



Santa Cruz County
Civil Grand Jury

Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Board of Supervisors' response to 2020-2021 Grand Jury Report- Chasing the Pandemic...

Caitlin Smith <Caitlin.Smith@santacruzcounty.us>

Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 2:29 PM

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached for the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2020-2021 Grand Jury report "Chasing the Pandemic-Role of Testing and Contact Tracing".

Best,

Caitlin C. Smith

County Supervisors' Analyst

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

701 Ocean Street, Room 500

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

831-454-3516

caitlin.smith@santacruzcounty.us

To email all five members of the Board of Supervisors at once,

please use: BoardOfSupervisors@santacruzcounty.us

2 attachments



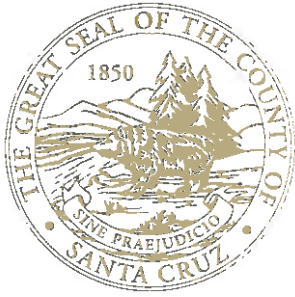
Chasing the Pandemic cover letter.pdf

35K



Board response Chasing the Pandemic.pdf

200K



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
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FIFTH DISTRICT

September 3, 2021

The Honorable Syda Cogliati
Santa Cruz Courthouse
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: RESPONSE TO THE 2020-2021 GRAND JURY REPORT
"CHASING THE PANDEMIC – ROLE OF TESTING AND CONTACT
TRACING"

Dear Judge Cogliati:

The purpose of this letter is to formally transmit the response of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to the 2020-2021 Grand Jury Report, titled "Chasing the Pandemic-Role of Testing and Contact Tracing."

Sincerely,

BRUCE MCPHERSON, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

BM:ccs
Attachment

cc: Clerk of the Board
Santa Cruz County Grand Jury



The 2020–2021 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury
Requires the

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

to Respond to the Findings and Recommendations listed below
which were assigned to them in the Report Titled

Chasing the Pandemic

Role of Testing and Contact Tracing

by August 31, 2021

Responses are **required** from elected officials, elected agency or department heads, and elected boards, councils, and committees which are investigated by the Grand Jury. You are required to respond by the California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#).

Your response will be considered **compliant** under [PC §933.05](#) if it contains an appropriate comment on **all** findings and recommendations **which were assigned to you** in this report.

Please follow the instructions below when preparing your response.

Instructions for Respondents

Your assigned [Findings](#) and [Recommendations](#) are listed on the following pages with check boxes and an expandable space for summaries, timeframes, and explanations. Please follow these instructions, which paraphrase [PC §933.05](#):

1. **For the Findings, mark one of the following responses with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
 - a. **AGREE with the Finding**, or
 - b. **PARTIALLY DISAGREE with the Finding** – specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons why, or
 - c. **DISAGREE with the Finding** – provide an explanation of the reasons why.
2. **For the Recommendations, mark one of the following actions with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
 - a. **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – provide a summary of the action taken, or
 - b. **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – provide a timeframe or expected date for completion, or
 - c. **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – provide an explanation, scope, and parameters of an analysis to be completed within six months, or
 - d. **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – provide an explanation of why it is not warranted or not reasonable.
3. **Please confirm the date on which you approved the assigned responses:**

We approved these responses in a regular public meeting as shown
in our minutes dated August 24, 2021.

4. **When your responses are complete, please email your completed Response Packet as a PDF file attachment to both**

The Honorable Judge Syda Cogliati Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org and
The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury grandjury@scgrandjury.org.

If you have questions about this response form, please contact the Grand Jury by calling 831-454-2099 or by sending an email to grandjury@scgrandjury.org.

Findings

- F1.** The Health Services Agency of Santa Cruz County’s web page listing COVID-19 testing sites does not adequately help residents find an appropriate testing site to fit their needs.

AGREE
 PARTIALLY DISAGREE
 DISAGREE

Response explanation (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The “Get Tested” website includes contact information for 18 sites, primarily private providers. It includes addresses, phones numbers, hours and a map, as well as a second map showing travel times to a site for various parts of the county.

