

2021 – 2022
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY



FINAL REPORT

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County of Los Angeles CIVIL GRAND JURY

222 South Hill Street • Sixth Floor • Suite 670 • Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone (213) 893-0411 • Fax (213) 893-0425
www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Sam Ohta
Chair, Grand Jurors Committee
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Judge Ohta:

It is our pleasure to submit to you for the Los Angeles general public, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report 2021-2022: "A Grand Jury to be Remembered."

*"Some men see things as they are, and ask why.
I dream of things that never were, and ask why not."*

Robert Francis Kennedy
Quoting George Bernard Shaw

A year ago on July 1, 2021, 23 Los Angeles County citizens were sworn in and took their oath to serve as the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury. Their responsibilities were in compliance with California Penal Code section 925 to serve as watchdogs for the citizens of Los Angeles County. Our Civil Grand Jury process is unique and quite involved. It was incumbent for all of the jurors to become familiar with the issues that face cities, school districts, county departments and special districts along with joint powers commissions or organizations within Los Angeles County. We identified numerous potential investigations as well as our mandated inspection of all jails, holding jails, and court facilities for both adult and juvenile detention locations. We also reviewed 107 citizen complaints that were sent to the Civil Grand Jury Web Site: www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us or were mailed to the Civil Grand Jury. Complaints reflect what action might be taken or if no action may be taken due to the complaint not being within the purview of this Civil Grand Jury of Los Angeles County.

"I know that God's tomorrow will be better than today"
Reverend Cecil L. Murray, Pastor
First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles

As we are all aware, the Civil Grand Jury is its sole governance during its year term. It is also independent within the Penal Code sections that create it and empower all of its outreach and statutory authority. We are also governed by our rules and all of our deliberations are secret and cannot be discussed beyond the documentation that composes the Final Report that follows. We also are aware that each Civil Grand Jury is guided by its own membership and the topics or areas that are looked into, inspected, or investigated are determined by its own members.

Knowing this, I respectfully recommend to our next Civil Grand Jury that they might well consider looking at any project or programs that are completed within a year to eighteen months. Secondly, look to the past reports to see what areas have not been looked at for any number of years. Lastly, closely monitor items of public concern as the media might give you clues to what is happening throughout our community. Remember that we are empowered to look to the 88 cities, 96 school boards, and the 493 special districts & joint powers organizations when considering where to look.

Our Civil Grand Jury heard from fifteen invited speakers and toured four county and other facilities in our county. Individual investigative committees visited many more facilities and spoke with dozens of other officials in compiling their findings and associated recommendations.

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

Cesar Chavez

In all, the Civil Grand Jury completed detailed inspections of the condition & management of 112 separate adult detention facilities, 26 courthouses and 16 juvenile detention facilities within Los Angeles County.

"The most effective way to do it, is to do it!"

Amelia Earhart

Our Final Report herein printed contains nine standing committee reports, which includes those three evaluations mandated by the California Penal Code as well as 11 investigative reports that cover a great variety of subjects. Each of these was selected for study by a "super" majority of our Civil Grand Jury with at least 14 votes or more in the affirmative. As readers of this Final Report will note, the topics covered were varied and looked at many facets of governing in our Los Angeles County.

As we stated above, we do fully realize that each and every Civil Grand Jury is a self-contained group of jurors who are guided by the Penal Code or the laws, and administrative procedures for Grand Juries in our County of Los Angeles. Our decisions and what areas to inspect, or investigate are determined by each years' Civil Grand Jury. Our discussions & deliberations are always kept secret. We may refer to prior reports for examples of work done but we make our choices in our deliberative votes in morning sessions each day.

Thanks and appreciation to all the following for their assistance and guidance for our Civil Grand Jury.

