care needs of inmates and detainees at both facilities. The medical facility at the PCMJ is substantially smaller compared to the SPACF (six beds versus thirty-eight). When medically necessary, the inmates are transferred to SPACF or to a local hospital depending on degree of need.

All meals for Placer County adult and juvenile detention facilities, as well as some community-based charities and homeless camps, are prepared at the SPACF and delivered to the facilities. Meals are prepared in the cook-chill method, allowing for the transport of prepared food to be reheated at the offsite facilities. Attention is paid to individual dietary requirements, such as religious or medical needs.

Important to management of the Placer County jails is the implementation of AB109 (Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011).² The grand jury was told AB109 continues to have a profound negative impact on county jails. Staff reports that inmates with less serious

² https://www.bscc.ca.gov/m_realignment/. Accessed April 12, 2023.

felonies are transferred to county jails from state prisons. This continues to affect the make-up of local jail populations as well as the environment of the jail.

South Placer Minimum Security Facility

The grand jury inspected the South Placer Minimum Security Facility (SPMSF) located adjacent to the SPACF on October 11, 2022. Construction of this facility was completed in 2015. Approximately sixty male and sixty female minimum security inmates can be housed in this stand-alone building. The PCGJ was informed that on March 27, 2023, there were currently ninety-eight inmates.



Photo credit: Barbara Ferguson

The SPMSF, while a separate building, is within the boundaries of the Santucci Justice Center. The main differences between the SPACF and the SPMSF are that minimum security inmates are housed in barracks and can work in the kitchen, laundry, or sewing areas. The facility currently has culinary arts and forklift certification programs. These inmates receive modest compensation and can work time off their sentences. The facility was clean, well maintained, and orderly at the time of the inspection.

Groundbreaking for a new vocational education facility took place on April 1, 2023. The new facility will provide classroom space for education and mental health services. This facility will include fifteen beds for inmates with greater mental health needs, along with thirty beds for inmates without special needs. This building is located immediately adjacent to the SPMSF. Once the center opens, they plan to add carpentry, welding, and landscape construction programs along with the current culinary arts and forklift certifications.

HOLDING FACILITIES

Howard G. Gibson Courthouse

The grand jury conducted its annual inspection of the Howard G. Gibson Courthouse holding facility. Opened in July 2008, the facility is clean, secure, and well maintained. Jail staff provided a briefing and guided tour of this facility.

The largest holding area, located in the courthouse basement, is connected to the jail by an underground tunnel. When detainees are scheduled for their court appearance, they are collected from their jail cell and escorted to the holding cell via the underground tunnel. They are then held in this area until summoned to a courtroom. Once summoned, detainees travel by elevator, one at a time, to the appropriate courtroom upstairs and are held in a courtroom holding cell until their case is called.

The holding cells in the courthouse basement are capable of holding up to fifty detainees. The cells allow for the separation of detainees by age, gender, gang affiliation, special needs, and alleged crimes. Multiple detainees may be put in the same cell if they are in a

corresponding category. All cells have water and toilet facilities. The toilet is out of direct view of staff and security cameras. The entire space has a central control surveillance operation and is staffed by at least two deputies. During peak times, an additional deputy may be assigned.

Holding cells are arranged so there are cells and attorney rooms located near each courtroom. There are two elevators dedicated to transporting detainees to and from the proper floor and courtroom when called.

Detainees are then met by a deputy who escorts them to the proper courtroom holding cell. The elevators, for security reasons, hold one detainee. A deputy does not ride in the elevator unless the detainee requires special attention. Communication between deputies and courtroom bailiffs alert control officers as to which detainee will be needed next and in which courtroom. Once detainees are finished with court proceedings, they are transported back to their jail cell. Detainees held through lunchtime are provided a sack lunch and beverage.

Attorney-client consultation rooms are located throughout the basement holding area as well as outside each courtroom. Attorney rooms are separated by glass partitions and allow for confidential attorney-client discussions.

Should a detainee require emergency medical attention, staff will call 911. For general medical or behavioral attention, SPACF healthcare professionals are called to evaluate the detainee. Staff are trained and certified in first aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). All first aid equipment is readily available for use by staff.

The grand jury found the holding facility to be secure, orderly, and well-run.

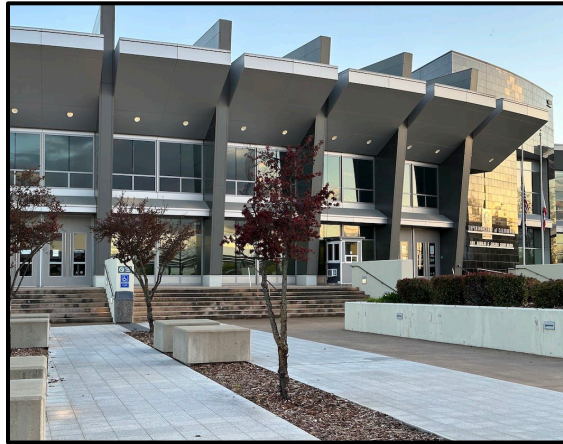


Photo Credit: Barbara Ferguson

Historic Auburn Courthouse

The Historic Auburn Courthouse, which was dedicated on July 4, 1898, has two areas of operation. The first area is the main floor for public tours and the security checkpoint for visitors entering the courthouse. The Placer County Museum is located on this level. The second area of operations, located on the second floor and above, contains courtrooms for arraignments, preliminary hearings, and trials.



Photo credit: Placer County Public Affairs

The Placer County Sheriff's Office is responsible for security at the courthouse. Staff provides security at the main entrance, courtrooms, holding cells, and the sally port. The holding cells are for detainees with scheduled court appearances and are used weekdays during normal business hours. They are not used for overnight confinement. Detainees are transported by a deputy sheriff to the Historic Auburn Courthouse from either the South Placer or Auburn facilities. Transported detainees arrive at the courthouse with a sack lunch prepared at the South Placer facility.

The holding cells were functional and clean. They are cleaned daily after each use. Jail staff are well trained and annually certified in first aid, CPR, and AED. All first aid equipment is readily available for use. Deputies are armed since this facility is open to the public. The sally port was clean and functional. The grand jury found the holding facilities to be secure, orderly, and well-run.

An upgraded video system was installed last year and is an improvement over the old system. The new system was installed with three monitoring locations: main floor entrance, and second and third floor control areas. Several cameras were installed around the exterior perimeter of the building as well as throughout the interior. The exterior cameras provide an overview of the entire exterior of the courthouse property to include walkways, stairs, and parking areas. Interior cameras now provide monitoring of activity in all interior areas, secure and public stairways, courtrooms, holding cells, and secure and public hallways.

Placer County Sheriff's Office Tahoe Substation

The grand jury performed its annual inspection of the PCSO Tahoe Substation, also known as Burton Creek. This facility was built in 1959, in preparation for the 1960 Winter Olympics. The location continues operations as a Placer County Sheriff's substation, housing a holding facility, Superior Court, and several related offices.



Photo credit: Placer County Public Affairs

Upon arrival, the grand jury found the outside appearance of the facility to be clean and well maintained. The building has been painted and repaired over the years. It does not meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Despite the upkeep and cleanliness, the facility appears to have outlived its usefulness and ability to be modernized. The grand jury learned there are environmental concerns to be considered at the current location, which further

inhibit the ability to make any meaningful structural improvements. A new facility is planned to be built on the same property, after which the current facility will become a courthouse and offices for court officials. At the present time there is no schedule for when construction will begin.

Employee and visitor vehicles are parked in the open parking lots in front and on the sides of the building. The rear parking area is reserved for official vehicles and is posted as a secure area, although there is no fence or gate surrounding the facility.

Site security was upgraded with the installation of a state-of-the-art video security system. The new system, installed in June 2021, shows the exterior of the building, all cells, the court room, hallways, and the front desk. A large monitor is located in the administrative sergeant's office.

There are three holding cells in the Tahoe Substation. Two cells are for male detainees, and one is for females. Each cell has two single bunks, a sink, and toilet. Security cameras have been installed in each cell, allowing for monitoring of the detainees. The cameras are aimed so that they do not view the toilet area, maintaining privacy. The grand jury observed the cells, floors, walls, bunks, sinks, and toilets to be clean and free from graffiti or other damage.

There are no detainees housed at this facility overnight. In most situations, persons being held are transported to the PCMJ in Auburn. It was noted that it takes a deputy off the street for four hours or more to make the round trip to Auburn from Tahoe City. Transport to the PCMJ is generally done during regular business hours. Outside normal business hours at the Tahoe Substation, or when the roads to Auburn are impassable due to snow, fire, mudslide, or other issues, detainees are transported to the Nevada County Jail in Truckee.

Information regarding the booking and jail services contract between PCSO and Nevada County Sheriff's Office was provided to the grand jury (see Appendix B). This ongoing flat rate contract currently costs Placer County \$502,648 annually, subject to an automatic 3 percent increase per year. This contract amount is paid regardless of the number of bookings involved. Records show there were sixty-one Placer County inmates and detainees transported to and housed at the Nevada County jail from July 2022 through February 2023.

The grand jury found the inspected holding facility to be secure and well-run.

