

2023-2024 CONTINUITY REPORT

The Continuity Report provides a summary and status of open recommendations from the 2022-2023 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury's recommendations.

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

The San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury (SLOGJ) is charged with oversight of county functions on behalf of its citizenry. Though it has no enforcement powers, its mission is to shed light on issues that exist inside county boundaries. If an agency agrees to make a change or to pursue a recommendation further, the SLOGJ follows up within a stated timeframe to confirm progress is made.

The Continuity Report reviews the required responses to previously published SLOGJ reports for adequacy, completeness, and timeliness. This informational report provides a summary of the status of responses to recommendations made by the 2022-2023 SLOGJ.

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code section 933.05 prescribes responses to findings and recommendations. Responding agencies are directed to report whether they agree or disagree (either partially or wholly) with a finding and whether a recommendation has been implemented, will be implemented, will not be implemented, or requires further analysis. An agency may reject a Grand Jury recommendation provided they include an explanation of why the recommendation is either unwarranted or unreasonable. If a recommendation requires further analysis, it must be conducted within six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.

All Grand Jury reports and each agency's responses are posted online each year at <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/gi/jury-grandjury.htm>

NARRATIVE

The 2022-2023 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury conducted and completed four investigative reports, which required responses from relevant agencies, as well as an inspection report of county law enforcement and detention facilities.

REPORT 1: Safe Parking? Oklahoma IS NOT Ok!

REPORT 2: Investing In Election Accuracy Has Our Vote.

REPORT 3: Can One Wet Year Wash Away the Paso Robles Basin's Water Worries?

REPORT 4: Are High Schools Making the Grade at Addressing Mental Health?

REPORT 5: Inspection Report for SLO County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities.

The 2023-2024 SLOCGJ reviewed all responses from every agency noted in each of the reports in order to prepare this follow-up Continuity Report. A status of each of the reports is provided below:

SAFE PARKING? OKLAHOMA IS NOT Ok!

The 2022-2023 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury (SLOCGJ) investigated the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village safe parking site (previously known as Kansas Avenue Safe Parking).

This investigation was prompted by the need to understand what lessons could be learned from this first large-scale safe parking initiative by the County of San Luis Obispo and to ascertain whether it provided an effective intervention for helping unhoused people to get rehoused.

The Grand Jury reviewed the 11 recommendations, R1 through R11, and found ten, R1 through R10, of the 11 responses were implemented in 2023 by the required agencies. The Grand Jury found that recommendation R11 was partially implemented by the Homeless Services Division (HSD) and is still in the process of being implemented at the time of this report.

The outstanding recommendation of R11 was "To facilitate the closure of the Site, relocate running and registered recreational vehicles (RVs) currently at the Oklahoma Avenue Parking

Village to Coastal Dunes RV Park.” In the original response to the recommendation, the Department of Social Services (DSS) and HSD stated they did not have the authority to relocate running and registered RVs currently at the Oklahoma Parking Village to Coastal Dunes RV Park. The HSD agreed to conduct an analysis by August 1, 2023, to determine which RVs were running and registered.

On September 18, 2023, HSD advised the SLOCGJ that the analysis of “running and registered” RVs was completed by the HSD’s site manager for the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village. On October 4, 2023, HSD implemented a \$1,000 “Relocation Assistance Program” to assist residents in moving off the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village site. According to media reports, a deadline of October 18, 2023, was given to accept the relocation aid.

On January 10, 2024, the DSS Director provided the SLOCGJ with an update on the status of recommendation R11 and attempts to close the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village. As of that date, 21 out of the initial 86 residents remained. The Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) was providing on-site management and has provided offers of housing for those willing to relocate. Eight residents have refused housing offers and have obtained legal counsel. Nine of the 21 remaining residents are being interviewed for housing associated with the Pismo Terrace project. The DSS is helping with relocation expenses and still intends to close the site in 2024.

For the full report, see <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/gi/jury-grandjury.htm>

INVESTING IN ELECTION ACCURACY HAS OUR VOTE

The 2022-2023 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury (SLOCGJ) investigated the operational performance of the County Clerk-Recorder’s Office as it related to the printed election materials for the 2022 General Election. This investigation was prompted by the omission of two candidate statements in some voter information guides. In addition, the Grand Jury sought to identify

factors that presented challenges to the Clerk-Recorder's Office in its performance of functions vital to election accuracy and integrity.

The Grand Jury reviewed the responses to the four recommendations, R1 through R4, and is satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented.

The Grand Jury issued a commendation to the Clerk-Recorder and staff for their R1 and R2 work product and their service and commitment to ensuring a fair election process in San Luis Obispo County.

It should also be noted that adequate workspace, staffing, and security in the Clerk-Recorder's office should remain a County of San Luis Obispo priority.

For the full report, see <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/gi/jury-grandjury.htm>

CAN ONE WET YEAR WASH AWAY THE PASO ROBLES BASIN'S WATER WORRIES?

The 2022-2023 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury (SLOCGJ) investigated the Paso Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to determine if it was on track to provide sustainable ground water for future generations.

The Grand Jury reviewed the responses to the nine recommendations - R1, R2, R4 through R8 - and is satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented. The remaining two recommendations and their status follow below:

R3. Implementation of the proposed Multi-Benefit Irrigated Lands Repurposing (MILR) program, to establish voluntary land fallowing needs to be initiated by the 2025 GSP update. If voluntary measures are ineffective, the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) will need to implement a mandatory program.

The MILR program recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future.

The Multi-benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established by the PBCC, via a public process, to develop recommendations to the PBCC for the development and implementation of a MILR program. The MILR program consists of two phases. Phase 1 is a voluntary component that anticipates the adoption of an ordinance to codify a successful MILR program. If Phase 1 is unsuccessful, Phase 2 will be considered which may include a mandatory component that will provide for a groundwater allocation component to contribute to the sustainability of the Paso Basin.

The SLOCGJ has not been provided with evidence that either the first or second phases of the MILR program have been completed. This is of concern because the data that is to be collected from this MILR program is to be used during the January 2025 GSP update.

R9. The SLOCGJ recommended that the PBCC update the 2025 GSP timeline to show a realistic and deliverable set of management actions.

The PBCC has advised that they will perform a GSP evaluation prior to the January 2025 deadline which will provide an analysis of the success of implementation of the GSP, covering projects and management actions, as well as considerations for updating the GSP timeline.

For the full report, see <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/gi/jury-grandjury.htm>

ARE HIGH SCHOOLS MAKING THE GRADE AT ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH?

The 2022-2023 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury (SLOCGJ) investigated how well high schools in our county were addressing mental health needs for students. This would include resources available, resources needed, referral processes and best practices. The need for youth mental health interventions increased during COVID-19 with the challenges created by remote learning.

The Grand Jury reviewed the responses to ten (10) recommendations, R1 through R10, and is satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented.

The 2023-2024 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury commends all respondents for their complete and thorough replies.

For the full report, see <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/gi/jury-grandjury.htm>

INSPECTION REPORT FOR SLO COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DETENTION FACILITIES

The 2022-2023 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury completed their mandatory annual inspections of all public prisons within the county which includes California Men’s Colony, county jail, police departments, court holding cells, and juvenile hall.

The Grand Jury reviewed the responses to the six recommendations, R1 through R6, and is satisfied that all recommendations have been addressed or will be implemented at a future date and do not require further follow-up.

For the full report, see <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/gi/jury-grandjury.htm>

REQUIRED RESPONSES

This is an informational report. No responses are required.

Presiding Judge	Grand Jury
Presiding Judge Rita Federman Superior Court of California 1035 Palm Street Room 355 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury P.O. Box 4910 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403