- Honorable Sam Ohta, Chair, Grand Jurors Committee
- Honorable Kimberley B. Guillemet, Vice-Chair, Grand Jurors Committee
- Honorable Mark Hanasono, Vice-Chair, Grand Jurors Committee

Our Legal Advisors

- Sumako McCallum – Senior Deputy County Counsel
- Rourke Stacy-Padilla – Senior Deputy County Counsel

Our Civil Grand Jury Department

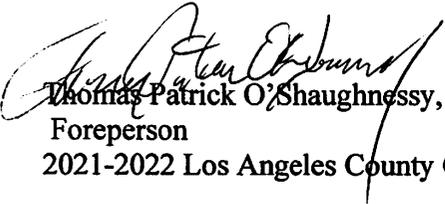
- Mark Hoffman – Grand Jury Administrator
- Waymond Yee – Senior Management Analyst
- Natalie Rascon – Court Services Assistant

I do want to profusely thank the staff for sharing their institutional memories along with day to day guidance making our Civil Grand Jury experience invaluable.

Our fellow Civil Grand Jurors made up our team, and the speakers and those we interviewed contributed to the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury Report that follows this letter.

*"The law is the last result of human wisdom acting upon
human experience for the benefit of the public"*
Samuel Johnson

Respectfully Submitted,


Thomas Patrick O'Shaughnessy,
Foreperson
2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

**ROSTER OF
2021-2022 LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

Thomas Patrick O’Shaughnessy Foreperson

Vivian Ozuna Foreperson Pro-Tem

Bernadette TrigoRecorder/Secretary

Jack Miller Recorder/Secretary Pro-Tem

Elaine Killings-Jankins Sergeant-At-Arms

Ruth Cordero Sergeant-At-Arms Pro-Tem

Judy Alvarez-Rendon

James R. Lamb

Linda Cantley

Scott Larson

Frank Chavez

Gertie Moncrief

Michael Cieplik

Thomas Rasmussen

Hassan Ferasati

Maureen Smith

Tiglath Gaete

Elzie Whitlow

London Jones

John Wilridge

The following cities were represented by the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury: Bellflower, Carson, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey Park North Hollywood, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, Sherman Oaks, Sunland, Upland & Whittier

INTRODUCTION

2021-2022 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

Our 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury served from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The following provides a broad overview of the Civil Grand Jury, its history, what it is and how it functions.

HISTORY

The grand jury system has its historical roots in the old English grand jury system, the purpose of which was to protect citizens from the arbitrary power of the Crown. Our American system continues to retain the goal of protecting residents from any abuses by local government.

DEFINITIONS

Section 888 of the California Penal Code provides that a civil grand jury be comprised of the required number of citizens charged and sworn to investigate county matters of civil concern. Based upon our population, the required number of Civil Grand Jurors for Los Angeles County is 23 members.

FUNCTIONS

Our Civil Grand Jury functions as one independent body. All matters discussed are kept private and confidential. It is the responsibility of our Civil Grand Jury to examine, inspect or investigate many aspects of county and local government to ensure they are being operated honestly and efficiently. All Civil Grand Juries in California are mandated by law to review letters of complaint by citizens, submit a continuity report covering the past five years and to inspect the conditions of public detention facilities.

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A CIVIL GRAND JUROR

In order to be selected as a Civil Grand Juror, an individual:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older and a resident of the State of California and Los Angeles County for at least one year immediately prior to their selection to serve.
2. Must not be serving as a trial juror in any California Court.
3. Cannot have been discharged as a grand juror in any California Court within one year of the beginning date of service.
4. Cannot have been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime.

5. Must possess sufficient knowledge of the English language.
6. Must be in possession of his or her natural faculties, be of ordinary intelligence, sound judgment and good character.

TERM OF SERVICE

Each July, 23 citizens of Los Angeles County are sworn in as Civil Grand Jurors to serve for a period of twelve months. Service on the Civil Grand Jury is a full time job, with each Civil Grand Jury establishing its own work schedule. Everyone who is nominated to serve must be fully cognizant of the time involved. Each prospective nominee should thoughtfully weigh any and all personal and business obligations before accepting their nomination.

The Superior Court Judges nominate persons representing the cultural, ethnic, and diverse life experience of the residents of Los Angeles County so that the Civil Grand Jury may reflect the many interests and concerns of all our citizens. Following those nominations, the selection process for Civil Grand Jurors involves a random choice of prospective jurors and alternates.