Conclusion

The Placer County Grand Jury found all facilities to be secure and well run. Cleanliness is an issue at both the Placer County Main Jail and South Placer Adult Correctional Facility. During the investigation, it was discovered the Placer County Sheriff's Office does not have any written policy or procedures for cleaning the facilities that meets Board of State and Community Corrections guidelines.

Findings

The grand jury found that:

- F1:** Showers, toilets, sinks, and cells are not adequately cleaned in the Placer County Main Jail and South Placer Adult Correctional Facility.
- F2:** The Placer County Sheriff's Office lacks detailed procedures for cleaning of the facilities and staff follow-up.
- F3:** The Placer County Sheriff's Office Tahoe Substation is outdated and needs to be replaced.
- F4:** All facilities appeared well organized, safe, and secure.
- F5:** California Assembly Bill 109 continues to have a profound negative impact on the county jail system.

Recommendations

The grand jury recommends that:

- R1:** The Placer County Sheriff develop written policies and procedures for cleaning of the cells, showers, and common areas that meet Board of State and Community Corrections standards for all facilities by September 1, 2023.
- R2:** The Placer County Sheriff develop a method to measure, follow-up, and track the cleaning of holding cells, showers, and common areas for all facilities by September 1, 2023.
- R3:** The Placer County Board of Supervisors provide a public progress report and timeline to the citizens of Placer County on the status of the Placer County Sheriff's Office Tahoe Substation's new facility by October 1, 2023.

Required Response:

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

	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Placer County Sheriff 2929 Richardson Dr Auburn, CA 95603	R1, R2	September 1, 2023
Placer County Board of Supervisors 175 Fulweiler Ave Auburn, CA 95603	R3	October 1, 2023

Copies Sent to:

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way
Sacramento, CA 95833

Appendix A – Issuance of Cleaning Supplies

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CORRECTIONS DIVISION
POLICY MANUAL



TITLE:	ISSUANCE OF CLEANING SUPPLIES	NO:	4-6
---------------	--------------------------------------	------------	------------

EFFECTIVE	07/01/92	REVISED	09/04/12	REVISED	10/06/13	REVISED	10/03/19
REVISED	01/01/20	REVISED	00/00/00	REVISED	00/00/00	REVISED	00/00/00

POLICY
In order to maintain a clean environment within the tanks and pods, cleaning supplies are issued daily to the inmates.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
California Code of Regulations, Title 15	1280	Facility Sanitation, Safety and Maintenance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cleaning supplies will be issued on a daily basis to inmates at the Auburn and South Placer Jails for inmates to clean the tanks and pods.

AUBURN AND SOUTH PLACER JAIL

1. After nightly lockdown, it is the responsibility of the Pod and Floor Officers to open the janitor closets within their assigned areas and provide the tank workers with cleaning supplies. The closets will be locked while supplies are in use.
2. For the Auburn Jail, Disciplinary Separation tanks A and B will be cleaned on a nightly basis by MS4 inmate workers while supervised by a Floor Officer. For the South Placer Jail, all ad/seg tanks which do not have a tank worker located in Housing Unit 2 will be cleaned on a nightly basis by inmate worker while supervised by a Floor Officer.
3. Inmates/tank workers will clean the housing areas thoroughly. When the cleaning duties have been completed, supplies will be returned to the closet and the closets locked. The Floor Officers and Pod Officers shall examine the equipment to ensure it has not been tampered with to avoid injuries to fellow officers and also to inmates.
4. Whenever the supply closets are left open, it will be the responsibility of the floor or pod officer to monitor the supplies and cleaning instruments within it. **AT NO TIME IS A SUPPLY CLOSET TO BE LEFT OPEN WITHOUT AN OFFICER PRESENT IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA.**
5. When cleaning supply quantities are low, a list shall be given to the Facility Services Officer so the supplies can be replaced.

**PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CORRECTIONS DIVISION
POLICY MANUAL**



TITLE: ISSUANCE OF CLEANING SUPPLIES	NO: 4-6
---	----------------

- The medical officer is responsible for coordination the cleaning of the medical unit by inmate workers.

AT NO TIME SHALL A STAFF MEMBER AND INMATE(S) BE IN A CLEANING CLOSET AT THE SAME TIME.

APPROVAL: _____ **DATE:** _____
 Corrections Commander

APPENDIX B - Agreement for Booking and Jail Services

Page 1 of 2

FIFTH AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT BETWEEN NEVADA COUNTY AND PLACER COUNTY

THIS FIFTH AMENDMENT is executed by and between the County of Placer and County of Nevada. Said Amendment will amend the prior agreement between the parties entitled **Agreement for Booking and Jail Services** executed on June 13, 2017 by Nevada County Resolution Number 17-253.

This amendment shall extend the term of the Agreement for Booking and Jail Services to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, with the option to renew annually based on mutual written agreement by June 1st of each year; and

The parties agree to amend selected sections as follows:

2. Term and Termination

This amendment extends the Agreement to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, provided however, that the term may be renewed under the same terms and conditions upon notice of either party of its intent to renew, which notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered no later than June 1st of any year. Either party shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement at any time without cause by giving the other party ninety (90) days advance written notice of the same. The County of Nevada shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement at any time if the County of Placer is more than sixty (60) days delinquent in making any payments hereunder to the County of Nevada.

4. Compensation

The County of Placer agrees to pay the County of Nevada the sum of \$502,648 for the contract year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The County of Placer shall continue to pay the County of Nevada on a quarterly basis the sum due herein in equal installments of \$125,662 on September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1 during the contract period. In the event this Agreement is renewed, on or before June 1st of each year, the Placer County Sheriff and the Nevada County Sheriff shall agree on the amount of compensation set forth in Exhibit A. The annual increase over the previous year is not to exceed 3%, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing. The compensation provided shall be the full compensation for all services provided pursuant to this agreement. No other fees, including booking fees, shall be imposed for such services.

In all other respects the prior agreement of the parties shall remain in full force and effect except as amended herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the date indicated:

COUNTY OF NEVADA

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

County Counsel, County of Nevada

Date

COUNTY OF PLACER

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Date

Placer County Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

County Counsel, County of Placer

Date



Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility Annual Inspection



Photo credit: Monica Gavia



Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility Annual Inspection

Summary

The California Penal Code § 919(b) authorizes county grand juries to inspect all jails and holding facilities within county boundaries.¹ Historically, although not legally mandated, the Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) has also included the inspection of the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) located in Auburn. The 2022-2023 grand jury toured and inspected the facility on October 7, 2022.

A supervising deputy probation officer conducted the inspection tour. The grand jurors found the facility to be clean and well maintained. Services provided include education, health, mental health, social awareness, and special programs. These programs are taught by contracted providers, credentialed teachers, volunteers, and probation staff. The JDF staff are well-trained, knowledgeable, and supportive of the detainees and are involved in all aspects of services available.

Background

Historically, although not legally mandated, the PCGJ inspects the JDF annually. The JDF in Placer County is operated by the probation department in accordance with Title 15, Section 5, Division 4, of the California Code of Regulations and Chapter 2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, specifically § 636.2 and § 852.

Methodology

Members of the grand jury inspected the JDF on October 7, 2022. The grand jurors also reviewed the 2020-2022 Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) biennial report.² Previous grand jury reports on the JDF were referenced for past data.

Discussion

Upon arrival at the JDF, the grand jurors noted that the grounds were well-manicured. The twenty-two-year-old facility appeared to be well maintained, clean, and orderly. The officer brought to the grand jury's attention the starkness of the facility. To make the facility less intimidating to detainees, the JDF staff plans to refresh the aesthetics of the interior which will include repainting walls in a more colorful palette, adding murals, and posting positive affirmations and quotes.

¹ California Legislative Information

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=919&lawCode=PEN. Accessed February 13, 2023.

https://california.public.law/codes/ca_penal_code_section_919. Accessed February 2, 2023.

² BSCC – Board of State and Community Corrections (ca.gov), Local Detention Facility Inspection Reports – BSCC. Accessed October 19, 2022.

All visitors are subject to screening by a sworn officer and must pass through a metal detector. A supervising deputy probation officer directed the tour and provided information about the day-to-day operations of the facility while describing the functions and use of each area.

The maximum capacity of the facility is seventy-eight. Presently, the daytime ratio of staff to detainees is 1:8, well within BSCC requirements of 1:10. According to California Law, Welfare and Institutions Code, § 601 and § 602, two types of offenders can be housed in California juvenile detention facilities. Detainees are classified as Section 601 status offenders or Section 602 wards. Currently, there are twenty Section 601 status offenders and no Section 602 wards at the facility.

A Section 601 status offender has committed low-level offenses as a youth.³ According to the Placer County Government website, a referral is made by a school official or a law enforcement officer through a citation to the appropriate agency. Examples of these offenses include:

- **Truancy:** the action of staying away from school without good reason;
- **Youth beyond parental control:** refusing to obey reasonable and proper orders of the minor's parents or guardians; and
- **Violation of any city or county ordinance:** underage alcohol usage, curfew violation, or possession of controlled substances.

Currently, the average length of time juveniles are detained is nine days. The JDF staff's main goals are to help youth learn to manage behaviors and social issues, thus returning them to their family or custodian as quickly as possible. Staff reported a low level of repeat offenders, approximately ten to fifteen percent.

