

Nevada County Grand Jury Reports

Board of Supervisors Meeting

July 27, 2021

Prepared by the 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



2020/21 Grand Jury Reports

- 2020/21 Grand Jury Issued 7 Reports
 1. Cannabis in Nevada County: A Growing Problem
 2. Looking Back – 2019-2020 Nevada County Grand Jury Report: FIRE INSPECTION IN NEVADA COUNTY – What We Don't Know Can Hurt Us
 3. Nevada County Sheriff Body-Worn Cameras: Moving in Slow Motion
 4. The 2020 Nevada County Presidential General Election: Observations in a Time of Challenges
 5. FLEET MAINTENANCE: Are citizens' dollars being spent efficiently and effectively?
 6. NID Billing and Payment Fees: Are they reasonable?
 7. Joint Powers Authorities: What You Need to Know



Requested Responses of the County

- 2020/21 Grand Jury Reports:

1. Cannabis in Nevada County: A Growing Problem
2. FLEET MAINTENANCE: Are citizens' dollars being spent efficiently and effectively?



Response Summary

Cannabis in Nevada County: A Growing Problem

2020-21 Grand Jury Report recommendations:

- **Need for Streamlining Permitting Process**
 - Processes have been and continue to be improved
 - (i.e. pre-application process, cannabis process improvement, 11/20 policy amendments, admin, process vs. conditional use permit, “Plants in Ground” Policy, 2-year land use compliance transition period, local equity study, etc.)
 - Costs associated with H&S Code cannot be reduced or waived
- **Enforcement belongs with the Sheriff**
 - Nevada County Commercial Cannabis Ord. 2467 establishes cultivation as land-use violation
 - Close partnership with Sheriff and Code Compliance where applicable



Response Summary

Cannabis in Nevada County: A Growing Problem

2020-21 Grand Jury Report recommendations:

- **Need to re-evaluate fines and abatement**
 - Fine/Fee Schedule remains consistent with State Code
 - Recent Board action removed \$25k cap on fines and penalties (Ord. 2491 on 4/27/21)



Response Summary

FLEET MAINTENANCE: Are citizen dollars being spent efficiently and effectively?

2020-21 Grand Jury Report recommendations:

- **Need to develop strategic plans for implementing alternative fuel vehicles**
 - Strategic Plans are in place and include converting NCSO Inceptors with hybrids and converting Transit Vehicles to electric by end of 2025
- **Partner with incorporated jurisdictions**
 - County partners and continues to explore opportunities where applicable (i.e. snow removal with Truckee and Placer County)



Recommendation

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

1. Cannabis in Nevada County: A Growing Problem
2. FLEET MAINTENANCE: Are citizens' dollars being spent efficiently and effectively?

