

COMPLIANCE REPORT

SUMMARY

The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury monitors the required responses from government entities to Findings and Recommendations by previous juries. Jurors then determine whether those responses are complete and legally sufficient according to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05. This monitoring effort ensures a seamless, year-to-year transition. The 2024-25 Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) reviewed responses to the 2023-24 Civil Grand Jury reports to determine whether mandatory responses were received and posted to the CGJ website. In addition, the CGJ followed up with the entities about implementing the recommendations agreed upon in the 2023-24 reports.

BACKGROUND

The California Constitution requires each county to empanel a Civil Grand Jury and publish a report at the conclusion of its one-year term. The report identifies Findings and Recommendations for selected government entities and elected officials in each county to improve government operations and efficiency. The Penal Code requires government entities to submit responses to the Findings and Recommendations of the Civil Grand Jury to the presiding Superior Court Judge for the grand jury within 90 days of the date of the report's publication. Elected officials are required to submit responses within 60 days of publication. The required responses must state whether the entity or elected official agrees or disagrees with the specific findings and recommendations of the report and whether the recommendations have been or will be implemented.

This report focuses on the Penal Code requirements for responding to the Civil Grand Jury's recommendations. The responses by the government entity must include whether each recommendation:

- was implemented with a summary of the action taken
- will be implemented
- requires further analysis or study with an explanation of the scope, parameters, and timeframe for conducting the analysis or study

- will not be implemented because the entity deems it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor

METHODOLOGY

The CGJ reviewed the 2023-24 Civil Grand Jury final reports. It identified entities and elected officials required to submit written responses and noted those who had complied. The CGJ contacted entities and elected officials who did not submit the required written responses and set a 30-day timeframe for compliance. The CGJ thoroughly reviewed the submitted responses to ensure compliance with the Penal Code provisions.

DISCUSSION

The CGJ received all the required responses from the 2023-24 reports and posted them to the CGJ website. The CGJ sent follow-up letters to the various entities to request status reports regarding agreed-upon recommendations. While implementation status reports are not required by the Penal Code, various government entities provided them upon request. These additional status responses to the 2023-24 reports have been posted to the CGJ website and are linked in the table below.

2023-24 Civil Grand Jury Reports and Received Responses

Report Title	Required Response Received	Additional Responses Received
Cannabis Tax Revenues: Highs and Lows	Monterey County Board of Supervisors	Monterey County Board of Supervisors
	Monterey County District Attorney	No additional response requested
	Monterey County Auditor-Controller	No additional response requested
	Monterey County Treasurer/Tax Collector	No additional response requested
	Monterey County Sheriff/Coroner	No additional response requested

Fentanyl: Our Youth in Crisis	Monterey County Board of Supervisors Monterey County Office of Education	Monterey County Board of Supervisors Monterey County Office of Education
Monterey County's Response to Community Members Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis	City of Salinas Monterey County Board of Supervisors Monterey County Sheriff's Office	City of Salinas No additional response requested Monterey County Sheriff's Office
Monterey Fire Department: Overdue for Overhaul	Monterey County Board of Supervisors City of Monterey Monterey Peninsula Airport District	Monterey County Board of Supervisors City of Monterey No additional response requested
Monterey Regional Airport: Understanding Noise	Monterey Peninsula Airport District	Monterey Peninsula Airport District

Status of Agency Commitments

The following information summarizes the responses received from the various entities described in the table above. The 2024-25 CGJ did not verify the information provided.

Cannabis Tax Revenues: Highs and Lows

1. The Cannabis Program expenses have been reduced to match revenues.
2. Tax revenues have stabilized.
3. The CGJ recommended that Monterey County Public Health Department (MCHD) identify projects for youth awareness/education/prevention and request funding from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) using Cannabis Tax Assignment Funds (CTAF). MCHD indicated they would implement this recommendation and provide the BOS an update by December 30, 2024.
4. Responding to the CGJ request for an update, MCHD indicated it had received grant money from the state Office of Traffic Safety to prevent drugged driving by

young people. Consequently, it would not request CTAF revenues from the BOS at this time. Although drug education was a top priority expressed in the Community Needs Survey in 2018, youth drug training was not offered until recently through alternative resources.

5. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office has assigned two detectives and trained 12 additional deputies to combat illicit cannabis operations.