- F2.** The Health Services Agency of Santa Cruz County’s Save Lives Santa Cruz County webpages do not adequately publicize and inform the public of the critical work that is being done, nor do they reflect the crisis the county has gone through.

AGREE
 PARTIALLY DISAGREE
 DISAGREE

Response explanation (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The County’s coronavirus website includes numerous informational and epidemiological dashboards, vaccine sites, testing sites, industry guidance, health officer orders, signs and other display materials, press releases, videos of public press conference, employer information, resource guides and much more. It is focused on assisting the community in navigating an extraordinary and difficult period in U.S. history. The crisis response work is shared with the community, and the sum of all efforts behind the website does reflect the critical work being done to protect the community.

F3. Establishing the COVID-19 testing laboratory at University of California at Santa Cruz is a great example of cooperation among the university and public agencies in the county. The laboratory has received considerable attention but the cooperative effort among the County Public Health Division, Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County and UCSC has not.

AGREE

PARTIALLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

Response explanation (required for a response other than **Agree**):

A press release announcing the partnership is available at <http://santacruzcounty.us/Portals/7/Pdfs/Coronavirus/CountyUCSCPartnership.08072020.pdf>. The “considerable attention” the lab has received is due in part to the press release.

F4. The Santa Cruz County Public Health Division is staffed by well trained, skilled and knowledgeable professionals who applied that talent to help protect the residents of Santa Cruz County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AGREE

PARTIALLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

Response explanation (required for a response other than **Agree**):

Recommendations

R1. Within the next 3 months the Health Services Agency of Santa Cruz County should revise its web pages to help people find a testing site suitable to their needs. Listing sites without characterizations is not sufficient. (F1)

HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED – summarize what has been done

HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE – summarize what will be done and the timeframe

REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)

WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED – explain why

Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

Because the operations of each site are dynamic and varied, and many of these sites are independent of the county, maintenance of extensive operational information for each site would be burdensome and detract from other outreach responsibilities. Testing availability is now widespread across commercial pharmacies, health care providers, as well as County and State contracted testing sites.

R2. Within the next 3 months the Health Services Agency of Santa Cruz County should publicize the Save Lives Santa Cruz initiative beyond what is currently on their website. For example, they should publish the Save Lives weekly operational review for the public to see the behind the scenes work that is happening. (F2)

HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED – summarize what has been done

HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE – summarize what will be done and the timeframe

REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)

WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED – explain why

Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

The SAVE Lives initiative has been publicized in press releases, mass media and paid media in the form of bilingual radio and television advertisements advising the community of the best ways to protect themselves during the pandemic.

Operational period reports are primarily for internal use, and may not represent adequate communication tools without additional context.

R3. Within the next 3 months the Health Services Agency of Santa Cruz County should prepare weekly highlights from the Save Lives periodic reports for public consumption. (F2, F4)

- HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

HSA uses numerous media interviews, press releases and press conferences to reach the public and give updates on disease transmission and control, industry guidance, etc. on a daily basis. In addition, we hold weekly calls with partners including clinicians, and send regular reports to these partners.

On August 9, HSA developed and disseminated the first of ongoing weekly Executive Summaries of the SAVE Lives Incident Action Plan for each Operational Period, highlighting important data and key information for partners and the public. These will be posted on the County coronavirus website.

R4. Within the next 3 months the Health Services Agency of Santa Cruz County should provide a regularly scheduled and recorded video report available to the public on the county website. (F2, F4)

- HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

Press conferences are livestreamed on social media, recorded and made available at <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome/LatestNews.aspx>.

R5. Within the next 3 months the Health Service Agency of Santa Cruz County should create a press release detailing the support that was provided for the UCSC Laboratory. (F3)

HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED – summarize what has been done

HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE – summarize what will be done and the timeframe

REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)

WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED – explain why

Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

Prior to the release of this report, a press release announcing the partnership was released. It is available at <http://santacruzcounty.us/Portals/7/Pdfs/Coronavirus/CountyUCSCPartnership.08072020.pdf>.