³ California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 601 (public. Law).
Accessed February 13, 2023.

Placer County Government Website, Placer County, CA | Official Website
www.placer.ca.gov/1903/Section-601-Status-Offenders. Accessed January 20, 2023.

A Section 602 ward has committed a crime and is placed under formal wardship.⁴
These offenses/crimes include:

- **Infraction:** The least serious offense, specific statute, rule, or local ordinance, and is generally punishable by a fine. Many motor vehicle violations are considered infractions;
- **Misdemeanor:** A less serious offense for which the offender may be sentenced to probation, county jail, juvenile detention facility, incurs a fine, or some combination; and
- **Felony:** The most serious type of crime for which an offender may be sentenced to state prison, Department of Juvenile Justice, county jail, or juvenile detention facility.

The JDF currently does not have any Section 602 wards. They have historically been housed in California Youth Authority (CYA) facilities.

The passage of the Division of Juvenile Justice Realignment Implementation SB 823 (2019-2020), effective July 1, 2021, is changing the population and makeup of juvenile detention facilities.⁵ The bill realigns and disperses the serious felony juvenile offender population from state to county facilities. Detainees in the CYA facilities are to be allocated to county detention centers, thereby increasing the population within county juvenile detention facilities across the state. According to JDF staff, Section 601 status offenders and Section 602 wards must be housed apart and have no contact with each other. The JDF has separate quarters available for Section 602 wards and are developing a day-to-day course of action in anticipation of the arrival of high-level offenders.

⁴ [California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 602 \(public. Law\)](#).

Accessed February 13, 2023.

[Placer County Government Website, Placer County, CA | Official Website](#)
www.placer.ca.gov/1904/Section-602-Wards. Accessed February 13, 2023.

⁵ ["Juvenile Justice Realignment: A policy analysis of California Senate B" by Stewart Patri \(sjsu.edu\) https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/etd_projects/1037/](#). Accessed January 20, 2023.

The Placer County 2022-2023 budget for the Juvenile Probation Detention and Treatment Services Department is \$7,416,489. This funding allows the facility to offer educational and personal growth opportunities to the detainees. These include:

- Education—live classroom setting provided by the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) including:
 - General Educational Development (GED) studies
 - Vocational education—in-person and virtual
 - Academic credit recovery program⁶
- Daily structured exercise, minimum of one hour per day
- Substance abuse programs
- Mental health services
- Medical services
- Individual and family counseling
- Religious services available upon request
- Scheduled visiting hours, up to two hours at a time

The Placer Youth Center program is offered to youth who desire to remain in the area. As noted on the Placer County website:

The Placer Youth Center (PYC) is an in-house placement opportunity designed to keep Placer County youth near their families, rather than send them out of county to bootcamps or group homes. Our mission is to deliver a comprehensive commitment placement program intended to provide youth the tools needed for success upon reentry into our community. PYC is a safe, structured, home-like environment. Probation staff work closely with Wraparound, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Children’s System of Care (CSOC), Placer County Office of Education (PCOE), Golden Sierra, Granite Wellness, Juvenile Family Treatment Court (JFTC), Youth Empowerment Services (YES!), ACTion team, and social workers utilizing education, programming, and services to foster positive change and healthy habits for our youth.⁷

Additional programs provided by private organizations are available for educational and social enhancement. For instance, the Auburn Hip Hop Congress program, “Urban Arts for Change,” is designed to provide at-risk youth access to the arts. Through this program participants can explore a variety of written and

⁶ Academic Credit Recovery <https://redcomet.org/the-complete-guide-to-credit-recovery-programs>. Accessed February 8, 2023.

⁷ Placer County Government Website, [Placer County, CA | Official Website www.placer.ca.gov/7425/Juvenile-Detention](http://www.placer.ca.gov/7425/Juvenile-Detention). Accessed October 31, 2022.

performance art forms in workshop settings. The Healthy Relationships program, “Love Notes,” helps build skills and knowledge for healthy and successful relationships with partners, family, friends, and co-workers.⁸

The nutritional needs of detainees are met through meals provided at the facility. Meals are prepared at the Santucci Justice Center in Roseville. They are individually packaged and delivered daily to the juvenile center.

Conclusion

The 2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury’s inspection of the JDF found the building and grounds clean, well-maintained, and in good condition. The staff takes pride in the facility evidenced by their desire to update the aesthetics of the shared spaces, making the facility a more calming and less stressful environment.

The day-to-day operations of the facility are well-organized. Educational programs, extra-curricular activities, and physical exercise are supervised by JDF staff, credentialed teachers, and employees of PCOE, and approved private organizations. These activities help to advance the educational, physical, and social development of the youth.

While the current population of the JDF consists of low-level status offenders (Section 601), with the passage of SB 823, high-level wards (Section 602) will eventually be housed in the same facility, but in a separate section. This will change the day-to-day operations. Staff are currently formulating a plan of action to accommodate this population.

Findings

The grand jury found:

- F1:** The Juvenile Detention Facility meets all criteria mandated by the Board of State and Community Corrections in operating such a facility.
- F2:** There are a variety of services provided to meet the needs of the youth detained in the Juvenile Detention Facility.
- F3:** Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility will be impacted with the closure of California Youth Authority facilities.

Recommendations

The grand jury has no recommendations.

Request for Response

No response required.

⁸ Placer County Government Website, [Placer County, CA | Official Website](https://www.placer.ca.gov/1939/Programs-Services)
www.placer.ca.gov/1939/Programs-Services. Accessed October 31, 2022.

Copies Sent to:

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Probation Department

Chief Probation Officer
2929 Richardson Dr, Suite B
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility

Program Manager
11260 B Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Five-Year Follow-Up

To The 2017-2018 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report



Five-Year Follow-Up To The 2017-2018 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report

Summary

Every year the Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) publishes a final report. The reports provide citizens of the county an insight into county and city governments, special districts, schools, libraries, and jails. These reports may offer recommendations to the different entities for possible improvement in their procedures or operations. This year the 2022-2023 grand jury looked back five years to the recommendations from the 2017-2018 final report and investigated the updated status of those recommendations.

Background

At the end of their term, PCGJ publishes a report that is released to the public by June 30th. The final report includes reports on all investigations and inspections conducted during the term. Each report contains findings the grand jury discovered during their investigation and may also contain recommendations where the grand jury believes improvements could be made. Penal Code § 933.05 requires county, city, school districts, and special districts' governing boards to respond to findings and recommendations included in the reports.

Methodology

The 2022-2023 grand jury believes it is important to follow-up on the status of responses received previously. Looking back five years, the grand jury reviewed the reports and responses from the 2017-2018 final report and the response report published in the fall of 2018.

The grand jury 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*.

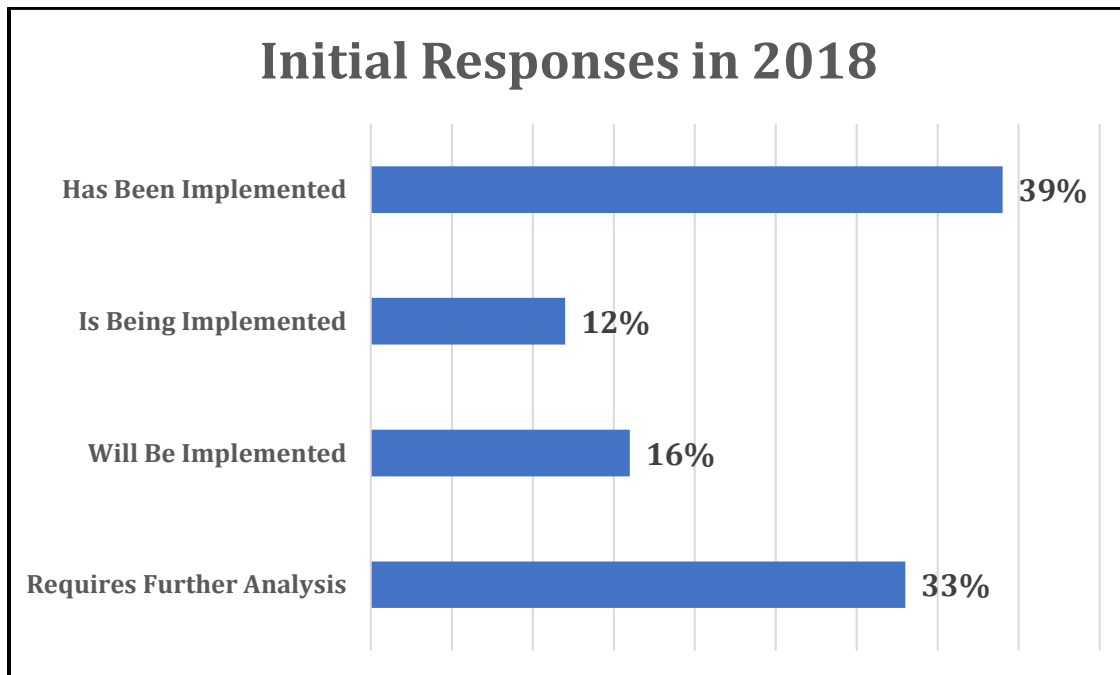
While these responses are not prohibited by Penal Code § 933.05, it does not give the grand jury knowledge of whether the recommendation was implemented.