COMPENSATION

A Civil Grand Juror receives \$60.00 for each days' attendance, plus mileage at the current available rate of pay plus free parking. If a Civil Grand Juror chooses to utilize public transportation to sessions of the Civil Grand Jury, he or she will be reimbursed for the cost of their monthly transportation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION; PLEASE WRITE OR CALL:

Los Angeles Superior Court
Civil Grand Jury Coordinator
222 South Hill Street, Ste. 670
Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: [213] 893-0411
FAX: [213] 893-0425
www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us

Link to application:
www.lacourt.org/forms/jury

HOW TO RESPOND TO RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

2021-2022 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

Pursuant to California Penal Code §933.05, the person or entity responding to each Civil Grand Jury finding shall indicate one of the following:

1. The respondent agrees with the finding.
2. The respondent disagrees wholly with or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.

The person or entity responding to each Civil Grand Jury recommendation shall report one of the following actions:

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implementation action. This implementation is from the governing body of the public agency.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of the analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency where applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of this Civil Grand Jury Report.
4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.

SEND ALL RESPONSES TO:

**Civil Grand Jury 2021-2022
222 South Hill Street, Suite 670
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

All responses for the 2021-2022 CGJ Final Report's recommendations must be submitted to the above address on or before the end of business on 1st of September, 2022 for all elected county officials or on or before end of business 1st of October, 2022 by the governing body of a public agency.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS



2021 – 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY

AT-WILL EMPLOYEES...UNMASKED



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY
2021-2022**

ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
BOS	Board of Supervisors
EO	Executive Officer for the BOS
CAO	Chief Administrative Office (retired title)
CEO	Chief Executive Office of Los Angeles County
COLA	Cost of Living Allowance
COS	Chief of Staff
DHR	Department of Human Resources
FLSA	Fair Labor Standards Act

AT-WILL EMPLOYEES...UNMASKED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recently three Los Angeles City Council Members were suspended from office due to allegations of misconduct while in office. One of the City Council Members was a former Supervisor for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Both City Council Members and Supervisors face term limits. The members of the Civil Grand Jury At-Will Committee questioned how City Council and Supervisor's staff members are hired, and what happens when the elected official is suspended/removed, resigns, or is termed out?

The first portion of this report focuses on the City of Los Angeles and its hiring practices for City Council staff members. The second portion of this report details the County of Los Angeles' hiring practices for staff members of the Supervisors. Findings and Recommendations for the City and the County are included at the end of this report.

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Angeles

The elected City councilpersons serve a four-year term for no more than three terms (12 years maximum).¹ Prior to 2006, this was a two-term four-year maximum until Proposition R was passed by the voters, which increased the term limits to a three-term maximum.² The City of Los Angeles has had term limits since 1991.³ If there is a Council Member vacancy as defined in the City of Los Angeles Charter (City Charter) section 207,⁴ then section 209 of the City Charter details how a City Council Member vacancy can be filled.

Generally, new Council Members will select their staff/employees once they are elected and have completed the oath of office. In interviews with City staff, we were informed that City Councilmembers do not have restrictions in who they hire. Per City staff, Council Members have total freedom to choose whom they hire,⁵ and may also hire part-time staffers.⁶ These employees are exempt positions.⁷ Per the City of Los Angeles Personnel Department website:⁸

¹ Form of Government | City of Los Angeles (lacity.org)

² City of Los Angeles Term Limits, Proposition R (November 2006) - Ballotpedia

³ Los Angeles: Term Limits Have Produced an Inbred City Council (citywatchla.com)

⁴ Sec. 207. Term of Office. (amlegal.com) 209

⁵ Microsoft Word - EXEMPT EMPLOYMENT.doc (lacity.org)

⁶ Microsoft Word - EXEMPT EMPLOYMENT.doc (lacity.org) scroll down

⁷ ARTICLE 6 EMPLOYEES EXEMPT FROM CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE (amlegal.com)

⁸ Microsoft Word - EXEMPT EMPLOYMENT.doc (lacity.org)

An exempt position is considered an at-will position. The individual appointed to this position will not accrue any civil service tenure; contractual employment rights, or due process rights. The incumbent may be removed, without any finding of cause, by the hiring authority. Unlike emergency appointments, these positions are not limited to a maximum employment of one year.

