



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Civil Grand Jury**

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June 29, 2026

The Honorable Katherine Hansen
Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Transmittal of the 2025–2026 Civil Grand Jury Consolidated Final Report

Dear Judge Hansen,

On behalf of the 2025–2026 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury, I am pleased to present our Consolidated Final Report, which represents a year of independent citizen oversight of selected local government operations. It consists of six separate reports addressing a broad range of issues affecting our community.

Reviewing complex governmental operations is a daunting responsibility for citizen volunteers. None of us began the year as experts in the operations we examined. However, by focusing on a limited number of well-defined issues and conducting extensive interviews, research and careful verification of the relevant facts, we were able to gain a thorough understanding of the issues we reviewed.

Throughout this process, we found the public officials and employees involved in the operations we reviewed to be highly skilled, dedicated professionals who care deeply about serving our community, often while working with limited resources. Our recommendations are offered with great respect for their work and with the belief that even well-managed operations can benefit from independent review and a fresh perspective.

At the beginning of this term, nineteen civic-minded individuals from different personal and professional backgrounds entered the Grand Jury room as strangers. We all shared one thing in common: a desire to do what we could to help improve our community. Over the course of the year, we became a close-knit and highly effective team. Jurors readily stepped forward when work needed to be done and felt comfortable challenging one another, but always with patience and respect.

The publication of these reports is not the end of the process. It is the beginning. The law requires elected officials and agencies to respond formally to our findings and recommendations within prescribed timeframes. We now hand the baton to the public, our successor Civil Grand Juries, and the local press. We hope they will carefully review those responses, ask thoughtful questions, and help ensure that the commitments made are ultimately carried out.

Pursuant to our statutory responsibilities, the Grand Jury also conducted its annual inquiry into the condition and management of the County’s public detention facilities. Our formal statement and findings regarding those facilities are attached.

On behalf of the entire Grand Jury, I want to express our sincere appreciation to you for your guidance and support throughout our term. We are equally grateful to Tara Acevedo and Cara Burgess for their assistance and support; to Assistant County Counsel Suzanne Yang for her consistently timely and sound advice (legal and otherwise); to Tanya Champagne and Seth Suresh for their exceptional administrative support; and to the County Information Services Department staff—especially Heather Duffy, Christopher Toste, Maitreya Maziarz, Archer Arce, Tom Melkonian, Chad Herendeen, and Tammie Weigl—for the technology and support that enabled us to do our work.

Serving as Foreperson of this dedicated group of jurors has been a great honor. I have gained a deep appreciation for the value of independent citizen oversight and for the many public servants who serve our community every day.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected strokes that form the name 'Bob Broussard'.

Bob Broussard, Foreperson
2025–2026 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury

DETENTION FACILITY INQUIRIES STATEMENT

OVERVIEW

Penal Code section 919(b) obligates the grand jury to “inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.” In 2022, the California Attorney General issued an opinion (No. 18-103) stating the term “public prisons” includes “local detention facilities,” and that a county or city jail is a typical example of such a local detention facility.

The purpose of this document is to provide information about how the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury fulfilled this duty. While Penal Code section 919(b) requires this inquiry, it does not require the grand jury to conduct an investigation or to write a report about local detention facilities. In fact, a report cannot be written based solely upon an inquiry. To write a report, a full investigation is required and all the facts in the report must be verified. (See Penal Code section 939.9.)

LOCAL DETENTION FACILITIES WITHIN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

There are six local detention facilities within Santa Cruz County, five of which are operated by the county:

1. Juvenile Detention Center (Probation Department), 3650 Graham Hill Road, Felton, CA
2. Santa Cruz Main Jail, 259 Water Street, Santa Cruz, CA
3. Blaine Street Women's Jail, 141 Blaine Street, Santa Cruz, CA
4. Rountree Detention Center (Medium Security), 90 Rountree Lane, Watsonville, CA
5. Rountree Detention Center (Minimum Security), 100 Rountree Lane, Watsonville, CA

The grand jury fulfilled its duty to inquire into these facilities through a variety of methods.

- On December 15, 2025, the Santa Cruz County Sherriff Corrections staff gave an overview and tour of the Main Jail, 259 Water Street, Santa Cruz, CA. and the Blaine Street Woman’s Jail, 141 Blaine Street, Santa Cruz, CA.
- On February 12, 2026, the Santa Cruz County Sherriff Corrections staff gave an overview and tour of the Roundtree Detention Center (Minimum and Medium Security), 100 Rountree Lane, Watsonville, CA

The grand jury (2025-2026 term) reviewed documents requested from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department and a Board of State and Community Corrections report "2025-2026 TARGETED INSPECTION, PENAL CODE SECTION 6031, WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 209, SANTA CRUZ DETENTION FACILITIES" dated September 18th, 2025, for the Main Jail (259 Water Street, Santa Cruz, CA). The other local detention facilities were not mentioned in the Corrective Action Plan (1231.2.9 Dayrooms). No other reports were issued.

CONCLUSION

The grand jury's legal obligation to inquire into the condition and management of each local detention facility within the county was fulfilled by touring the facilities, making general inquiries to the staff, and reviewing recent regulatory reports.