Seventeen letters were sent in November 2022 to individuals or entities who had used one of the three statements above in their initial response in 2018. They were requested to provide an update to the grand jury on each of the recommendations. Reminder letters were sent in January 2023 to those who had not replied. The grand jury received responses from everyone who was contacted.

Discussion

The 2017-2018 final report contained seven individual investigation reports and two inspection reports. Within those nine reports there were ninety-one recommendations. At times, different entities are required to respond to the same recommendation, thus the grand jury received 150 responses to the ninety-one recommendations.

The chart below shows the four acceptable responses and the initial percentage of each response from 2018. It was encouraging to see 39 percent of the recommendations had already been implemented within five months of the final report being published. The grand jury delved deeper to learn the status of the three categories: *is being implemented*, *will be implemented*, and *requires further analysis*.



After receiving updates, the grand jury found the success rate for the implementation of the recommendations from the 2017-2018 final report met the intention of the original recommendations. Additional recommendations had been implemented as well as several that are ongoing.

In the 2017-2018 report, there were recommendations made regarding the Roseville Community Development Corporation (RCDC). The recommendations were implemented and included in the chart below. The grand jury was informed during this review that in August 2021, the California Secretary of State approved the dissolution of the RCDC.

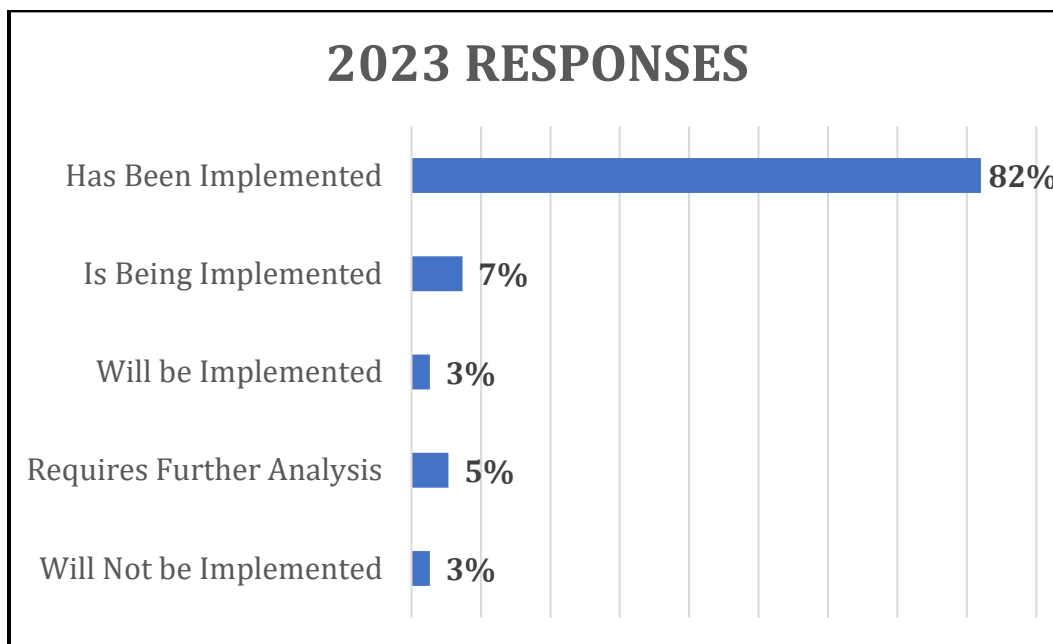
The grand jury found two recommendations would not be implemented. The first recommendation was a request for school districts to purchase cell phones that would be integrated into their internal communication systems and located in classrooms. This recommendation was deemed unwarranted by the county office of education and four high

school districts. These entities already have an internal communication system at each site and phones in each classroom. Purchasing additional cell phones for classroom use, to be associated with that system already in place, would create an unnecessary second system.

The other recommendation not being implemented was regarding the Nevada County Booking and Jail Services Contract between Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office. The grand jury recommended "the county renegotiate the contract for more reasonable booking fees per inmate."¹ The contract is reviewed on an annual basis and uses several metrics to determine the cost to the county.

The PCGJ's primary concern was the fact that 5 percent of the recommendations still *require further analysis*. The grand jury believes after a five-year period, a decision regarding the implementation of the recommendations should have been made.

The chart below reflects the final tally of the responses from the 2017-2018 final report's recommendations.



¹ Placer County Grand Jury Final Report 2017-2018, Page 51, www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury/grand-jury-reports-resolutions/grand-jury-reports-2017-2018. Accessed March 1, 2023.

Conclusion

The grand jury found 82 percent of the recommendations from the 2017-2018 final report have been implemented. In addition, 7 percent are *being implemented*. According to the updated responses, an additional 3 percent *will be implemented*. If all recommendations already implemented, *are being*, or *will be implemented* come to fruition, a total of 92 percent of the recommendations from 2017-2018 will be implemented.

Findings

The grand jury found that:

- F1:** Thirty-nine percent of the recommendations were implemented within the first six months of the final report being published.
- F2:** Eighty-two percent of the recommendations were implemented within the five-year review period.
- F3:** Five percent of the responding entities stated the recommendation(s) still require further analysis.
- F4:** Three percent of the responding entities stated the recommendation(s) will not be implemented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this report.

Copies sent to:

Foresthill High School

Ms. Erin Davenport, Principal
23319 Foresthill Rd
Foresthill, CA 95631

Lincoln High School

Ms. Jennifer Hladun, Principal
790 J St
Lincoln, CA 95648

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Community Development Resource Agency

Mr. David Kwong, Director
3091 County Center Dr
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Executive Officer

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Juvenile Detention Center

Mr. Eric Guereña, Manager
11260 B St
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Office of Education

Ms. Gayle Garbolino, Superintendent
360 Nevada St
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Probation Department

Mr. Marshall Hopper, Chief
10810 Justice Center Dr
Suite 170
Roseville, CA 95678

Placer County Sheriff's Office

Wayne Woo, Sheriff
2929 Richardson Dr
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer Union High School District Board of Trustees

13000 New Airport Rd
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer Union High School District

Dr. George Sziraki, Superintendent
13000 New Airport Rd
Auburn, CA 95603

Roseville City Council

City of Roseville
311 Vernon St
Roseville, CA 95678

City of Roseville

Mr. Dominick Casey, City Manager
311 Vernon St
Suite 200
Roseville, CA 95678

Roseville High School District Board of Trustees

1750 Cirby Way
Roseville, CA 95661

Roseville High School District

Mr. John Becker, Superintendent
1750 Cirby Way
Roseville, CA 95661

Roseville High School

Dr. Nicholas Richter, Principal
1 Tiger Way
Roseville, CA 95678

Western Placer Unified School District

Ms. Kerry Callahan, Superintendent
600 Sixth St
Suite 400
Lincoln, CA 95648

Compliance and Accountability

Responses to the 2021-2022 Final Report



Compliance and Accountability Responses to the 2021-2022 Final Report

Summary

The primary duty of the Placer County Grand Jury is to investigate the functions of city and county government, schools, 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 final report provides findings and recommendations for each investigation and inspection. Traditionally, a response report is issued in the November timeframe by the grand jury containing the responses from the investigated entities to their respective recommendations.

The 2022-2023 grand jury believes it is important to verify that the responses were compliant with Penal Code § 933.05, which outlines what each response is to include. The intent of this report is to confirm that entities complied with the penal code.

Background

The grand jury reviews the responses and compiles the response report for publication. In a review of past Placer County Grand Jury final reports, it has been identified that several responses have not complied with Penal Code § 933.05. The first compliance report was published by the 2020-2021 grand jury. This was the first time there had been follow-up to the responses and held the responding entities accountable.

Methodology

The grand jury reviewed all the reports and responses to the 2021-2022 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report, which was published on June 30, 2022. The final report contained nine individual reports, with seventy findings and thirty-four recommendations. The current grand jury did not review nor have access to the prior grand jury's investigative evidence, which is confidential.

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 is a fact? According to the California Grand Jury Association (CGJA) facts are:

- information proven to be true,
- verified by several sources,
- objective – not subject to interpretation, and
- precise.

What is a Finding?

Once the grand jury has determined the facts, findings are developed. The grand jury's findings are listed in each report and may or may not lead to a recommendation. What is a finding? Per the CGJA, findings are:

- conclusions or value judgments based on verified facts which express approval or disapproval,
- the link between the facts and the recommendations.

What is a Recommendation?

