

# UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## ***A Continuity Report by the 2022-23 Yolo County Grand Jury***

*The ability to change constantly and effectively is made easier by high-level continuity. – Michael Porter*

### **SUMMARY**

The Yolo County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) functions as a civil watchdog investigating local governments located in Yolo County, including Yolo County agencies, cities and special districts. During the one-year grand jury term, a grand jury completes investigations on various issues affecting Yolo County. Reports are written that include factual background, findings, recommendations and occasionally commendations. Reports also include due dates for responses back to the grand jury in accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05.

Prior grand jury reports and agency responses are available at the Yolo County Grand Jury website: <https://www.yolocounty.org/living/grand-jury>

Subsequent grand juries develop follow-up reports that monitor required responses and evolving practices of agencies. This follow-up permits review of long-term issues over a period of years.

The 2022-23 Grand Jury issued three new investigative reports which considered findings from investigations of earlier reports, including additional research and investigation, and produced their own new findings that expand upon the original reports.

The 2022-23 Grand Jury issued new investigative reports originating from:

- one investigative report of the 2017-18 term,
- two investigative reports of the 2019-20 term, and
- three investigative reports of the 2021-22 term.

These reports concern the operations of five school districts, the Sheriff's Office, and the Elections Office. (See Table I)

The Grand Jury also further engaged agencies regarding the subject of previous years' grand jury investigations to observe compliance with prior grand jury recommendations.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***I. Prior Term Findings And Recommendations Incorporated Into 2022-23 Investigative Reports***

#### Are We There Yet? On the Road to School Safety

This year's report continues to address the subject of safety in Yolo County's five principal school districts, discussing factors affecting district responses to threats, acknowledging improvements, pointing out differences among school districts, and addressing improvement needs.

#### Meeting Their Obligations? A Report on the Yolo County Detention Facility

The Grand Jury incorporated investigation of follow-up items to the 2017-2018 Report and two 2021-22 reports concerning Yolo County's detention facilities, its annual detention facility review, and investigation of other topics into this term's investigative report.

The Grand Jury found that recommended improvements by the Yolo County Sheriff to visitation and grievance systems were not fully implemented, although steps were being taken to improve these systems. Similarly, pre-release planning and resources discontinued during the COVID-19 epidemic were paused and partially but not completely reinstated as of this report.

#### Safe and Secure? A Look at the Yolo County Elections Office

The 2019-20 Yolo County Grand Jury found that the County's emergency response plan did not fully prepare for emergencies, and recommended publishing the contents of an emergency response plan. While the Elections Office agreed to implement such a plan, the 2021-22 Yolo County Grand Jury found that the Elections Office had not published the plan, although it had partially complied with the Grand Jury's recommendations. This term's report concerning the Elections Office found that that the Elections Office did provide an emergency response plan.

Prior grand jury investigative report findings and recommendations are considered in this year's reports as summarized in the following table.

**TABLE I**

<b>REPORT YEAR/TITLE</b>	<b>FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EVALUATED IN 2022-23 REPORT</b>
<b>2019-20</b> Every School is Vulnerable: Staff and Students Must Feel Safe for Learning to Occur	Findings F-1 to F-9 Recommendations R-1 to R-7	School safety	Are We There Yet? On the Road to School Safety
<b>2017-18:</b> Inmate Visitation Policy at the Yolo County Monroe Detention Center	Findings F-1 to F-3 Recommendations R-1 to R-3	Inmate visitation appointments, remote visitation	Meeting Their Obligations? A Report on the Yolo County Detention Facility
<b>2019-20:</b> Monitoring Compliance with 2017-18 Yolo County Grand Jury Recommendations	Review of 2017-18 agency responses. (Continuity report discussion)	Visitation scheduling, video visitation system, implementation and funding	
<b>2021-22:</b> A Snapshot in Time: An Overview of the Yolo County Jail	Findings F-1, F-2 Recommendations R-1 to R-3	Grievance tracking, pre-release planning	
<b>2021-22:</b> Cancelled: Visitation Policies at the Monroe Detention Center	Findings F-1 to F-4 Recommendations R-1 to R-5	Visitation scheduling, video visitation, visitation cancellation, transparency concerning visitation practices	

REPORT YEAR/TITLE	FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SUBJECT	EVALUATED IN 2022-23 REPORT
<b>2019-20:</b> Election Security in Yolo County	Findings F-5 to F-8 Recommendations R1 -3	Elections Office Emergency Response Plan	<i>Safe and Secure? A New look at the Yolo County Elections Office 2021-22</i> Recommendation R-1 Implemented
<b>2021-22:</b> You Only Vote Once- Election Integrity in Yolo County	Finding F-3 Recommendation R-1		

**II. Follow-Up Items To 2022-23 Report**

A summary of follow-up items taken up this term resulting in progress on earlier recommendations is summarized in the table below.

