

2024-2025 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Responses

Presented by:

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Board of Supervisors Meeting
July 22, 2025



Grand Jury Report

*A Long and Winding Road for The
Homeless of Nevada County*

Grand Jury Purpose & Overview

- Investigate the operations of all county agencies, special districts, schools, and other entities that receive public money.
- Issues are chosen by the jurors based on citizen-initiated complaints and/or based on juror initiative.
- The jury is required to annually inspect all public prisons in the county.
- The jury may investigate the efficiency of all local government activity, audit financial records, and review all public records.
- The deliberations are conducted in secrecy and jurors are sworn to maintain confidentiality for life.

Purpose & Overview

- Grand Jury Issues Reports include Findings and Recommendations
- Identified public agencies are required to respond to the findings per Penal Code Section 933.05 within 90 days
- Responses incorporate:
 - Examination of County records
 - Interviews
 - Review of CEO and County Counsel
 - Incorporate any requested department responses

2024/25 Civil Grand Jury Report

1. *A Long and Winding Road for the Homeless of Nevada County* (Published May 8, 2025)

Requested Responses:

Findings 2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8

Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

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For each finding, the County must indicate one of the following:

- Agrees
- Disagrees (with explanation)
- Partially Disagrees (with explanation)

For each recommendation, the County must indicate one of the following:

- The recommendation has been implemented (with summary)
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented (with timeline)
- The recommendation requires further analysis (with explanation)
- The recommendation will not be implemented (with explanation)

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F2: Homeless persons living in the WUI present a high risk of starting wildfires, endangering themselves, county residents, first responders, and property.

Response: Partially Disagree

F3: Nevada County, with its rural nature, very high fire risk designation, and, in many cases, single evacuation routes, needs to be extra vigilant regarding fire prevention.

Response: Agree

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F4: Homelessness continues to increase in the County.

Response: Disagree

F5: Nevada County has substantially fewer shelter beds available than the PIT homeless count.

Response: Agree

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F6: Law enforcement agencies often find it frustrating when dealing with the unhoused population, and lack tools to remove homeless from fire-prone areas in the WUI.

Response: Agree

F7: Law enforcement agencies have difficulties removing homeless camps from private property.

Response: Agree

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F8: While Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Truckee have adopted anti-camping laws, the County lacks a comprehensive anti-camping law.

Response: Partially Disagree

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Recommendation 1: Local governments (cities, the county, and the BoS) should enact comprehensive and coordinated anticamping laws; possibly consulting existing anti-camping laws in other counties and states.

Response: The Recommendation Requires Further Analysis

Recommendation 2: Local governments should develop one or more designated low-barrier “sanctioned” camping areas for the homeless, with facilities and access to support services, similar to those established by other municipalities.

Response: The Recommendation Requires Further Analysis

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Recommendation 3: Local governments should extend the duration of trespass letters obtained from private property owners to one-year or longer to enable law enforcement personnel to quickly remove encampments from private property.

Response: The Recommendation will not be Implemented

Recommendation 4: Local governments should provide additional shelter beds to close the gap between the number of unhoused people and the number of shelter beds.

Response: The Recommendation Has Been Implemented

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Recommendation 5: Local governments should prioritize removing the homeless from the WUI.

Response: The Recommendation Has Been Implemented

Recommendation 6: Local governments should expand the criteria currently used to determine warming shelter hours to be more realistic and better address the exposure risk that homeless face in colder months.

Response: The Recommendation Has Been Implemented

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Recommendation 7: The County should update the 2018 Ten-Year Plan to address this report's findings and recommendations.

Response: This Recommendation will not be Implemented

Questions?