

# 2019-20 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GRAND JURY RESPONSE REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury is empaneled annually to act on the public's behalf, conducting investigations and reporting back to the community on areas of concern as requested by the public.

This Status Report by the 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury assesses the adequacy of the responses to the ten Investigative Reports issued by the 2019-20 Jury. Each investigative report required responses from one or more government agencies. This action is required by *California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05*, which specify the form of response and the statutory time limit. All Grand Jury reports and the responses to each report are posted on the Grand Jury's website ([www.sbcgj.org/2020/](http://www.sbcgj.org/2020/)).

The 2019-20 Grand Jury made 335 recommendations to local agencies on issues regarding cyber-attacks, detention facilities, the coroner bureau, community development, public alerts, housing, homelessness, deaths in custody, juvenile gangs, and cannabis.

## RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

Responses to Findings shall be either:

- Agree
- Disagree wholly
- Disagree partially with an explanation

Responses to Recommendations shall be one of the following:

- Has been implemented with a brief summary of the implementation actions taken
- Will be implemented, with an implementation schedule
- Requires further analysis, with a time frame that shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the report.
- Will not be implemented, with an explanation of why

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

The governmental oversight role of the Grand Jury requires it to ensure the reported actions have been implemented. The 2021 Jury collected and reviewed the required responses to each report.

## Responses to Findings

A total of 250 responses to Jury findings were received from the agencies within the County.

- The respondents agreed with 174 (70 percent) of the findings
- The respondents disagreed with 30 (12 percent) of the findings
- The respondents disagreed partially with 46 (18 percent) of the findings

## Responses to Recommendations

A total of 335 responses to the Jury recommendations were received.

- 136 (41 percent) have been implemented
- 66 (20 percent) will be implemented
- 24 (7 percent) require further analysis
- 109 (32 percent) will not be implemented

## ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC REPORTS

The ten reports requiring responses to the recommendations are discussed in the order in which they appear in the 2019-20 Grand Jury's final report.

### Cyber Attacks Threaten Santa Barbara County

Cyber-attacks and related threats are an ongoing reality that all public entities within Santa Barbara County need to take prompt and aggressive steps to prevent. While some local public entities are taking steps to protect themselves from these risks, many are not adequately prepared. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Buellton

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Carpinteria

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Goleta

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Guadalupe

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Lompoc

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Santa Barbara

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Santa Maria

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Solvang

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

Of the 108 recommendations, 63 have been implemented, 38 recommendations will be implemented, and 6 recommendations require further analysis. The recommendations requiring further analysis involved staffing, training, and budget considerations. The only recommendation that will not be implemented is due to limitations in the ability to upgrade state or heritage systems.

**Detention Facilities in Santa Barbara**

The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury was impressed overall by the professionalism and dedication of the detention facility teams interviewed. While a number of findings and recommendations were identified, none related to any deficiency in the way these professionals are performing their responsibilities. The majority of the findings and recommendations stem from the lack of funding; funding that is essential to add staff where needed, funding to upgrade older and dangerous buildings, and funding to add new mission-critical technical systems for safer management.

The investigation by the Grand Jury predated the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>

Responses - Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>

Responses - Santa Barbara County District Attorney

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

Responses - Lompoc City Council

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Responses - Santa Barbara City Council

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Of the 32 recommendations, 6 were implemented, 8 recommendations will be implemented, and 18 recommendations will not be implemented as they were believed to be unwarranted at this time. The opening of the North Branch Jail will resolve some of the issues.

**Santa Barbara County Coroner’s Bureau**

The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors establish an independent Coroner’s Bureau, one that can be accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners, and build a new, fully accredited facility to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

Responses - Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

Of the 10 recommendations, 1 recommendation has been implemented, and 9 recommendations will not be implemented. The recommendations not being implemented are believed to be unnecessary at this time and the funding is not available.

**City of Santa Barbara Community Development Department**

The Jury believed there was a lack of strong leadership at several levels, insufficient coordination and communication between the Building and Safety Division and the Planning Division, an impression of a slow growth policy, inconsistent customer service, in addition to a fee structure which could be a deterrent to building development. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - City of Santa Barbara

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>

Of the 18 recommendations, 12 recommendations were implemented, and 3 recommendations require further analysis. The recommendations requiring further analysis include the development of checklists and the evaluation of potential impacts on other departments.

