



SANTA CRUZ  
COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

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## Scotts Valley Response Follow-up - Honoring Commitments to the Public

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'Cathie Simonovich' via Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 8:28  
AM

Reply-To: Cathie Simonovich <csimonovich@scottsvalley.gov>

To: "Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org" <Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org>, "grandjury@scgrandjury.org" <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Cc: Mali LaGoe <mlagoe@scottsvalley.gov>

Dear Honorable Judge Cogliati and Members of the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury,

We have attached the completed response packet for the report titled *Honoring Commitments to the Public - County Agency Actions in Response to 2019-2020 Grand Jury Recommendations*. This report was approved by the Scotts Valley City Council at the regular public meeting held on August 16, 2023.

Please confirm receipt of the report.

Best regards,

**Cathie Simonovich**  
City Clerk



City of Scotts Valley  
1 Civic Center Drive  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066  
[csimonovich@scottsvalley.gov](mailto:csimonovich@scottsvalley.gov)  
Phone: 831-440-5608

**NOTE: My regular work schedule is Tuesday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.**

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2023 CGJ Continuity ScottsValley Response.pdf  
209K



The 2022–2023 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury  
Requires the

## Scotts Valley City Council

to Respond by September 5, 2023

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

## Honoring Commitments to the Public

County Agency Actions in Response to  
2019–2020 Grand Jury Recommendations

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 and to make your response available to the public 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 16, 2023.

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](mailto:Syda.Cogliati@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

**F1.** The 2022-2023 Grand Jury reviewed responses to five of the 2019-2020 reports and found that, in general, commitments were kept.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

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

**F2.** The evident coordination of responses from agencies leaves the public without independent contributions across agencies.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

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

The Scotts Valley City Council independently reviews Grand Jury reports and drafts responses to specific findings or recommendations as accurately as we can. Depending on the topic, coordination improves the response we are able to provide. In addition, the City Council approves responses at a public meeting where the public can weigh in on the City's responses if they so choose to.

**F6.** Although the Cities of Capitola, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville agreed that there appear to be unused or underutilized parcels of land that could possibly be used for homeless services, it is not clear how this could be done.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

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

**F8.** Staffing shortages made automating the process for updating the website of the City of Santa Cruz and redesigning the website of the City of Scotts Valley more difficult.

- AGREE**
- PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
- DISAGREE**

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

## Recommendations

**R1.** All agencies should provide their own independent responses to findings and recommendations instead of referring to the response of another agency. (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:

There are topics that it may be appropriate for the City to refer to other agencies where another agency has responsibility regarding the topic.



**R2.** We continue to recommend that all organizations create and regularly update formal records of the actions they take to address Grand Jury recommendations, and to share those records with the public, in accordance with CA Penal Code Section 933(c). (F1, 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 actions the City takes are already public records. The City's responses are provided to the public within the timelines as required by the cited Penal Code.

**R5.** As recommended in the 2022 “Homelessness Action Plan,” the Cities of Capitola, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville should collaborate with leaders from the County of Santa Cruz and the City of Santa Cruz to identify 20 new locations for shelters across the county. These cities should report on the status of this recommendation no later than December 31, 2023. (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 2022 Homeless Action Plan is not a Scotts Valley adopted plan, however the City is willing to collaborate and assist where possible.

**R6.** The County of Santa Cruz and the four cities should plan to provide services for homeless persons at the sites identified in their plans, including but not limited to supportive housing, case management, and medical services. The County of Santa Cruz and the four cities should report to the Grand Jury on the status of providing homeless services at the sites identified no later than December 31, 2023. (F5, 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 City of Scotts Valley does not have a homeless services plan. However, the City's draft housing element includes a variety of action to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness, or at risk for homelessness in Program H-3.9 Emergency Shelters. These programs are proposed to be implemented by January 2026.

**R9.** The City of Scotts Valley should verify that their commitment to redesign their website to afford transparency, accessibility, and ease of use to all stakeholders has been completed by October 31, 2023. (F8)

- 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 launch of the redesigned website occurred on March 14, 2023. This redesign modernized the website layout and reorganized the homepage for transparency, accessibility, and ease of use for all stakeholders. Additionally, on May 17, 2023, a new agenda management platform was added to the website which offers significant improvements to the online processes of streamlining the meetings, agenda management, agenda publication and recording minutes. The new platform ensures transparency for residents and other stakeholders and ensures that all documents are ADA accessible.

The maintenance of the website is a priority and is completed regularly with the understanding that, in this digital world, constant review and adjustment to the website is necessary.