Appendix E, section 1001 of The Rules of the Board of Civil Service Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles lists the positions within the City that are exempt from civil service protections and subdivision (a)(8) "positions established by the Council for the purpose of assisting the members of the council in the performance of their duties . . ." appears to apply to the staff of City Council members.

At-will employment describes a working environment in which allows employers to terminate employees at any time, without cause, explanation, or prior warning, provided it does not violate state and federal anti-discrimination laws. Similarly, employees can quit a job at any time without reason or notice.⁹

In 2020, Mark Ridley-Thomas, was elected as a City Council Member.¹⁰ In 2021, he was indicted for federal corruption charges for alleged acts during his time as a Los Angeles County Supervisor, due to these allegations, the Los Angeles City Council suspended him from his Council Member duties.¹¹

However, this is not the first time a City Council Member has faced allegations of misconduct. Prior to the indictment of Council Member Ridley-Thomas, two other Los Angeles City Council Members also faced criminal allegations. In 2020, Jose Huizar was charged for allegedly accepting bribes while acting as a Council Member and has pleaded not guilty.¹² In 2018, Mitchell Englander, was charged in a corruption probe and subsequently sentenced to 14 months in prison for taking improper gifts while serving as a City Council Member.¹³

METHODOLOGY

The City of Los Angeles

The At-Will Committee examined how City Council staff are hired or released when Council Members are no longer in office. The City classifies staff members of Council Members as exempt employees.¹⁴ We researched several City employment resource documents available online and

¹⁰ Mark Ridley-Thomas - Ballotpedia

¹¹ LA City Council Votes to Suspend Mark Ridley-Thomas Following Corruption Charges – CBS Los Angeles (cbslocal.com)

¹² In LA City Hall corruption case, separate trials for developers and Huizar – Daily News

¹³ Former LA Councilman Mitch Englander Sentenced to 14 Months in Prison – NBC Los Angeles

¹⁴ Microsoft Word - EXEMPT EMPLOYMENT.doc (lacity.org)

reviewed the following documents: “Policies of the Personnel Department City of Los Angeles,”¹⁵ Division 4 Employment General,¹⁶ and “Orientation Materials.”¹⁷ Based on this examination of documents, we were unable to locate any written City policies concerning how City Council staff are processed before and after their tenure with a Council Member.

In addition to our document review, we conducted in-person interviews with various City personnel and administrative employees to ascertain the hiring process for Council Member staff, and how on-boarded individuals are processed as well as what occurs when outgoing former Council Member's staff are released.

We inquired of City employees, if City Council staffers were afforded special treatment during the hiring process and after their time with Council Members. During interviews with City employees, some believed City Council staff did not follow City employment rules, however they did not provide any specific examples.

DISCUSSION

The City of Los Angeles

In interviewing a few of the City employees including employees from the Personnel department, we found that non-exempt employees hired by the City were under the rules of the Civil Service Commission.

From the continuing interview with City employees we were informed that Council Members, once elected, have no authority to hire their staffers until they are sworn in and recited the oath of office. Once the oath is taken, the Council Members can then submit a list of names to the City Clerk for the various positions available within their offices. No resumes or City applications are filed with the Personnel Department and the resumes are not kept in the City’s Personnel Department, they are only kept in the Council Member’s office. For each person hired, a Council Member submits a letter on the Member's letterhead to the City Clerk. The process is called ‘On-Boarding’. The Personnel Department utilizes this letter for the payroll process and cannot deny the applicant’s employment. Council Members can hire family members, prior staff workers, personal attorneys, friends, and prior City or County employees.

Per City employees, when staffers are hired there is no apparent City guideline or policy in place to insure that the individual hired meets the qualifications of the job assigned to them. Only the Council Member decides what applicant is qualified and will be most valuable in the Council Member’s staff.