## Public Alerts for Public Safety Power Shutoffs and Emergencies

Planning and carrying out County responses to PSPS and emergencies are complex, difficult tasks. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
4	1	0	0	5

## Affordable Housing in Santa Barbara

The City of Santa Barbara needs to act in a forward and positive manner, rather than resist change and avoid State of California orders to build housing. Instead of protecting what is already here, it can think in terms of what could be. Santa Barbara has been a city that has won the reputation of being unique and beautiful, in part due to caution over development. The City's inactions have come at a cost to many residents or potential residents: they cannot call Santa Barbara home. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - City of Santa Barbara

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
2	1	3	3	9

Of the 9 recommendations, 2 were implemented, 3 recommendations require further analysis and 3 recommendations will not be implemented. The 3 recommendations requiring further analysis involve updating the city Housing Element due in 2022 and the evaluation of form based codes. The 3 recommendations will not be implemented because of tax structures, wildfire hazard analysis and one deemed not necessary.

## Homelessness in Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara County is in the midst of a homeless crisis that long predates the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Santa Barbara County has one of the highest rates of homeless school-age children and youth in the state. Additional housing for the homeless has long been a necessity, but it is only in recent years that it has achieved national attention on a large scale. Whether considering temporary, transitional or permanent housing for the homeless, it will not be built without the support of the surrounding community. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

Responses - City of Santa Barbara

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

Responses - City of Goleta

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

Responses - City of Carpinteria

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>

Responses - City of Solvang

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

Responses - City of Buellton

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>



Responses - City of Lompoc

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

Responses - City of Guadalupe

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

Responses - City of Santa Maria

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

Of the 89 recommendations, 29 were implemented, 14 recommendations will be implemented, 12 recommendations require further analysis, and 34 recommendations will not be implemented. The 12 recommendations requiring further analysis and 34 recommendations not implemented are related. The number of homeless and needs for each community within the county vary. No one solution fits the needs of all of the cities. There is insufficient funding. All agree there is a need and are willing to work on a county-wide solution.

### **Deaths in Custody 2019**

The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury concluded the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department needs to upgrade training and review policies and procedures to avoid errors with serious consequences. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>

Of the 18 recommendations, 17 were implemented, and 1 recommendation will not be implemented as it is unnecessary.

### **Juvenile Gangs in Santa Barbara County**

As a result of gang-related violence in Santa Barbara County, the 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury (Jury) initiated a study of gang incidents and how various agencies are addressing them. The Jury found an evolving response to gangs, and gangs themselves have shifted tactics. The County Probation Department and County and municipal law enforcement agencies have had to adapt to a changing legal landscape that allows more leniency in dealing with crime, and in particular juvenile crime. Transformation of juveniles before they become criminal gang members is the ultimate goal, but it just might be the coordinated intelligence and watchfulness of law enforcement that allow the first steps toward that goal. ([Read Full Report](#))

#### Responses - Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

#### Responses - Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

#### Responses - Santa Barbara County District Attorney

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

#### Responses - Santa Barbara City Council

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

Responses - Santa Maria City Council

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

Responses - Lompoc City Council

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

Responses - Guadalupe City Council

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

Responses - Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Education

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Of the 26 recommendations, 2 recommendations were implemented, and 24 recommendations will not be implemented. Budgetary constraints, pandemic constraints, California Penal Code restrictions and the existence of already established County programs were cited for not implementing the recommendations.

**Cannabis**

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury investigation was initiated by the concerns of residents over the influence of the cannabis industry on the process used in the creation of the cannabis ordinances. ([Read Full Report](#))

Responses - Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Already Implemented	Will Be Implemented	Requires Further Analysis	Will Not Be Implemented	Total Number of Responses
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>

The Board of Supervisors did not agree with the majority of findings. Subsequently, the recommendations were deemed unwarranted and unreasonable and would not be implemented.

**SUMMARY**

The mandate of the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury is to shine a light on governmental operations within Santa Barbara County. The Jury’s objective is to increase transparency and operating efficiency.

The 2019-20 Grand Jury issued ten reports. The reports contained 250 findings. In their responses, the responding agencies agreed with 174 of the findings, partially disagreed with 30 findings, and wholly disagreed with 46 findings. The reports also included 335 recommendations. In 226 instances, the responding agencies have either implemented the desired change, plan to do so in the future, or required further analysis before deciding on a course of action. Finally, 109 recommendations will not be implemented.