

2024-2025 Continuity Report: Following Up on Previous Fresno County Civil Grand Jury Reports



**Fresno County
Civil Grand Jury**

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the public if Fresno County’s public agency governing bodies and County of Fresno elected officials and/or agency heads replied to the Fresno County Civil Grand Jury as mandated by California law (California Penal Code §933 and §933.05). A continuity report is traditionally prepared by the Grand Jury in order to follow up on responses to previous Grand Jury reports. Since most responses are received after the term has ended for the issuing Grand Jury, the sitting Grand Jury must then evaluate the responses for statutory compliance and completion, providing a semblance of Grand Jury continuity.

This report provides a summary of the respondents’ response to the findings and recommendations made in Grand Jury reports for the years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. The responses to the Grand Jury recommendations are shown in the following table:

Grand Jury Report Year	Recommendation Response % by Category			
	Implemented or Will Implement	Will Not Implement	Further Study Needed	Total
2021-2022	35%	53%	12%	100%
2022-2023	71%	29%	0%	100%
2023-2024	87%	10%	3%	100%

In addition, an update on the status of the 12 open recommendations in the 2022-2023 Grand Jury report was completed. Out of the 12 open items, all the items were either resolved or nearing completion of implementation. Getting the funding was a major reason why some of the items were not yet implemented.

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury recommendation responses for the years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 were reviewed. The Responses Received % figures shown in the tables below (Tables 1-3) are calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Responses Received \%} = \frac{\text{Total required and invited responses **received** by the Grand Jury}}{\text{Total required and invited responses **requested** by the Grand Jury}}$$

In those instances when no response was requested, it is noted as “No Responses Required.”

In addition, several interviews were conducted with the appropriate department officials to review the open recommendations for the year 2022-2023.

DISCUSSION

The Summary tables of Findings and Recommendations shown below reflect the responses received. Responding officials are directed to report one of the three options for a finding:

1. Agree
2. Disagreed Partially
3. Disagreed Completely

For recommendations, responding officials are directed to report one of the four options:

1. Has been implemented
2. Will be implemented
3. Requires further study or analysis
4. Will not be implemented

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 (Penal Code §933.05).

This continuity report compiles and summarizes the responses, both required and invited.

The reader is referred to the original documents posted on the FCCGJ website. All Grand Jury reports and each agency's responses are posted online each year at:

[Report & Response | Superior Court of California | County of Fresno](#) or
<https://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/divisions/jury-service/report-response>

The yearly tables (Tables 1-3) below provide insight to the results of the Grand Jury's work.

Table 1 : 2021-2022 Summary of Findings and Recommendations Responses

			Findings				Recommendations			
#	2021-2022 Reports	Responses Received %	Agreed	Disagreed Partially	Disagreed Completely		Implemented	Will Implement	Further Study	Will NOT Implement
1	Conflict-of-Interest Within County Contracting Undermines Public Trust	100%	4	4			1			6
			50%	50%			14%			86%
2	Despite Criticism, County Elections Integrity Validated	No Responses Required								
3	Compliance and Continuity Report	No Responses Required								
4	Clovis Police Department Responds To Its Diversity Challenges	33%	7	2	1		2	1		3
			70%	20%	10%		33%	17%		50%
5	Purchasing Policies and Procedures Within Public Works and Planning, and Internal Services	100%	4				2		2	
			100%				50%		50%	
Overall (All Reports) Total			15	6	1		5	1	2	9
Overall (All Reports) Total %		75%	68%	27%	5%		29%	6%	12%	53%