From the findings, recommendations are written, which are actions the grand jury concludes the investigated/inspected entities should implement. Recommendations should be SMART, meaning they must be:

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**ctionable
- **R**easonable
- **T**ime framed

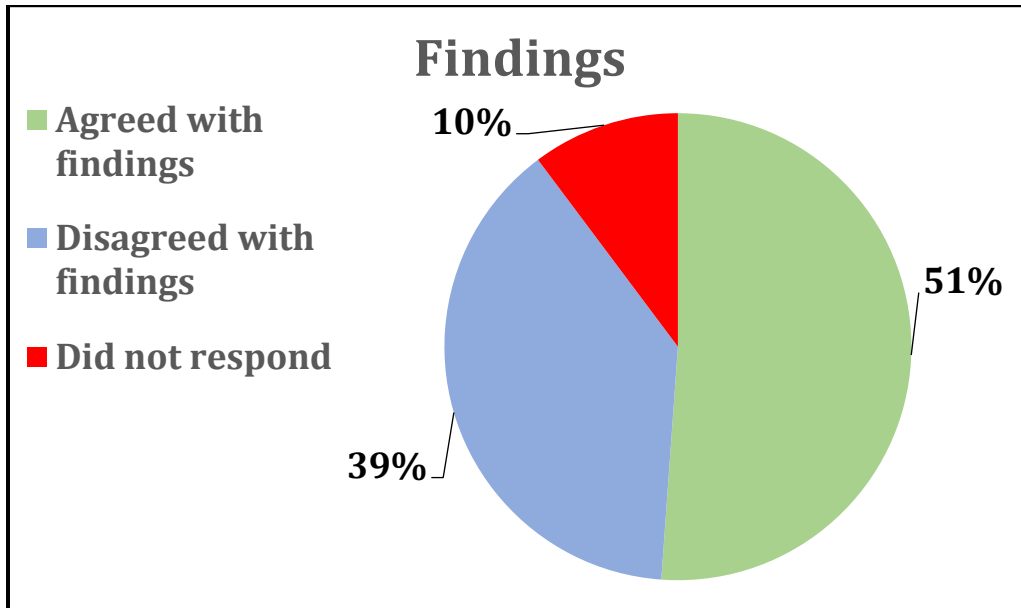
What is a Compliant Response?

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.

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.**

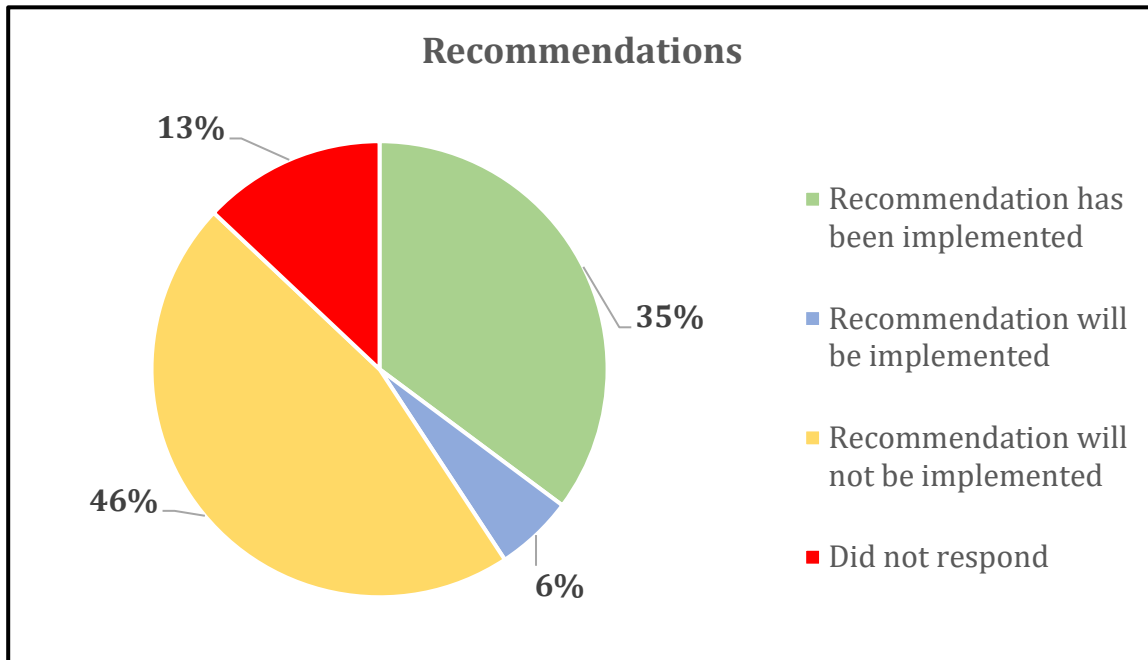
The grand jury final report released in June 2022 included seventy findings. An analysis of the responses was done to determine how many respondents agreed or disagreed with the findings or did not reply. The chart below shows the breakdown of that analysis.



The second step in responding is to inform the grand jury the status of each of the recommendations in a report. There were thirty-four recommendations in the grand jury report that required fifty-four individuals to respond. 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</u> , <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 <u>will not be implemented</u> because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, <i>with an explanation</i> , therefore.

The chart below provides the implementation statistics for the recommendations by the respondents to the nine reports published by the Placer County Grand Jury in June 2022.



The tables on the following pages list each of the nine reports. Included is the summary of each report along with the findings, recommendations, and if the response(s) given to each recommendation is compliant with the penal code. From the data provided in these tables, the current grand jury developed their findings and recommendations for this report, which can be found starting on page 43. Penal Code § 933.05 can be found at the end of the report.

City of Colfax - Citizen Complaint Process

Summary

The 2021-2022 Placer County Grand Jury received a citizen complaint alleging “harassment,” “bullying,” and “slander” by a City of Colfax elected official as described by the complainant on their completed Placer County Grand Jury Confidential Complaint Form. The citizen first addressed these concerns with the Placer County Assistant to the Undersheriff, was directed to the Colfax city manager, and then told to bring the concern to city council members or the grand jury. This was also detailed on the complainant’s grand jury complaint form.

California Penal Code § 919(c) states, in part, “The grand jury shall inquire into willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within the county.” The grand jury determined after interviews with the complainant and witnesses that the alleged behavior did not rise to the level of “willful or corrupt misconduct.” As a result of information uncovered in the course of this investigation, the grand jury instead focused on the city’s complaint process and not the alleged misconduct activity by any public official.

City of Colfax - Citizen Complaint Process

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F1: The City of Colfax has an incomplete complaint process.	X				R1: By October 1, 2022, the city manager and other City of Colfax officials shall review and publish documented policies and processes on managing citizens' complaints. <i>Response from City Manager</i>	X				Compliant
F2: The City of Colfax does not provide training on its complaint process to city employees.	X				R2: By October 1, 2022, the city shall provide training to management staff and city officials on the citizen complaint process and their responsibilities on how to handle complaints. <i>Response from City Manager</i>	X				Compliant
F3: The Colfax City Complaint Form is not easily accessible on the City of Colfax website and it is not clear on what happens to the complaint once filed.	X				R3: By October 1, 2022, the City of Colfax shall make the complaint form and instructions easily accessible and available in a drop-down menu on the city's main web page. <i>Response from City Manager</i>	X				Compliant
F4: The city manager stated that he lacked the knowledge of the city's citizen complaint process, as he disclosed in his interview with the grand jury.	X				R4: By November 1, 2022, the Colfax City management will communicate the new complaint process and inform Colfax citizens about the process and how to file a complaint. <i>Response from City Manager</i>	X				Compliant

City of Colfax - Citizen Complaint Process

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
					R5: By November 1, 2022, all complaints shall follow a written complaint process utilizing the confidential complaint form. <i>Response from City Manager</i>	X				Compliant

Cybersecurity - Is Placer County Prepared for Cyber Threats?

Summary

Government entities and private businesses face the daily risk of cyber-attacks. In the Sacramento region, both the Lodi School District and Sierra College experienced system shutdowns in 2021 due to unauthorized access with resulting sabotage. The Placer County Grand Jury investigated the exposure that Placer County information systems might be facing. The grand jury found that the Placer County Information Technology (PCIT) department has an excellent program to protect their information systems. The effort is well staffed and well managed. The grand jury did identify some improvements that should be evaluated for adoption.

Cybersecurity - Is Placer County Prepared for Cyber Threats?

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation Targeted Date Given WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F1: Attendance at the quarterly meetings of the Security Working Committee is not a priority for all departments, and attendance is not 100 percent. As a result, strategies developed and implemented by the committee are not as robust as they could be.	X				R1: By October 1, 2022, the County Executive Officer shall create a policy requiring all departments to send a representative to all Security Working Committee meetings. If the department designated representative has a conflict, a substitute should be sent to the committee meeting. <i>Response from CEO</i>	X				Compliant
F2: There is no formal requirement for report updates by the Security Working Committee to the Leadership Committee, resulting in a lack of prioritization by county departments and potential cybersecurity weaknesses.	X				R2: By November 1, 2022, the Chief Information Officer shall create a policy to require that the Chief Information Security Officer provide semiannual updates to the Leadership Committee on cybersecurity. These two semiannual updates should include a report on attendance to the quarterly meetings. In this way, the department executives would be confident that their department's concerns were represented in the Security Working Committee quarterly meetings. <i>Response from CIO</i>	X				Compliant
F3: Placer County data, infrastructure, and applications are well protected from cybersecurity attacks.	X									Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Summary

In Placer County, on any given night, approximately seven hundred unhoused men, women, and children sleep in tents, cars, shelters, or on sidewalks. Point-in-time (PIT) reports, together with Placer County Health and Human Services (HHS) data, indicate that the majority fall into the category of chronic homelessness of one year or more.