**TABLE II**

REPORT TITLE/ YEAR	KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE	DISPOSITION
<b>2021-22:</b>  HELP! I Need Somebody-Getting an Education  (Winters JUSD)	Recommendation R-2: The district has provided a graphic in a publicly accessible office in each school which clearly outlines the steps required to: (a) evaluate a child for disabilities and (b) obtain special education services or classroom accommodations for a child by October 1, 2022.	Grand Jury Inquiry concerning Recommendation R-2 from 11/16/22: Has the SST Road Map graphic regarding data from literacy testing been finalized and displayed at every school for public view? If so, please identify where it is located in each school. (Appendix A-1, p. 1)	District response 11/16/22: The District initially established an SST RoadMap publication timeline of October, 1, 2022. Staff have extended this timeline to allow for additional engagement partner input. The graphic will be finalized and publicized by February 1, 2023. WJUSD staff will post the SST Roadmap graphic at the District Office, in school

			<p>site offices, and on the District website. (Appendix A-2, p. 2)</p> <p><b>Note: The Grand Jury was unable to locate this on the District's web site as of 6/2023</b></p>
<p><b>2021-22:</b></p> <p>Inspecting the Inspectors: Hiring practices at the City of West Sacramento</p>	<p>Finding F-1: Management failed to conduct an adequate background check and failed to properly vet the Subject of the Complaint (SOTC) to ensure all qualifications for the position were met, as specified by the City of West Sacramento's personnel rule.</p> <p>Finding F-3: For over two years, supervisory and management staff failed to address the pattern of community complaints regarding the SOTC's work.</p>	<p>Letter of 2/8/23 to Grand Jury, request to confirm practices are in place:</p> <p>Preemployment Checks: 1. That always before hiring new inspectors, the Building Division will perform a background check of relevant occupational licenses issued to the individual by state or federal agencies (e.g., California State License Board, Architect's Board, Board for Professional State Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists).</p> <p>2. Post Hiring Checks: The City of West Sacramento has procedures to periodically determine (such as by a check of public records or self-certification by an inspector) that each building inspector submit a certification</p>	<p>City of West Sacramento letter of 3/2/23 confirms employment checks are in place. Pre-employment Hiring: When job candidates submit an employment application to the City where the position requires some form of professional license and/or certificate, the applicant must list those in their position. If the job description requires a license/certificate at the time of hire, those applicants not possessing those credentials will be screened out as not meeting the minimum qualifications. For those positions where credentials are not required upon hiring, the hiring Department will verify that they are obtained in a timely manner-typically during the employee's probationary period-and will not permit the employee to perform any</p>

		that he or she has not been subject to discipline by any regulatory/professional licensing board or association. (Appendix B-1, p. 2)	work requiring those credentials until such credentials are obtained. Post hiring checks: The City of West Sacramento has procedures to periodically determine (such as by a check of public records or self-certification by an inspector) that each building inspector submit a certification that he or she has not been subject to discipline by any regulatory/professional licensing board or association. (Appendix B-2, p. 1)
<p><b>2021-22:</b></p> <p>Unfinished Business: A Continuity report. Follow-up to 2018-19 report recommendation concerning possible preparation of MSR-ROI earlier than fiscal year 2023-24 related to reorganization of Reclamation Districts 537 and 900 as early as 2/1/22 (Exhibit C of 2021-22 YCGJ Report)</p>	<p>6/16/22: Yolo LAFCo responded that earlier publication for MSR-MOI is not scheduled (Appendix C-1)</p>	<p>11 /21 /22: 2022-23 Grand Jury requested expedited review (Appendix C-2, p. 1).</p>	<p>11/22/22; Yolo LAFCo agreed to expedited review by one year to fiscal year 2022-23 instead of 2023-24) (Appendix C-3, p. 1)</p>

**APPENDICES**

- A-1, A-2: Yolo County schools
- B-1, B-2 West Sacramento Hiring practices
- C-1, C-2, C-3 LAFCo operations