Table 2 : 2022-2023 Summary of Findings and Recommendations Responses

			Findings				Recommendations			
#	2022-2023 Reports	Responses Received %	Agreed	Disagreed Partially	Disagreed Completely		Implemented	Will Implement	Further Study	Will NOT Implement
1	Veterans Liberty Cemetery	100%	10				1	7		2
			100%				10%	70%		20%
2	Has Measure B Benefitted the Fresno County Free Library?	67%	7	2	1		2	3		3
			70%	20%	10%		25%	38%		38%
3	School Safety and Security in Fresno County	13%	2	1	3		3	1		3
			33%	17%	50%		43%	14%		43%
4	Operational Status of Fresno City Fire Hydrants	50%	3	1			1	2		
			75%	25%			33%	67%		
Overall (All Reports) Total			22	4	4		7	13	0	8
Overall (All Reports) Total %		30%	73%	13%	13%		25%	46%	0%	29%

Table 3 : 2023-2024 Summary of Findings and Recommendations Responses

			Findings			Recommendations				
#	2023-2024 Reports	Responses Received %	Agreed	Disagreed Partially	Disagreed Completely		Implemented	Will Implement	Further Study	Will NOT Implement
1	Is Something Missing in the Clovis Cemetery District?	100%	7		1		4	1		2
			88%		13%		57%	14%		29%
2	Toward Lasting Improvement: A Review of Fresno County Vacant Property and Real Estate Practices	100%	8	6				22		
			57%	43%				100%		
3	Gone Phishing : How the City of Fresno Fell Victim to a \$613,737 Scam	100%	4				11			
			100%				100%			
4	Eat At Your Own Risk: The Quiet Reality of Health Inspections in Fresno County	50%	2	5	2		1	7		2
			22%	56%	22%		10%	70%		20%
5	Fresno County Special District Website Transparency: Seeing Your Dollars At Work	71%	30	9	6		21	16	3	6
			67%	20%	13%		46%	35%	7%	13%
Overall (All Reports) Total			51	20	9		37	46	3	10
Overall (All Reports) Total %		75%	64%	25%	11%		39%	48%	3%	10%

Follow Up of Open Recommendations in the Grand Jury Report 2022-2023

A follow up on those recommendations in which the response was “will implement” or “further study is needed” on the 2022-2023 Grand Jury reports is shown below.

Report #1 - Veterans Liberty Cemetery

The original report can be found here:

[Revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf](#) or

<https://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/system/files/general/revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf>

This report focused on the need for more adequate maintenance of the Veterans Liberty Cemetery (VLC). There were six (6) recommendations in which the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and/or the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning indicated the recommendation would be implemented. The 6 recommendations along with an update on whether or not they were implemented are shown below:

- R1 – “The Fresno County Board of Supervisors should approve one-time funding for the improvements necessary at VLC by December 31, 2023.”
 - Update – The Department of Public Works and Planning has been working on improving the VLC. Funds were used to make improvements at VLC.
- R2 – “The Director of Public Works and Planning should obtain bids for outsourcing the maintenance of VLC by December 31, 2023. The Grand Jury feels that outsourcing could be a cost saving measure.”
 - Update - Bids were received, however, it was determined that it was not cost effective to outsource the maintenance.
- R4 – “The Director of Public Works and Planning should assign sufficient staff to adequately maintain the cemetery on a consistent basis by December 31, 2023.”
 - Update – The Department of Public Works and Planning is planning to budget for one full time position.
- R5 – “The Director of Public Works and Planning should have the outdoor restrooms removed due to ongoing vandalism by December 31, 2023.”
 - Update - The restrooms have been boarded up to prevent entry. Funding sources are still being explored to remove the restroom.
- R7 – “The Director of Public Works and Planning should have staff purchase the necessary tools and equipment specific to the needs of VLC. These tools should be maintained in working order and stored at the cemetery by December 31, 2023.”
 - Update - The tools and equipment were purchased. It was determined that it would be difficult to secure the equipment at VLC, so the equipment is trailered in on the maintenance days.
- R8 – “The Director of Public Works and Planning or the Fresno County Board of Supervisors should have the cinder block wall repaired by July 31, 2023.”
 - Update - The cinder block has been repaired. The Department of Public Works and Planning is currently working on determining the best type of fencing for VLC.