Since 2019, the DeWitt Center in Auburn has been home base for a group of individuals living on these county owned grounds. This tent encampment is home to approximately one-hundred men and women, and thirty pets. The impromptu campground consists of over sixty occupied informal tent-like homesteads, twenty abandoned tents, five porta-potties, a dumpster, mounds of trash, used drug paraphernalia, and deposits of human and animal waste. The DeWitt Center is also the headquarters for county services such as HHS and The Welcome Center, as well as the non-profit program The Gathering Inn Mid-Placer's one-hundred bed shelter (currently housing ninety-two due to COVID-19 restrictions). Placer County Animal Services (PCAS) is located less than a half mile away. Although the DeWitt Center is the focal point of this investigation, it is an indicator of a county-wide problem. The grand jury set out to investigate the challenges experienced by the homeless and the barriers for individuals entering shelters and utilizing services available to them.

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance	
										of Response	
F1: There is no single entity, department, or individual providing oversight and leadership in Placer County for the homeless issue resulting in uncoordinated or overlapping services.		X			R1: By January 1, 2023, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall designate a single homeless "czar" with the budget, authority, and resources to oversee the county's services for the homeless. This position will provide leadership, oversight, and accountability in directing funds and resources allocated and expended for the homeless. This individual will report to the County Executive Officer. <i>Response from BOS</i>					X	Compliant
F1: There is no single entity, department, or individual providing oversight and leadership in Placer County for the homeless issue resulting in uncoordinated or overlapping services.		X			R1: By January 1, 2023, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall designate a single homeless "czar" with the budget, authority, and resources to oversee the county's services for the homeless. This position will provide leadership, oversight, and accountability in directing funds and resources allocated and expended for the homeless. This individual will report to the County Executive Officer. <i>Response from CEO</i>					X	Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F2: Placer County officials were repeatedly unable to provide the grand jury with requested detail and information about the homeless problem, resulting in a lack of transparency.		X			R2: By January 1, 2023, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall implement the provisions of proposed Assembly Bill 2630, requiring all unincorporated areas and cities in Placer County to be transparent on all funding received and expended on homelessness. <i>Response from BOS</i>				X	Compliant
F3: No Placer County official was able to provide the grand jury with accurate statistics related to costs, funding, and population of the homeless, making analysis of the homeless issue difficult.		X			R3: By January 1, 2023, the Placer County Executive Officer shall create a transparent homeless expense report for the public. This report must include all county costs, expenses, and funding for all county programs relating to the homeless population. This report shall be published semi-annually on January 1 and July 1 of each year and shall be placed prominently on the county website. <i>Response from CEO</i>				X	Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response	
F4: The Placer County Board of Supervisors allocated a \$195,000 contract with Moore Iacofano Goltsman to provide facilitation, planning, and technical assistance to a regional workgroup. Despite repeated request for information gathered by the consultants, the grand jury was refused access to the draft report, revealing a lack of transparency.		X			R4: By January 1, 2023, and to meet the obligation of Martin v. Boise decision and the requirements of the Placer County Housing Element 2021-2029, HE-41, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall immediately seek and obtain funding to create low barrier shelters throughout Placer County. <i>Response from BOS</i>					X	Compliant
F5: Martin v. Boise mandates that campers cannot be removed from their place of encampment if there are no adequate shelters available to house them, thus facilitating continued growth of hazardous encampments on county property.			X		R5: By January 1, 2023, all cities and jurisdictions in Placer County shall identify and apply for grants, allocate funds, and establish their own municipal low barrier facilities. <i>Response from the city of Auburn</i>					X	Compliant
F5: Martin v. Boise mandates that campers cannot be removed from their place of encampment if there are no adequate shelters available to house them, thus facilitating continued growth of hazardous encampments on county property.			X		R5: By January 1, 2023, all cities and jurisdictions in Placer County shall identify and apply for grants, allocate funds, and establish their own municipal low barrier facilities. <i>Response from the city of Colfax</i>					X	Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F5: Martin v. Boise mandates that campers cannot be removed from their place of encampment if there are no adequate shelters available to house them, thus facilitating continued growth of hazardous encampments on county property.		X			R5: By January 1, 2023, all cities and jurisdictions in Placer County shall identify and apply for grants, allocate funds, and establish their own municipal low barrier facilities. <i>Response from the city of Lincoln</i>				X	Compliant
F5: Martin v. Boise mandates that campers cannot be removed from their place of encampment if there are no adequate shelters available to house them, thus facilitating continued growth of hazardous encampments on county property.		X			R5: By January 1, 2023, all cities and jurisdictions in Placer County shall identify and apply for grants, allocate funds, and establish their own municipal low barrier facilities. <i>Response from the town of Loomis</i>				X	Compliant
F5: Martin v. Boise mandates that campers cannot be removed from their place of encampment if there are no adequate shelters available to house them, thus facilitating continued growth of hazardous encampments on county property.		X			R5: By January 1, 2023, all cities and jurisdictions in Placer County shall identify and apply for grants, allocate funds, and establish their own municipal low barrier facilities. <i>Response from the city of Rocklin</i>				X	Compliant
F5: Martin v. Boise mandates that campers cannot be removed from their place of encampment if there are no adequate shelters available to house them, thus facilitating continued growth of hazardous encampments on county property.		X			R5: By January 1, 2023, all cities and jurisdictions in Placer County shall identify and apply for grants, allocate funds, and establish their own municipal low barrier facilities. <i>Response from the city of Roseville</i>				X	Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F6: The creation of low barrier shelters would fulfill the requirements of Martin v. Boise and the Placer County Housing Element 2021-2029, HE-41. Low barrier shelters could resolve many of the homeless problems Placer County and local jurisdictions are faced with today.		X			R6: By October 1, 2022, in compliance with of the Placer County Housing Element 2021-2029, HE-41, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall seek out and approve a multi-service, including low barrier, facility within Placer County. <i>Response from BOS</i>				X	Compliant
F7: A local non-profit entity proposes a facility that, if approved, might address some of the needs of the homeless in Placer County.	X				R7: By January 1, 2023, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall pass an effective and enforceable ordinance to manage and remove unsanctioned camping on Placer County property. <i>Response from BOS</i>				X	Compliant
F8: The State of California Assembly Bill 2630 if passed, would require all cities and counties to declare all homeless funds received and how those funds are being spent, which would force Placer County executives to be transparent about funding received and spent.		X			R8: By September 1, 2022, the Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Placer County Sheriff's Office shall increase staffing and funding for the Homeless Liaison Team. <i>Response from BOS</i>				X	Compliant
F8: The State of California Assembly Bill 2630 if passed, would require all cities and counties to declare all homeless funds received and how those funds are being spent, which would force Placer County executives to be transparent about funding received and spent.		X			R8: By September 1, 2022, the Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Placer County Sheriff's Office shall increase staffing and funding for the Homeless Liaison Team. <i>Response from Sheriff</i>				X	Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F9: The approved camping ordinance is inadequate in discouraging the continued use of encampments. As written, the "clean and clear" provision will allow the campers' homesite to be improved with no cost or responsibility placed on the camper. Allowing the campers to remain without accountability deters them from seeking help through county services.			X		R9: By October 1, 2022, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall compare and evaluate the two prior homeless consulting reports (2004 and 2015) with the current 2022 report to determine why little or no action has been taken on the previous and almost identical report recommendations. No further consultants should be hired or compensated until previous recommendations have been implemented. <i>Response from BOS</i>				X	Compliant
F10: The passing of this revised camping ordinance does not resolve the issue of how to reduce the number of campers and encampments in Placer County.		X								Compliant
F11: Campers migrate to Placer County due to the lax camping ordinance. Only 55-60 percent of the campers in the Placer County Government Center encampment at the DeWitt Center are from Placer County, placing a burden on local taxpayers and public safety.			X						X	Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response	
F12: The DeWitt Center encampment is rampant with crime including assaults, batteries, sales and usage of narcotics, domestic violence, and possession of deadly weapons, creating an unsafe environment.		X								X	Compliant
F13: Not all homeless individuals make the choice to accept support services or enter shelters due to mental health or behavioral anomalies.		X								X	Compliant
F14: There is a lack of leadership, responsibility, and accountability among Placer County officials in dealing with the homeless situation.		X								X	Compliant
F15: The Placer County Sheriff's Office Homeless Liaison Team is doing an effective job interacting with and controlling the situation at the DeWitt Center. The officers have excellent rapport and are caring and compassionate in dealing with the campers.		X									Compliant
F16: The Placer County Sheriff's Office Homeless Liaison Team would be strengthened with the addition of more deputies.		X									Compliant

Homelessness in Placer County

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F17: All three of the previously contracted consultant reports, across nearly three decades and costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, address the same issues and appear to have similar findings and recommendations, and have been ignored by previous and current county officials.		X								Compliant

Lincoln, California – A City in Transition

Summary

The city of Lincoln is a rapidly growing city. Its population increased 282.1 percent between 2000 and 2010, making it the fastest growing city with over 10,000 people in the United States. As a result of this significant growth, Lincoln is at a crossroads.

The confluence of events potentially impacting Lincoln’s financial stability are (1) citizen mistrust of its government, and (2) urban sprawl that has farmers at odds with city council. A 2019 state auditor’s report on the city of Lincoln, titled *Fiscal Mismanagement, Insufficient Accountability and Lax Oversight Threaten the City’s Stability* (the state auditor’s report), pinpoints many issues of this fast-growing city.

