

2023-24 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GRAND JURY COMMITMENT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Penal Code, the Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury is empaneled annually to investigate city and county government organizations, special districts, and other agencies within the County. Findings and recommendations developed from these investigations are contained in the reports approved by the Civil Grand Jury and the Santa Barbara County Superior Court Presiding Judge.

The 2023-2024 Grand Jury reviewed seven (7) reports from the 2022-2023 Grand Jury. Recipient entities are to respond to the reports within certain time constraints and in accordance with specific formats pursuant to sections 933 and 933.05 of the California Penal Code. The responses to the recommendations must include one of the following legally permitted options:

- The recommendation has been implemented with a summary regarding the implemented action
- The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future with a time frame for implementation
- The recommendation requires further analysis with an explanation, parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame (which shall not exceed 6 months from the date of report publication)
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable with an explanation thereof

The Grand Jury believes it is important for future Grand Juries to continue to review these responses and to be vigilant in seeing that recommendations are implemented. Special attention should be paid to those responses providing implementation within specified time frames. In this manner, the commitment and hard work of past and future Grand Juries will result in positive changes for the citizens of Santa Barbara County.

The Responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury reports are posted on the Grand Jury Website in their entirety and can be viewed at:

<https://sbcgj.org/general-information/final-reports-responses-2022/>

COMMITMENT REVIEW

Report title: [A Death in Custody – Lessons Learned](#)

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff responded to the Grand Jury that three (3) recommendations associated with this report required further analysis and one (1) recommendation would be implemented by January 2024.

The Jury found that, after further analysis, the Sheriff's Office will be partially implementing one of the Grand Jury's recommendations and will not be implementing the other three.

The entirety of the Sheriff's response can be found at the following link:

[Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response](#)

Report title: [Every Death In Custody Is A Failure](#)

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff responded to the Grand Jury that one (1) recommendation associated with this report required further analysis.

The Jury found that, after further analysis, the Sheriff's Office will not be implementing the recommendation of the Grand Jury.

The entirety of the Sheriff's response can be found at the following link:

[Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response](#)

Report title: [A Vicious Cycle – Incarceration of the Severely Mentally Ill](#)

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff responded to the Grand Jury that one (1) recommendation associated with this report required further analysis.

The Jury found that, after further analysis, the Sheriff's Office has partially implemented the recommendation of the Grand Jury.

The entirety of the Sheriff's response can be found at the following link:

[Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response](#)

Report title: [Death on Electronic Monitored Release](#)

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff responded to the Grand Jury that three (3) recommendations associated with this report would be implemented pending negotiations with Wellpath and a subsequent implementation plan. This initial negotiation activity was to be completed by January 9, 2024.

The Jury found that the Sheriff's Office has implemented two of the Grand Jury's recommendations and, after further analysis, will not be implementing the third recommendation.

The entirety of the Sheriff's response can be found at the following link:

[Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response](#)

Report title: [Lack of Transparency and Due Diligence at the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District](#)

The Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District (District) responded to the Grand Jury that three (3) recommendations associated with this report would be implemented. There was not a timeline provided for two of them, and the third was scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2023.

The Jury found that the District has implemented all three (3) of the recommendations.

The entirety of the District's response can be found at the following link:

[Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District Response](#)

Report title: [Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District – Aspects of Governance](#)

The Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District responded to the Grand Jury that five (5) recommendations associated with this report would be implemented. Three recommendations would be implemented by the end of December 2024, and the remaining two did not have a specified timeline.

The Jury found that the District has either implemented the recommendations or is actively in the process of implementing them.

The entirety of the District's response can be found at the following link:

[Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District Response](#)