

A REPORT BY
THE 2019-2020 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY
725 Court Street
Martinez, California 94553

Report 2001

Compliance And Continuity Report

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 2001

COMPLIANCE AND CONTINUITY REPORT

The Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury is impaneled annually to investigate city and county government, special districts, and certain non-profit corporations to ensure that their functions are performed in a lawful, economical, and efficient manner. Findings and recommendations developed from these investigations are contained in the reports signed by the Civil Grand Jury Foreperson and the Grand Jury Judge. Responses to these reports must be made within certain time constraints and in accordance with specific formats pursuant to 933 and 933.05 of the California Penal Code. These responses to the recommendations must include one of the following legally permitted options:

- **The recommendation has been implemented** with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- **The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future** with a time frame for implementation.
- **The recommendation requires further analysis** with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study and a time frame (which shall not exceed 6 months from date of report publication) for the matter to be prepared for discussion.
- **The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable** with an explanation therefor.

The 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury reviewed 8 reports from the 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury. There were 28 letters, with copies of applicable reports, mailed to the different entities from which responses were required. These 8 reports made a cumulative total of 93 recommendations to the various recipients, of which 51 responses (55%) stated that the recommendation(s) have been or will shortly be implemented and 15 (16%) responses stated that the recommendation required further analysis. For further explanation and clarification of subject responses to recommendations, refer to their full responses posted online. Responses to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury reports are posted on the Contra Costa County Grand Jury Website in their entirety and can be viewed at:

<http://www.cc-courts.org/civil/grand-jury-reports.aspx>

The Grand Jury believes it is important for future Grand Juries to continue to review these responses and to be vigilant in seeing that recommendations that have been accepted are implemented. Special attention should be paid to those responses requiring implementation within specified time frames. In this manner, the commitment and hard work of past and future Grand Juries will result in positive changes for the citizens of Contra Costa County.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1902
Is Charter School Oversight Effective in Contra Costa County?

Recommendation #1: As a condition of approving charter petitions at the next petition renewal hearing, the Office of Education should consider requiring all charter schools that are under its chartering authority to have a standardized and detailed MOU using a modified version of the CARSNet format.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools, Office of Education	The recommendation has been implemented
Contra Costa County Board of Education	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #2: As a condition of approving charter petitions at the next petition renewal hearing, the Office of Education should consider including provisions for parent-teacher organizations in its MOU for all charter schools.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools, Office of Education	The recommendation has been implemented
Contra Costa County Board of Education	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #3: As a condition of approving Making Waves Academy and Clayton Valley Charter High School charter petitions at the next petition renewal hearing, the Office of Education should consider requiring these schools to enter into an MOU whereby they agree to update their board of director structures.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools, Office of Education	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
Contra Costa County Board of Education	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #4: The Office of Education should consider developing a plan to communicate with charter schools about how it will conduct oversight by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools, Office of Education	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
Contra Costa County Board of Education	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1903 Safeguarding the Library's Local History Collection

Recommendation #1: The Library should consider developing a short-term plan by September 2019 for safeguarding the Collection while a long-term plan is being developed and implemented.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #2: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing the Library to develop a long-term plan for housing the Collection, including a budget, by June 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation requires further analysis

Recommendation #3: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing the Library to explore the feasibility of an agreement with the Contra Costa County Historical Society for housing the Collection by August 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation requires further analysis

Recommendation #4: The Board of Supervisors should consider providing the financial resources necessary to fund the budget for the long-term plan in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation requires further analysis

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1904 EBMUD Water Rates

Recommendation #1: The EBMUD Board should consider directing its General Manager to improve transparency by providing customers with a narrative explanation of the cost-of-service methodology, as recommended by the League of California Cities, by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #2: The EBMUD Board should consider directing its General Manager to include a discussion of how rates are set and alternative methods of setting rates in the narrative explanation, by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #3: The EBMUD Board should consider directing its General Manager to solicit customer input and participation in its examination of Water Budget rate structures by establishing a customer advisory committee by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation requires further analysis

Recommendation #4: The EBMUD Board should consider directing its General Manager to complete an analysis of Water Budget rate structures and communicate its findings to customers by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation requires further analysis

Recommendation #5: The EBMUD Board should consider directing its General Manager to develop a plan to improve transparency and better engage customers in how it sets its water rates by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #6: The EBMUD Board should consider holding board meetings during weekday evenings, by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #7: The EBMUD Board should consider holding board meetings at varying locations including locations east of the Oakland/Berkeley Hills, such as in Walnut Creek, by December 31, 2019

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #8: The EBMUD Board should consider directing its General Manager to complete the evaluation of live-streaming of Board meetings by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation requires further analysis

Recommendation #9: The EBMUD Board should consider streaming online or televising its board meetings to encourage public participation and understanding of its activities by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
EBMUD Board of Directors	The recommendation requires further analysis

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1905 Fire Inspection Records and Reporting

Recommendation #1: The Fire District Board of Directors should consider directing the Fire Chief to evaluate the current staffing needs of the Code Enforcement Unit and confirm it has the staffing needed to complete the state-mandated annual inspections for schools and multifamily residences (currently about 8,000), by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors	The recommendation has been implemented.