In the past few years, Lincoln has made noticeable changes to its city government with the election of new city council members, a commitment to greater government transparency, and more recently, hiring a new, experienced city manager. Despite these advances, some residents and a few generational farmers are at odds with the Lincoln City Council (LCC) and the Lincoln Planning Commission (LPC). Other citizens have pointed out continuing concerns that have not been addressed. These include financial issues, lack of transparency, prior grand jury reports, the current city plan, and overall approach to growth and other governing problems.

Lincoln, CA – A City in Transition

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response	
F1: Lincoln has significant financial issues and needs to find additional ways to increase revenue.		X			R1: By October 1, 2022, the Lincoln City Council shall approve a raise in the sales tax. <i>Response from City Manager</i>					X	Compliant
F2: City government has failed to act on previous recommendations.		X			R2: By January 1, 2023, the Lincoln City Council shall establish a new task force to develop a plan to bring more retail and commercial businesses into the city. <i>Response from City Manager</i>					X	Compliant
F3: Lincoln has an opportunity to raise some revenue through the airport fees but have not acknowledged there is needed action, as stated in the <i>Lincoln News Messenger</i> article.		X			R3: By January 1, 2023, the Lincoln City Manager shall conduct a thorough financial review to set goals to meet the city's needs based on realistic planned growth and funding levels. <i>Response from City Manager</i>					X	Compliant
F4: Placer County has granted up to \$11,700,000 additional funds to Lincoln to aid in its current financial situation to support public safety infrastructure.		X			R4: By January 1, 2023, the Lincoln City Manager shall utilize the formal update process to amend the city plan to reflect the current and forward looking situation of the city. <i>Response from City Manager</i>					X	Compliant
F5: Lincoln is attempting to resolve some of the problems caused by past mismanagement.		X									Compliant
F6: The new city manager seems capable and aware of the issues facing the city.		X									Compliant

Lincoln, California – A City in Transition

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F7: Lincoln lacks sufficient commercial and retail establishments needed to increase its tax base.		X								Compliant
F8: Lincoln lacks the demographic parameters that draw large retailers to a city.		X								Compliant
F9: The city has significant turnover in city management positions including city manager, police chief, and fire chief.		X								Compliant
F10: The police and fire departments are greatly understaffed for the current population of the city.		X								Compliant
F11: The city's general plan needs to be updated to reflect population growth and the state of the city.		X								Compliant
F12: Lincoln's sales tax rate is 7.25 percent.		X								Compliant
F13: Building more houses will not generate enough property tax revenue to solve the city's financial issues.		X								Compliant

Livestreaming of Classes Rapid Response from Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 forced Placer County public schools to readjust how students were to be taught. Superintendents, principals, teachers, students, and parents participated in the necessary shift from in-class learning to distance learning, coordinated by the Placer County Office of Education. Numerous obstacles were overcome by the persistence and ingenuity of all involved. The experience and knowledge gained by Placer County educators will be useful if and/or when future disasters occur, such as fires, floods, and disease outbreaks.

The pandemic brought to focus the need for developing and increasing the use of technology in the education of students, not only in a classroom setting, but in off-site settings as well. Livestreaming of neighborhood school classes during the pandemic months demonstrated it to be a workable learning option. Once students returned to the school setting, the use of this technology, was discontinued. The Placer County Grand Jury (PCGJ) researched how Placer County school districts handled implementation of alternative teaching methods during the pandemic and if livestreaming of a neighborhood campus is subsequently being considered as an alternative mode of instruction available to students who choose to continue to study at home but still be a part of the local campus.

Livestreaming of Classes Rapid Response from Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F1: Placer County school districts are commended for their swift response to the pandemic shutdown of in-class learning. Their quick implementation of live-streaming classes, the educators' willingness to embrace a new way of instructing students, and the districts' generosity in providing laptops to ensure that no student is left behind, shows the dedication of all those involved in the educational field.					<i>There were no recommendations for this report.</i>					
F2: While technology is available to livestream neighborhood classes for students who must quarantine or for those students who might desire to attend neighborhood school classes via livestreaming, funding is not available to support the continuation of this type of teaching method. Average Daily Attendance funding is only allocated to Independent Study students and those that have "butts-in-seats."										

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Inspection Report 2021-2022

Summary

Placer County Grand Jury conducted required inspections at the seven Placer County jails and holding facilities in Roseville, Rocklin, Auburn, and Tahoe City between the months of July and November 2021. The grand jury found these facilities to be secure, orderly, and well-run.

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Inspection Report 2021-2022

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F1: The Placer County jails appear to be well-run, efficient, and safe. There were some areas where cleanliness could be improved, notably the holding cell area at Placer County Main Jail.		X	X		R1: By September 1, 2022, the Placer County Sheriff will institute improvement in the cleaning of the holding cells at the Auburn Main Jail. <i>Response from Sheriff</i>	X				Compliant
F2: Jail personnel are well-trained, take pride in their work, and are very professional.	X				R2: By September 1, 2022, the Court Administrative Officer and Placer County Sheriff will have the debris within the sally port removed at the Auburn Historic Courthouse. <i>Response from Sheriff</i>	X				Compliant
F2: Jail personnel are well-trained, take pride in their work, and are very professional.	X				R2: By September 1, 2022, the Court Administrative Officer and Placer County Sheriff will have the debris within the sally port removed at the Auburn Historic Courthouse. <i>Response from CAO</i>	X				Compliant
F3: Inmate health care appears to be well managed by WellPath.	X				R3: By January 1, 2023, the Court Administrative Officer and Placer County Sherriff shall enable the camera system to read license plates on vehicles in and around the parking lots at the Auburn Historic Courthouse. <i>Response from Sheriff</i>				X	Compliant

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Inspection Report 2021-2022

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F3: Inmate health care appears to be well managed by WellPath.	X				R3: By January 1, 2023, the Court Administrative Officer and Placer County Sherriff shall enable the camera system to read license plates on vehicles in and around the parking lots at the Auburn Historic Courthouse. <i>Response from CAO</i>				X	Compliant
F4: Staff is cooperative, knowledgeable, and courteous.	X				R4: By May 1, 2023, the Court Administrative Officer, Placer County Sheriff, and the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall improve and fund construction of a security fence and gates enclosing the restricted parking area of Burton Creek. <i>Response from BOS</i>				X	Compliant
F4: Staff is cooperative, knowledgeable, and courteous.	X				R4: By May 1, 2023, the Court Administrative Officer, Placer County Sheriff, and the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall improve and fund construction of a security fence and gates enclosing the restricted parking area of Burton Creek. <i>Response from Sheriff</i>				X	Compliant

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Inspection Report 2021-2022

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F4: Staff is cooperative, knowledgeable, and courteous.	X				R4: By May 1, 2023, the Court Administrative Officer, Placer County Sheriff, and the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall improve and fund construction of a security fence and gates enclosing the restricted parking area of Burton Creek. <i>Response from CAO</i>				X	Compliant
F4: Staff is cooperative, knowledgeable, and courteous.	X				R4: By May 1, 2023, the Court Administrative Officer, Placer County Sheriff, and the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall improve and fund construction of a security fence and gates enclosing the restricted parking area of Burton Creek. <i>Response from BOS</i>				X	Compliant
F5: The minimum security work program is a big incentive for the inmates. Programs such as this may reduce the length of sentences and improve inmate behavior and morale.	X				R5: By October 1, 2022, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall provide a public update on the progress of a new substation to replace the Burton Creek facility. <i>Response from BOS</i>	X			X	Compliant
F6: The state deactivation of the inmate transfer facility at Deuel Vocational Institution has placed additional burdens on the county jail system.	X									Compliant
F7: Debris in the sally port at the Auburn Historic Courthouse poses security and safety issues.	X									Compliant

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities Inspection Report 2021-2022

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F8: A new security camera system at the Auburn Historic Courthouse has been installed and is completely operational. The system is unable to focus on vehicle license plates that were located in the parking lots, which is a potential security risk.	X									Compliant
F9: The restricted parking area at Burton Creek is not secure, leaving it open to trespassers and potential loss of county property.	X									Compliant
F10: The Burton Creek facility has outlived its functionality for the number of sheriff's personnel working in it.	X									Compliant
F11: The Rocklin Police Department holding cells have been significantly underutilized over the past several years. As a result, the facility was requested to be decertified by the Board of State and Community Corrections.	X									Compliant
F12: Placer County Main Jail is to be commended for the inspirational messages painted on various walls throughout the facility. These demonstrate a management attempt to maintain positive tone for inmates and staff alike.	X									Compliant
F13: Implementation of AB109 has had an adverse effect on the inmate population and management of the Placer County jail system.	X									Compliant

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility and Rocklin Police Department and Juvenile Holding Facility

Summary

California grand juries are mandated by California Penal Code § 919(b) to inspect and report on juvenile detention facilities. The 2021-2022 grand jury inspected both the Rocklin Juvenile Detention Facility and the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility (PCJDF) on September 15 and November 4, respectively. The grand jury found both facilities to be well-organized, neat, well maintained, and run by dedicated and knowledgeable staff. The grand jury was particularly impressed by the programs for juveniles in the PCJDF and the philosophy behind the programs.

