

REPORT ON RESPONSES TO 2018-19 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORTS

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury has the mandate to help the public understand local government operations throughout Santa Barbara County and to increase the transparency of those operations by conducting investigations and reporting the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

In turn, local agencies and elected officials named in the findings or recommendations of a Grand Jury report are required by law to respond in writing to the presiding judge of the Superior Court. Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05 specify who must respond, what form the response must follow, and the deadline for submitting the response.

The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury has reviewed the responses to the reports issued by last year's Grand Jury. Six of the seven reports were investigative reports and required responses from one or more government agencies. All responses were received within the required time of 60 or 90 days.

Last year's Jury made 111 recommendations for change to a dozen agencies on issues regarding school finance, mental health services, railway fatalities, water contracts, and law enforcement. According to the responses, 57 of those 111 recommendations have already been implemented, with another eleven under consideration for implementation. The leading concerns the responses identified for those 43 recommendations not accepted related to budget constraints or general lack of agreement. The complete reports and responses are posted on the Grand Jury's website: www.sbcgj.org.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

The six reports that required responses to their recommendations are discussed in the order that they were released by the 2018-19 Grand Jury. All of the information below is taken from the responses themselves.

Cuyama Joint Unified School District

Responses from the Cuyama Joint Unified School District:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
8	0	0	0	8

The Cuyama Joint Unified School District agrees with all the findings and recommendations and is taking steps to implement the recommendations.

Contraband in the Main Jail

Responses from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
0	(Rec. 1) 1	0	(Rec. 2, 3) 2	3

The Sheriff agrees with all the findings. The Sheriff agrees that the recommended full body scanner would greatly reduce contraband in the Main Jail and reduce danger to inmates and custody staff. However, this recommendation will not be implemented at this time due to budget constraints. "The Sheriff is committed to reducing the amount of contraband in the Main Jail and will continue to explore funding opportunities that would allow for the purchase of a full body x-ray scanner at the Main Jail."

Children and Youth in Crisis: Weathering the Storms of Mental Disorders and Emotional Disturbances

Responses from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6a, 7) 6	(Rec. 2) 1	(Rec. 6c) 1	(Rec. 1, 6b) 2	10

The Board of Supervisors confirms that 6 out of 10 Recommendations have been implemented. The Board will not implement Recommendation 1 because they do not feel a Crisis Stabilization Unit is the best model for Santa Barbara County.

The Board also will not implement Recommendation 6b saying the Department of Behavioral Wellness began implementation of a modified model for children's triage in August 2019.

Railway Fatalities in Santa Barbara County

Each agency responding to the recommendations is listed separately below. Not all agencies agree with the recommendations, but future meetings to be hosted by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) with all agencies and Union Pacific Railroad should address all issues. The timeline is within six months, which expired January 22, 2020.

Responses from the City of Goleta:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. No. 3, 5) 2	(Rec. No. 1,2,4, 6a/b) 5	0	0	7

The City of Goleta will implement seven of the Jury's Recommendations. Two of the Recommendations have been implemented. Five of the Recommendations will be implemented and the City will coordinate with Union Pacific Railroad in completing these tasks.

Responses from the City of Santa Barbara:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. No. 3,4,5) 3	(Rec. No. 1) 1	(Rec. No.2,6a) 2	(Rec. No. 6b) 1	7

The City of Santa Barbara will not implement recommendation 6b, saying monitoring video surveillance is outside the City's responsibility.

The City of Santa Barbara states that Recommendation 1 will be implemented within the next six months as long as the other affected agencies develop a safety plan to reduce trespasser deaths in the region.

Responses from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. No. 3) 1	(Rec. No. 1) 1	0	(Rec. No 2,4,5,6a,b) 5	7

The Board of Supervisors will not implement any recommendations that they consider to be the responsibility of Union Pacific Railroad and SBCAG.

Responses from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec.3) 1	0	0	0	1

The Sheriff's office will work with Union Pacific Railroad to enforce trespassing laws.

Responses from the Santa Barbara County Board Association of Governments (SBCAG):

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
0	(Rec. 1) 1	0	(Rec. 2, 4 , 6a) 3	4

SBCAG states it does not have authority over Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. However, within the next six months, SBCAG will host meetings with all agencies and Union Pacific Railroad to determine a satisfactory solution to all recommendations.

Suicide in Custody**Responses from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office:**

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec 1-8) 8	0	0	0	8

The Sheriff does not fully agree with all the findings, but he agrees with all of the recommendations. He has confirmed that extensive training on inmate intake, preservation of evidence at an incident scene, and routine maintenance of resuscitation equipment have been implemented.

Responses from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
0	(Rec 9) 1	0	0	1

The BOS states that the Sheriff is working towards securing National Commission on Correctional Health Care accreditation for the Main Jail with Wellpath.

The Cachuma Project Contract and Management: Whiskey Is For Drinking – But MUST We Fight Over Water?

Responses from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors as the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's Board of Directors:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. 1) 1	(Rec. 3 ,7, 9) 3	(Rec. 2 ,4 ,5 ,6) 4	(Rec. 8) 1	9

The Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara County Water Agency agrees that all five member units should be included in the negotiations of a new contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Responses from the Carpinteria Valley Water District:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
0	(Rec. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9) 5	0	(Rec. 1, 4, 5, 8) 4	9

The Carpinteria Valley Water District will implement five of the recommendations during the new contract negotiations.

Responses from the Goleta Water District:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. 4) 1	0	0	(Rec. 1-3, 5-9) 8	9

The Goleta Water District confirms that the recommendation to change the water year calendar to run from May 1st to April 30th has been implemented. All other recommendations will not be implemented at this time but can be addressed in the negotiations for the new contract.

Responses from the Montecito Water District:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
0	0	0	(Rec. 1-9) 9	9

The Montecito Water District states that “it is of the opinion that the best governance structure is one that emphasizes water supply decision making closest to the people served.”

Responses from the City of Santa Barbara:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. 9) 1	(Rec. 2, 3, 6) 3	0	(Rec. 1, 4, 5, 7, 8) 5	9

The City of Santa Barbara states that some of the recommendations will be considered during negotiations of the new contract.

Responses from the Santa Ynez Water Conservation District – Improvement District No. 1:

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will NOT Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
(Rec. 9) 1	(Rec. 3, 4) 2	0	(Rec. 1, 2, 5-8) 6	9

The Santa Ynez Water Conservation District, ID1 states that many of the recommendations will not be implemented, but can be part of the negotiations in the new contract.

It should be noted that the current contract between the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is due for renewal in September 2020.

CONCLUSION

The 2018-19 Jury issued six reports requiring responses. In their responses, the responding agencies agreed, either wholly or partially, with the findings. These reports contained 111 recommendations. According to the responses, the responding agencies and officials have implemented or will implement 57 recommendations. Eleven recommendations will require further analysis before deciding on implementation. Forty-three recommendations will not be implemented due to budget constraints or disagreement with the recommendations.

Entire Report: Number of Responses in Each Category

Category	Already Implemented	Will be Implemented	Requires Analysis	Will NOT be Implement
Number	33	24	11	43