Fentanyl: Our Youth in Crisis

1. The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) confirmed the completion of a Memo of Understanding between MCOE and Montage Health Prescribe Safe Initiative.
2. MCOE provided an update regarding training for and the distribution of Narcan to schools across Monterey County.
3. The MCHD provided an update regarding funding for social media campaigns and its strategy for allocating \$1.8M (of the \$2.7M) Opioid Settlement Funds across five programs over the next two years.
4. This funding allocation includes the equivalent of three new positions at the Health Department and Natividad Medical Center.
5. The CGJ applauds the timely, responsive, and committed approach of the MCOE in addressing the recommendations made in the report.

Monterey County's Response to Community Members Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis

1. The Salinas Police Department (SPD) completed a training needs assessment and posted revised training materials on its website.
2. The SPD implemented a two-hour Critical Incident Training (CIT) course taught by Monterey County Behavioral Health personnel. Ninety percent of sworn SPD staff are CIT trained.
3. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) implemented an updated training needs assessment when the current Sheriff took office in January 2023.

4. A Monterey County's Homeless Services Director was appointed to convene regular meetings with several agencies to coordinate services provided to individuals with mental health challenges.
5. The MCSO and SPD have posted their training programs in a more conspicuous location on their websites.

Monterey Regional Airport: Understanding Noise

1. The Monterey Peninsula Airport District (MPAD) has improved access to a complaint submission form on its website making it more prominent and user-friendly.
2. The MPAD made the explanation of District Noise Management more prominent on its website.
3. The MPAD provided a written procedure for responding to complaints.
4. The MPAD increased communication and social media visibility, particularly during the heightened activities related to the new terminal construction.
5. The MPAD will not implement the recommendation to develop a Citizens Committee to provide community input regarding operations and noise mitigation. MPAD will utilize an existing standing committee.

Monterey Fire Department: Overdue for Overhaul

1. The Monterey Fire Department (MFD) can send apparatus needing repair to external commercial vendors, ensuring that having only one full-time mechanic does not pose a risk to the public.
2. The City of Monterey has confirmed that the frontline aerial ladder truck, 6471, was repaired and placed back in service in August 2024.
3. The City has ordered and will receive a new aerial ladder truck by the end of 2025 and a third new Engine/Pumper in June 2027.
4. The City maintains detailed records of all testing and abatement of hazardous materials at City facilities, safeguarding public health and safety.
5. The City offers counseling services to all fire department personnel through a contracted therapist, fostering a supportive and healthy work environment.

6. The MFD has consolidated all current internal departmental policies into a single online platform. As of April 2025, there are 142 policies accessible to MFD personnel through the web or the Lexipol mobile app.
7. The MFD issued the After-Action Review policy through Lexipol on February 7, 2024. The policy facilitates critical incident analysis and learning opportunities. Additionally, the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing policy was issued on May 1, 2024, providing a structured framework for debriefing and addressing the emotional impact of critical incidents on personnel.
8. The Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association unanimously selected First Arriving from U.S. Digital Designs (Honeywell) as their desired technology platform for a common county-wide platform for Fire Station Alerting. MFD is in the process of installing the First Arriving equipment in their fire stations and offices.
9. The City issued a request for proposal to rebuild the red-tagged Station 13 training tower.

CONCLUSION

The CGJ analyzed the previous jury's reports, findings, and recommendations and found all required responses have been received.

Governmental entities or elected officials who fail to submit required responses undermine the mission and the work of the Civil Grand Jury. This is a disservice to the residents of Monterey County and a missed opportunity to demonstrate accountability and transparency.

The CGJ acknowledges the contributions of the Board of Supervisors, the various department heads, and other government entities who provided additional responses, enhancing organizational accountability and transparency.

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

GLOSSARY

BOS	Monterey County Board of Supervisors
CIT	Critical Incident Training
CTAF	Cannabis Tax Assignment Funds
CGJ	2024-25 Civil Grand Jury
MCHD	Monterey County Health Department
MCOE	Monterey County Office of Education
MCSO	Monterey County Sheriff's Office
MFD	Monterey Fire Department
MPAD	Monterey Peninsula Airport District
SPD	Salinas Police Department

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Civil Grand Jury Report 2023/24 Monterey County, CA

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/participate-get-involved/civil-grand-jury/reports>

Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=933.&lawCode=PEN