Report #2 - Has Measure B Benefitted the Fresno County Free Library?

The original report can be found here:

[Revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf](#) or
<https://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/system/files/general/revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf>

This report focused on whether or not Measure B benefitted the Fresno County Free Library (FCFL). There were three (3) recommendations in which the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and/or the Fresno County Public Library indicated the recommendation would be implemented. The 3 recommendations along with an update on whether or not they were implemented are shown below:

- R2 – “The Board of Supervisors should select and maintain a full complement of representatives to the Citizens Review Panel for their districts to ensure proper oversight of Measure B utilization. Completed by September 30, 2023.”
 - Update - There are currently 2 vacancies. The Fresno County Public Library continues to try and fill the vacancies.
- R3 – “The FCFL Librarian in conjunction with associated stakeholders should schedule planning sessions and develop an Operational Service Delivery Plan (OSDP) implementing ongoing measurable metrics for each of the listed expenditures and OSDP items as outlined in the Measure B Ordinance. Commencing not later than December 31, 2023.”
 - Update - The original completion date to implement this recommendation was too ambitious. The Fresno County Public Library is continuing to work on the Operational Service Delivery Plan in conjunction with the Long Term Facilities Plan mentioned in R4 below. It is estimated the plan is 70% complete.
- R4 – “The FCFL Librarian should develop a current detailed and prioritized Long Term Facilities Plan. Commencing not later than December 31, 2023.”
 - Update - The original completion date to implement this recommendation was too ambitious. The Fresno County Public Library is continuing to work on the Long Term Facilities Plan in conjunction with the Operational Service Delivery Plan mentioned in recommendation R3 above. It is estimated the plan is 70% complete.

Report #3 - School Safety and Security in Fresno County

The original report can be found here:

[Revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf](#) or
<https://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/system/files/general/revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf>

This report focused on the safety and security of Fresno County schools and if its schools were prepared for an active shooter situation. There was one (1) recommendation in which the Fresno County Sheriff indicated the recommendation would be implemented. The one recommendation along with an update on whether or not it was implemented is shown below:

- R5 – “The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the Fresno County Sheriff, and local Police Chiefs should recommend to school district boards that they maximize the use of video surveillance, including properly staffed and trained operators. This should be accomplished by June 30, 2024.”
 - Update - This has not been completed yet. In 2024, the California Education Code was updated with section 32280.5, which encourages all public and charter schools with an enrollment of 100 students or more to implement a web-based or app-based school safety program. Since the Grand Jury released its original report, this newer web-based technology has emerged to better serve the needs of the schools and better enhance school safety and security. The Sheriff’s Office in coordination with the Superintendent of Fresno County Schools are planning on making a recommendation to Fresno County schools to implement the newer web-based technology in June 2025.

Report #4 - Operational Status of Fresno City Fire Hydrants

The original report can be found here:

[Revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf](#) or
<https://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/system/files/general/revised-grand-jury-report-2022-23.pdf>

This report focused on the maintenance, service, and functionality of fire hydrants in the city of Fresno. There were two (2) recommendations in which the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities (DPU-W) indicated the recommendation would be implemented. The 2 recommendations along with an update on whether or not they were implemented are shown below:

- R1 – “The Fresno City Fire Department (FCFD) Chief should share the scheduled upgraded program with the DPU-W to streamline communications between all parties so the requisition of necessary repairs and reporting on completions of repairs could be more effectively tracked. This should be completed by March 2024.”
 - Update - FCFD utilizes Geographic Information System (GIS) software to manage hydrant information. A FCFD GIS Specialist provides DPU-W with an excel table on a daily basis. FCFD continues to improve the operating efficiency of the GIS software to make it even more efficient.

- R3 – “The FCFD Chief should initiate scheduled quarterly meetings with DPU-W Manager, and the City of Fresno Purchasing Department to improve communications between departments. To be completed by December 2023.”
 - Update - Communications between DPU-W and the FCFD have improved significantly as they communicate at least once a week.

