

Grand Jury Reports

Board of Supervisors Meeting
September 13, 2022

Prepared by County Executive Office



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 on the will of the jurors.
- 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, cont.

- 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

2021/22 Grand Jury Reports

- **2021/22 Grand Jury Issued 6 Reports**
 1. Nevada County Department of Public Works
County Roads: Take Me Home
 2. Joint Powers Authorities in Nevada County Who
Are They and Who's Watching
 3. Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Growing Pains
and Best Practices
 4. Nevada Irrigation District Troubled Waters
 5. Nevada County Sheriff's Department Inmate
Welfare Fund: Tipping the Scale in Criminal Justice
 6. Nevada County Schools The Lesson never Learned

Requested Responses of the County

- 2021/22 Grand Jury Reports
 1. Nevada County Department of Public Works
County Roads: Take Me Home
 2. Joint Powers Authorities in Nevada County
Who Are They and Who's Watching

Reponses Summary

Nevada County Department of Public Works County Roads: Take Me Home

2021-22 Grand Jury Report Recommendations :

- **Develop and implement procedures to notify residents of road work.**
 - **Response:** Residents are notified of major projects associated with the County's maintained mileage; low daily trip roads are often maintained at the time of connecting maintained mileage work. It would be an inefficient use of resources to notify all residents of all road work at all times.
- **Apply inspection practices to work performed by Road Maintenance**
 - **Response:** County hires contractors for larger jobs (large paving, bridges, etc.); Road Maintenance performs work on an ongoing basis per specifications
- **Develop and implement inspection report for all Road Maintenance jobs (including downtime caused by equipment failure)**
 - **Response:** Daily inspection Reports are already prepared on work performed; Costs associated with downtime or equipment failure are accounted in overall costs

Reponses Summary

Nevada County Department of Public Works County Roads: Take Me Home

2021-22 Grand Jury Report Recommendations :

- **Include low daily trip county roads in County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**
 - **Response:** Incorporating low daily trip roads into the CIP would require substantial resources and be inefficient; instead, all county roads are ranked and prioritized based on need, PCI, available resources, and practicallity
- **Revise County's Pavement Conditions Index (PCI) Goal from PCI 62 to PCI 71+**
 - **Response:** This would require substantial resource increase in the amount of approximately \$10M annually; PCI 62 is consistent with other counties and is considered Good/Fair
- **Present the County's Replacement Priority Index List (RPI) to the Board annually**
 - **Response:** Roads Equipment RPI is already presented to the Budget Subcommittee during annual budget process

Reponses Summary

Nevada County Department of Public Works County Roads: Take Me Home

2021-22 Grand Jury Report Recommendations :

- **Adequate funding for equipment replacement and clearly define fund balances in budget**
 - **Response:** FY22-23 will be the 1st year to fully collect annual depreciation adding \$669K to the replacement fund; Intent is to fully fund ISF while balancing available resources; applying for grants
- **Recommend Road Commissioner present Budget to the Board**
 - **Response:** Road Budget is presented to the BOS Budget Subcommittee and to BOS annually
- **Recommend the Board conduct reasonable inspections from time to time within respective district per Streets & Highway Code Section 2010**
 - **Response:** Board already conducts periodic inspection of roads within each district per CA Streets & HWY Code §2010; tracking is verified per reimbursements submitted and processed by PWs

Reponses Summary

Joint Powers Authorities in Nevada County Who Are They and Who's Watching

2021-22 Grand Jury Report Recommendations:

- **The County should identify a resource/department responsible for obtaining, maintaining, and tracking an active list of all JPAs associated with Nevada County**
 - **Response:** State Agencies (CA Secretary of State / CA Controller / CA Debt Commission) are responsible for regulatory oversight; LAFCo maintains list of JPAs with provide municipal services and Nevada County Auditor-Controller maintains annual audits submitted by JPA w/ home office in Nevada County
- **The County should identify a resource/department responsible for auditing JPA compliance against Government Code Section 6500**
 - **Response:** JPA oversight is subject to CA Government Code Section 3500; State Agencies JPAs are legal entities subject to state oversight (CA Sec. of State / State Controller / CA Debt Commission); County has jurisdiction over only its own member JPAs.

Recommendation

Approve the Responses to the Grand Jury Reports (2 actions)

1. Nevada County Department of Public Works County Roads: Take Me Home
2. Joint Powers Authorities in Nevada County Who Are They and Who's Watching