



**SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY
GRAND JURY**

[admins] FW: DA response to Human Trafficking report

1 message

Grand Jury <Grand.Jury@santacruzcountyca.gov>
To: "admins@scgrandjury.org" <admins@scgrandjury.org>

Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 1:35 PM

From: Katrina Rogers <Katrina.Rogers@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 1:35:37 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Grand Jury <Grand.Jury@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org <Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org>
Subject: DA response to Human Trafficking report

Greetings,

Attached please find the District Attorney's response.

Apologies for the delay.

Best,

Katrina Rogers



KATRINA ROGERS

CHIEF INSPECTOR

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY-BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS

SantaCruzDistrictattorney.us

701 Ocean Street, Room 200, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone: (831) 454-2651 | Fax: (831) 454-2228

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.



**The 2024-2025 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury
Requires the**

Santa Cruz County District Attorney

to Respond by August 29, 2025

**to the Findings and Recommendations listed below
which were assigned to them in the report titled**

Human Trafficking in Santa Cruz County

Voices Unheard, Signs Unseen

Required Responses apply to elected officials, elected agencies or department heads, elected boards, councils, and committees. The respondent is **required** to respond and to make the response available to the public under California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#). A required 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.

Invited Responses are encouraged but are not required by the California Penal Code.

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 attach a PDF version of your completed responses to an email sent to:**

The Honorable Judge: Katherine Hansen Katherine.Hansen@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 .** There is currently no consolidated data being collected on Santa Cruz County human trafficking cases. This causes an understatement of the problem and makes it difficult for stakeholders to obtain additional funding.

☐

AGREE

☒

PARTIALLY DISAGREE

☐

DISAGREE

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

Data needs to be clearly defined in both scope and purpose. Crime data is collected and analyzed by each law enforcement agency in the county. The District Attorney's Office maintains consolidated data on all cases submitted for filing, along with their disposition. Crime data differs significantly from anecdotal information gathered by community-based organizations, and no analysis of these differences is currently being conducted. Prosecution of human trafficking cases is funded through the District Attorney's budget, not through grant funding, and has not been affected by data reporting. Community-based organizations seeking grant funding from California Victim Compensation Board's (CalVCB) current or future programs may benefit from additional data collection.

F2 . The potential passage of AB 379 may provide grants for the District Attorney's Office for the prosecution of traffickers and grants for community-based organizations for direct services and victim outreach. This could provide the resources necessary to ultimately reduce human trafficking and reduce the likelihood of victims returning to trafficking.

☒ **AGREE**
☐ **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
☐ **DISAGREE**

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

AB379, if enacted, is a competitive grant that would provide funding for up to 11 district attorney's offices in the State of California (there are 58 counties), subject to available appropriations for the purpose of supporting vertical prosecution operations. The District Attorney's Office could apply for this grant, but there is no guarantee of being a recipient.

Under AB379 the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) is explicitly tasked with providing grants to community-based organizations (CBOs). This funding does not originate with the District Attorney's Office. It is also subject to appropriation by the California legislature.

F13 . Law enforcement task forces focused solely on human trafficking are very effective methods of detecting and preventing human trafficking activities. Such task forces could increase the rate of interdiction and the successful prosecution of human trafficking cases.

☒

AGREE

☐

PARTIALLY DISAGREE

☐

DISAGREE

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

The District Attorney's Office has been collaborating with Sheriff's Office as they explore the creation of a regional task force dedicated to investigating sexual assaults and related crimes, including human trafficking. The District Attorney's Office will participate in quarterly County Sexual Assault Investigator meeting where human trafficking cases can be discussed.

Recommendations

- R1 .** The Department of Human Services should designate a qualified staff member to take the lead in forming a countywide human trafficking coalition, including the District Attorney and the Sheriff's Office. Members should include stakeholders discussed in this report who are involved in the prevention and interdiction of human trafficking. The focus should include the consolidation of human trafficking data and the procurement of additional funds, potentially to fund law enforcement task forces. This should be completed by December 31, 2025. (F1,F2,F13)

- ☐ **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 District Attorney's Office will attend any meetings schedule by the Human Services Department for the purposes of sharing data related to human trafficking.