CONCLUSION

The Grand Jury strives to improve governmental efficiency. While it is understandable that all Grand Jury recommendations will not be implemented, the Summary of Findings and Recommendations show that recommendations have been implemented and the Grand Jury work has made a positive impact.

The Fresno County Civil Grand Jury would like to thank those who provided information in the development of this report. The cooperation of all respondents is greatly appreciated.

FINDINGS

- F1. The response rate for the following reports were:
2021-2022 = 75%, 2022-2023 = 30%, 2024-2025 = 75%.
- F2. The 12 open recommendations for the 2022-2023 Grand Jury report were either resolved or are still being implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations

REQUIRED RESPONSES

No responses required

APPENDIX

Grand Jury Report Response Scorecard For the Years 2018 - 2019 through 2023 - 2024												
Recommendations that were Implemented or Will be Implemented % (Based on the data below)									72%			
Responses Received % (Based on the data below)									66%			
			Responses		Findings				Recommendations			
Overall (All Reports) Total %			66%		66%	21%	13%		31%	41%	8%	20%
Overall (All Reports) Totals			65	98	111	36	22		54	71	13	35
Data Used for Overall Totals:												
Year	Report #	Topic	Received Responses	Total Requested Responses	Agreed	Disagreed Partially	Disagreed Completely		Implemented	Will Implement	Further Study	Will NOT Implement
2023-2024	1	Is Something Missing in the Clovis Cemetery District?	1	1	7	0	1		4	1	0	2
2023-2024	2	Toward Lasting Improvement: A Review of Fresno County Vacant Property and Real Estate Practices	7	7	8	6	0		0	22	0	0
2023-2024	3	Gone Phishing : How the City of Fresno Fell Victim to a \$613,737 Scam	2	2	4	0	0		11	0	0	0
2023-2024	4	Eat At Your Own Risk: The Quiet Reality of Health Inspections in Fresno County	2	4	2	5	2		1	7	0	2
2023-2024	5	Fresno County Special District Website Transparency: Seeing Your Dollars At Work	29	41	30	9	6		21	16	3	6
2022-2023	1	Veterans Liberty Cemetery	2	2	10	0	0		1	7	0	2
2022-2023	2	Has Measure B Benefited the Fresno County Free Library?	2	3	7	2	1		2	3	0	3

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2022-2023	3	School Safety and Security in Fresno County	2	16	2	1	3		3	1	0	3
2022-2023	4	Operational Status of Fresno City Fire Hydrants	1	2	3	1	0		1	2	0	0
2021-2022	1	Conflict-of-Interest Within County Contracting Undermines Public Trust	3	3	4	4	0		1	0	0	6
2021-2022	2	Despite Criticism, County Elections Integrity Validated	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
2021-2022	3	Compliance and Continuity Report	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
2021-2022	4	Clovis Police Department Responds To Its Diversity Challenges	1	3	7	2	1		2	1	0	3
2021-2022	5	Purchasing Policies and Procedures Within Public Works and Planning, and Internal Services	2	2	4	0	0		2	0	2	0
2019-2020	1	2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 Continuity Reports	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
2019-2020	2	Revisiting Special District Audits	2	2	1	0	0		0	2	0	2
2019-2020	3	Who Is Running Parlier?	0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
2019-2020	4	Solving Homelessness Challenges Threatened By Too Many 'Helping Hands'	3	3	4	2	2		1	4	3	0
2018-2019	1	Elder Abuse and the "Silver Tsunami"	2	2	7	4	1		0	1	1	2
2018-2019	2	First 5 Fresno County	2	2	2	0	3		0	1	0	3
2018-2019	3	Fresno Police Department 9-1-1 Communication Center	2	2	9	0	2		4	3	4	1

DISCLAIMER

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

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(<https://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/divisions/jury-service/civil-grand-jury>)