Recommendation #2: The Fire District Board of Directors should consider directing the Fire Chief to produce public quarterly reports on the status of compliance with state-mandated inspections, including status for the prior 12 months and projected status to the end of the year, by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #3: The Fire District Board of Directors should consider directing the Fire Chief to develop a publicly available Internet-based address lookup feature disclosing the status of state-mandated fire inspections, by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable

Recommendation #4: The Fire District Board of Directors should consider directing the Fire Chief to replace the existing RMS with a system that includes the ability to utilize a tablet device for data entry in the field, by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #5: The Fire District Board of Directors should consider directing the Fire Chief to connect the new RMS database to state and local data sources and to the District's own Computer Aided Dispatch system by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #6: The Fire District Board of Directors should consider directing the Fire Chief to develop and implement an audit process to verify the accuracy and completeness of the RMS data, by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1906 Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect
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Recommendation #1: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing EHSD to review social worker compensation to ensure that it is competitive with that of neighboring counties in the 2020-2021 budget cycle.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #2: The Board of Supervisors should consider implementing EHSD's proposal for incentives to aid in recruiting new social workers for CFS in the 2020-2021 budget cycle.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation requires further analysis

Recommendation #3: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing EHSD to continue its ongoing efforts to streamline the hiring process and reduce the amount of time it takes to make hiring decisions by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #4: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing EHSD to hold CFS managers accountable for participating in its Leadership Development program by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable

Recommendation #5: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing EHSD to develop and implement a formal process for handling and resolving CFS client complaints by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #6: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing EHSD to develop and implement procedures for evaluating recommendations by the CFS staff or ombudsman for improving policies and practices by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented.

Recommendation #7: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing EHSD to require the ombudsman to report to the director of EHSD, rather than the director of CFS, by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1907 Stormwater Trash Reduction
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Recommendation #1: The City Councils of Hercules and Pinole should each consider directing their city manager to implement trash controls to bring them into compliance with the 80% trash reduction goal by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
City of Hercules	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Pinole	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #2: The City/Town Councils of Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Danville, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, and San Ramon should consider limiting the use of Styrofoam containers in their communities by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
City of Antioch	The recommendation requires further analysis
City of Brentwood	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Clayton	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
Town of Danville	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
Town of Moraga	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Oakley	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Orinda	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Pleasant Hill	The recommendation requires further analysis
City of San Ramon	The recommendation requires further analysis

Recommendation #3: The Board of Supervisors and all City/Town Councils should consider directing staff to provide a concise summary of their Annual Reports, citing their accomplishments, challenges, costs, and funds needed to fully comply with the Permit, by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
City of Antioch	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Brentwood	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Clayton	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Concord	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
Town of Danville	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of El Cerrito	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Hercules	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Lafayette	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
City of Martinez	The recommendation has been implemented
Town of Moraga	The recommendation requires further analysis
City of Oakley	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Orinda	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Pinole	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
City of Pittsburg	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

City of Pleasant Hill	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
City of Richmond	The recommendation has been implemented
City of San Pablo	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
City of San Ramon	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Walnut Creek	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #4: The Board of Supervisors and all City/Town Councils should consider identifying additional revenue sources to fully fund Permit requirements in order to comply with the Permit and avoid potential liability, by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future
City of Antioch	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Brentwood	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Clayton	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Concord	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
Town of Danville	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of El Cerrito	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Hercules	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Lafayette	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Martinez	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
Town of Moraga	The recommendation requires further analysis
City of Oakley	The recommendation has been implemented

City of Orinda	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Pinole	The recommendation requires further analysis
City of Pittsburg	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of Pleasant Hill	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Richmond	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of San Pablo	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable
City of San Ramon	The recommendation has been implemented
City of Walnut Creek	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1908 Contra Costa County Sheriff's Forensic Services Division
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Recommendation #1: The Sheriff's Office should consider preparing a five-year strategic plan for the Crime Lab by December 31, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #2: As part of a five-year strategic plan, the Sheriff's Office should consider evaluating whether to consolidate its Crime Lab facilities, assess staffing needs, and develop an equipment update plan by December 31, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #3: The Sheriff's Office should consider expanding its outreach to all law enforcement agencies in the County to promote its newly acquired equipment, turnaround times, and available capacity for testing by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #4: To eliminate the redundancy of effort and seek a competitive rate, the Sheriff's Office should consider studying the possibility of becoming the GSR testing contract organization for all law enforcement agencies in the County by December 31, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff	The recommendation requires further analysis

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT 1909 Contra Costa County Psychiatric Emergency Services
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Recommendation #1: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing Contra Costa Health Services to perform a comprehensive needs assessment that would include a redesign of the PES facility that would separate children and adolescents from adult patients by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future

Recommendation #2: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing Contra Costa Health Services to investigate the use of the Medical Center's vacant wing (4D) as a temporary holding area for children and adolescents waiting for long-term placement in other facilities by December 31, 2019.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable

Recommendation #3: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing Contra Costa Health Services to develop a plan to operate a treatment center for children and adolescents who need long-term psychiatric care by June 30, 2020. The treatment center could either be within the County or in collaboration with neighboring counties.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #4: The Board of Supervisors should consider directing Contra Costa Health Services to explore entering into a contract with John Muir Health Concord Medical Center to accept and treat 5150 patients presently only served by the County by June 30, 2020.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented

