



**SANTA CRUZ  
COUNTY  
GRAND JURY**

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## **[admins] [scgj] Human Trafficking in Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Response**

1 message

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**'Stephen D. Walpole' via Santa Cruz Grand Jury** <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Tue, Aug 5, 2025 at 1:40 PM

Reply-To: "Stephen D. Walpole" <swalpole@scottsvally.gov>

To: "Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org" <Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org>

Cc: "grandjury@scgrandjury.org" <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

I have attached my response as a PDF. If you have any questions please let me know.

Chief Steve Walpole  
Scotts Valley Police Department  
831-440-5670



**2025-5il TraffickingSVPD Response Request.pdf**

201K



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

**Police Chief, City of Scotts Valley**

**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](mailto:Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org)  
and

The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury: [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto: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](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).***

## Findings

**F6 .** Very few businesses in Santa Cruz County are in compliance with SB 1193 signage requirements. This results in the reduction of community awareness of the problem and the likelihood that trafficking victims will be able to reach out for help.

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

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

We have not done an independent survey of business locally, or county-wide, but we accept the results of the Santa Cruz Grand Jury survey as being correct.

**F9 .** Annual inspections are required of massage businesses in jurisdictions with massage business ordinances, but inspections are generally not being conducted. This can result in undetected human trafficking activity.

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

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

The Scotts Valley Police Department is unaware of an annual inspection requirement, but we did an inspection of every massage business in the City of Scotts Valley this year. We do agree that inspections would potentially result in undetected human trafficking activity.

**F12 .** There has been a lack of human trafficking presentations to law enforcement. Local law enforcement jurisdictions could request the no-cost training that is available from local human trafficking service providers. This can lead to officers learning to identify human trafficking victims and reduce further victim trauma.

☒

**AGREE**

☐

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

☐

**DISAGREE**

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

## Recommendations

- R4 .** Each law enforcement agency in Santa Cruz County, including the Sheriff's Office, Santa Cruz Police Department, Scotts Valley Police Department, Capitola Police Department, and Watsonville Police Department, should require law enforcement officers to receive an annual human trafficking awareness training, preferably led by human trafficking survivors. This should commence by December 31, 2025. (F12)

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

### Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

The Scotts Valley Police Department is within compliance on California POST for Human Trafficking training. The most recent Human Trafficking course our officers completed was in 2023. We will be requiring our officers to complete a California POST Human Trafficking webinar before December 31, 2025 as a refresher course. We will also be reaching out to our local providers to see if in-person training would be possible in the near future.

**R6 .** Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors should adopt an umbrella countywide ordinance requiring human trafficking signage currently mandated by the State to be part of all existing permitting and licensing procedures for affected businesses. This should be completed by June 30, 2026. (F6)

- ☐ **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 Scotts Valley Police Department cannot respond for the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors.



**R10 .** Local law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff's Office, Santa Cruz Police Department, Scotts Valley Police Department, Capitola Police Department, and Watsonville Police Department, should enforce massage business licensing, certification, and inspection requirements. This should include compliance with SB 1193 signage requirements. Enforcement of existing ordinances should commence by September 30, 2025. However, if/when the Board of Supervisors agrees to the Jury's recommendation to adopt a countywide ordinance, law enforcement should come into compliance with this new ordinance within 30 days of adoption. (F9)

- ☐ **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 Scotts Valley Police Department and our City Attorney reviewed SB 1193, which was codified in Civil Code 52.6. Our interpretation of the code is that we do not have the authority to enforce this code. It must be enforced in accordance with California Business and Professions Code section 17204 by the Attorney General, District Attorney's Office, or County Counsel.