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility and Rocklin Police Department and Juvenile Holding Facility

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F1: The Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility is well-run and well-organized by a dedicated, well-trained staff.	X				R1: By January 1, 2023, the Rocklin Police Department close the two cells that are maintained to hold juveniles and re-allocate the space as they did when the adult detention cells were closed. <i>Response from Rocklin Police Chief</i>	X				Compliant
F2: Juveniles in the Placer County system have programs tailored by staff to their individual needs and aimed at helping them re-enter regular society, which is commendable.	X									Compliant
F3: The Placer County Youth Program, keeps juveniles in or near their home communities, which is intended to make the transition at the end of their sentence easier. The inclusion of families in this program is also to be commended.	X									Compliant
F4: The Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support program, focuses on the positive rather than the negative, and offers detainees some opportunity to control their lives within the rules of the system. There are rewards for good behavior and immediate consequences for negative behavior.	X									Compliant

County Juvenile Detention Facility and Rocklin Police Department and Juvenile Holding Facility

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F5: The Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility is operating at significantly less than capacity, which is consistent with an admirable change in philosophy dealing with juveniles. Rather than adopting a punitive approach, staff is working to help juveniles re-enter their home communities and programs.	X									Compliant
F6: The Rocklin Juvenile Detention Facility is underutilized and, therefore, is a waste of resources and space.	X									Compliant

Truckee Tahoe Airport District - A Model Airport

Summary

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) is one of the largest special districts in Placer County. The 2021 annual budget for the TTAD was \$18.9 million. The major funding sources include property taxes, fuel sales, and federal aviation subsidies. Although all homeowners pay property taxes, not all residents utilize the airport.

The Placer County Grand Jury investigated the budgeting process of the TTAD and was particularly interested in how funds were utilized that were received via property taxes. We found that the funds received were directed appropriately. The TTAD utilizes a transparent budget process which provides multiple opportunities for citizens to share concerns and suggestions on potential uses of these funds.

Truckee Tahoe Airport District - A Model Airport

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F1: Federal Aviation Administration-related grant expenditures are not easily identifiable in the budget documents.	X				R1: By December 1, 2022, the Truckee Tahoe Airport District Board of Directors will enhance the budget provided to the public by delineating the usage of the Federal Aviation Administration grant revenue. <i>Response from Board President</i>		X			Compliant
F2: The budget expenditures and processes are appropriate, transparent, and well managed.	X									Compliant
F3: The Truckee Tahoe Airport District has a professional management team and an effective board of directors.	X									Compliant
F4: The airport board publicizes a budget calendar that spans over several months and is very open to public comment.	X									Compliant
F5: The Truckee Tahoe Airport District is sensitive to citizen concerns regarding property tax usage.	X									Compliant
F6: The Truckee Tahoe Airport District recognizes and continually addresses the importance of noise abatement.	X									Compliant

Continuity and Accountability

Summary

The primary duty of the Placer County Grand Jury is to investigate the functions of city and county government, schools, and special districts. Each year in June, the grand jury issues its final report which includes reports on inspections and investigations done during the term.

The report provides findings and recommendations for each investigation and inspection. Traditionally, a response report is issued in the November timeframe by the grand jury containing the responses from the investigated entities to their respective recommendations.

The 2021-2022 grand jury believes it is important to verify that the responses were compliant with Penal Code § 933.05, which outlines what each response is to include. The intent of this report is to confirm that entities comply with the penal code. The Placer County Grand Jury produced its first continuity report in June 2021. This is the grand jury's second continuity report.

Continuity and Accountability

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F1: Placer County Grand Jury wrote its first continuity report in 2020-2021 and is continuing that process this year, following up on responses.	X					X				Compliant
F2: Newcastle Fire Protection District does not have clickable links on its website to their current agenda, making it noncompliant with the Brown Act.	X					X				Compliant
F3: Midway Heights Water District, Penryn Fire District, and Placer Hills Fire District all have links to their agendas, but the agendas posted are not current. This is noncompliant with the Brown Act.	X					X				Compliant
F3: Midway Heights Water District, Penryn Fire District, and Placer Hills Fire District all have links to their agendas, but the agendas posted are not current. This is noncompliant with the Brown Act.	X					X				Compliant

Continuity and Accountability

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F3: Midway Heights Water District, Penryn Fire District, and Placer Hills Fire District all have links to their agendas, but the agendas posted are not current. This is noncompliant with the Brown Act.	X				R3: By September 1, 2022, Placer Hills Fire District will update their agenda links to include current agendas. <i>Response from Placer Hills Board President</i>	X				Compliant
F4: The Placer County Sheriff's Office response to the grand jury's report on continuity and accountability was noncompliant with Penal Code § 933.05. While the response indicated that the recommendation would be implemented in the future, no timeline for implementation was provided.	X				R4: By September 1, 2022, 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 Penal Code § 933.05. <i>Response from Sheriff</i>	X				Compliant
F5: Heather Glen Community Services District, Talmont Resort Improvement District did not provide responses that were compliant with Penal Code § 933.05. The response provided by these entities did not indicate agreement or disagreement with the pertinent findings	X				R5: By September 1, 2022, Heather Glen Community Services District will provide updated responses to the recommendations from the 2020-2021 grand jury report, indicating agreement or disagreement with the pertinent findings in compliance with Penal Code § 933.05. <i>Response from Heather Glen Board President</i>	X				Compliant

Continuity and Accountability

Findings A - Agree with Finding D - Disagree Wholly or Partially with Finding RGD - Reason Given for Disagreement DNR - Did Not Respond	A	D	RGD	DNR	Recommendations IR - Implemented Recommendation WI - Will be Implemented with Targeted Date Given MT - More Time Needed with Targeted Date Given WNI - Will Not Be Implemented with Reason Given	IR	WI	MT	WNI	Compliance of Response
F5: Heather Glen Community Services District, Talmont Resort Improvement District did not provide responses that were compliant with Penal Code § 933.05. The response provided by these entities did not indicate agreement or disagreement with the pertinent findings.	X				R5: By September 1, 2022, Talmont Resort Improvement District will provide updated responses to the recommendations from the 2020-2021 grand jury report, indicating agreement or disagreement with the pertinent findings in compliance with Penal Code § 933.05. <i>Response from Talmont Board President</i>	X				Compliant
F6: Auburn Recreation & Parks District did not provide a response that was compliant with Penal Code § 933.05. The response provided did not indicate agreement or disagreement with the pertinent findings, nor did it provide any response to the recommendation.			X		R7: By September 1, 2022, Auburn Recreation & Parks District will provide an updated response to the recommendations from the 2020-2021 grand jury report, indicating agreement or disagreement with the pertinent findings and a response to the pertinent recommendations in compliance with Penal Code § 933.05. <i>Response from ARPD Board Chairperson</i>	X				Compliant

Conclusion

The 2022-2023 Placer County Grand Jury is following the precedent set by the past two Placer County Grand Juries by publishing this compliance and accountability report. This jury believes it is important to verify that respondents were compliant with Penal Code § 933.05 and concludes that this work will be a requirement of each grand jury going forward.

Findings

The grand jury found:

F1: The replies from all entities were compliant with Penal Code § 933.05

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this report.

Copies Sent to:

Auburn City Council

City of Auburn
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603

Auburn City Manager

City of Auburn
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603

Board of Directors

Auburn Area Recreation & Park District
471 Maidu Dr #200
Auburn, CA 95603

Board of Directors

Heather Glen Community Services District
P.O. Box 715
Applegate, CA 95703

Board of Directors

Midway Heights County Water District
P.O. Box 596
Meadow Vista, CA 95722

Board of Directors

Newcastle Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 262
Newcastle, CA 95658

Board of Directors

Penryn Fire Protection District
7206 Church St
Penryn, CA 95663

Board of Directors

Placer Hills Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 350
Meadow Vista, CA 95722

Board of Directors

Talmont Resort Improvement District
P.O. Box 1294
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Board of Directors

Truckee Tahoe Airport District
10356 Truckee Airport Rd
Truckee, CA 96161

Chief of Police

Rocklin Police Department
4080 Rocklin Rd
Rocklin, CA 95677

Colfax City Council

City of Colfax
P.O. Box 702
Colfax, CA 95713

Colfax City Manager

City of Colfax
P.O. Box 702
Colfax, CA 95713

Court Administrative Officer

P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

Lincoln City Council

City of Lincoln
600 Sixth St
Lincoln, CA 95648

Lincoln City Manager

City of Lincoln
600 Sixth St
Lincoln, CA 95648

Loomis Town Council

Town of Loomis
P.O. Box 1330
Loomis, CA 95650

Loomis Town Manager

Town of Loomis
P.O. Box 1330
Loomis, CA 95650

Placer County Board of Supervisors

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Executive Officer

175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Chief Information Officer

3091 County Center Dr
Suite 160
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Sheriff

Placer County Sheriff's Office
2929 Richardson Dr
Auburn, CA 95603

Rocklin City Council

City of Rocklin
3970 Rocklin Rd
Rocklin, CA 95677

Rocklin City Manager

City of Rocklin
3970 Rocklin Rd
Rocklin, CA 95677

Roseville City Council

City of Roseville
316 Vernon St
Roseville, CA 95678

Roseville City Manager

City of Roseville
316 Vernon St
Roseville, CA 95678