Each staffer is advised that when they are hired or terminated it is at the discretion of the Council Member and they do sign an Affidavit of Exemption.¹⁸ Per City employees we spoke to, even though there is an ordinance requiring all City employees to be disaster service works, it appears

¹⁵ POLICIES OF THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT (lacity.org)

¹⁶ DIVISION 4 EMPLOYMENT – GE NERAL (amlegal.com)

¹⁷ Orientation Materials (lacity.org)

¹⁸ 2-Exempt At-Will Memo Council-Mayor-OPA.pdf - Google Drive

that City Council Members' staff are not required to be designated “disaster service workers” as are other classified city employees because there is no policy for unclassified employees to be “disaster service workers”.¹⁹ The City officials we spoke with advised they have no authority to compel the employees to be “disaster service workers” nor is there a disaster service worker policy in place for City Council Member staff.

Each new employee is hired through allocations of monies in a Council Member's budget. Each Council Member has the same allocation of monies for a budget issued by the City.²⁰ They also receive a special fund of \$2,000,000 (2 million dollars) to utilize at their discretion for things such as bonuses or special projects.²¹ The Council Member determines the pay level that the staffer receives, and per City employees we spoke to, they believe that staff of City Council Members are compensated at a high pay level, and the Council Member can give raises so long as they do not exceed their allotted budget. We were also informed that there are no policies no as to how many increases can be given in the same year. In our interviews City staff told us that the exception here is that the Council Member can use the special allocation fund for any additional amount.

City employees informed us that new employees are placed on "step levels" which are generally given to employees based on years of service and quality of job performance. The higher the step level, the higher the salary. Council staff may get increases at any time with any salary the Council Member or COS decides, including no restrictions on time tables that salaries are given. City employees also informed us that Council Members do not have to follow the yearly payroll steps required for classification. When/if Council Member staffers receive a raise, there is no City format followed to receive the merit or time of service raise. All regular exempt hired Council Member staffers do get the same non-exempt employment benefits. Each Council staff employee is given the Human Resources Orientation materials to complete.²²

We were informed when Council Members vacate their office, City officials do not immediately terminate the staff. Some newly elected Council Members may hire staff members of the previous Council Member. We were informed this occurred when Council Member Deleon was elected in a special election to replace Council Member Huizar after Huizar was suspended from the City Council. As in the Huizar case, if a Council Member has been suspended, the staff for that Council Member can be hired in an exempt or non-exempt position which is posted on-line. They can also remain on staff. We were informed when Council Members vacate their office, that at time some Council Members have not provided their staff information on their continued employment status. (For example: if the staff member will be terminated, transferred, or kept in their current position.) The responsibility is on the Personnel Department to notify City Council staff of the status of their employment.

¹⁹ 00470201.TIF (lacity.org)

²⁰ 2021-22 White Book - Volume 1.pdf (lacity.org) page 187 Council

²¹ <https://lacontroller.org/financial-reports/special-funds-2022/>

²² Orientation Materials (lacity.org)

City officials informed us that when a Council Member leaves office, the remaining staff will have an exit interview seminar offered by the City's Personnel Department. This two-hour seminar will offer assistance to help the staff find new jobs within the City. The seminar also includes information to help find current job postings for state, county, and other City employment opportunities. City personnel will advise them of benefits available post-employment such as COBRA²³ for continuous medical coverage.

We learned from City employees that if a City Council staffer happened to be a prior non-exempt City employee, he/she will be transferred back to his/her former department. City officials we interviewed indicated that they rarely hire non-exempt employees to exempt positions in the Council Member's office. If this occurs, the Council staff upon return to a previously held non-exempt position, will be placed at a salary level commensurate to the pay they received from the Council Member's compensation. The Committee was unclear if former City Council staffers will have a probationary period if they are hired to a new non-exempt job title.

Any staffer can apply for a City non-exempt job. The employee would be required to follow all civil service tests, applications, and interviews. If not hired, the employee can be placed on a waiting list for one year. We learned in the interview process, that most employees except for City Council staffers, are paid using the electronic system. City Council staffers are processed manually. Per City employees this means extra work to manually process the pay for City Council staff. We were advised that there is resistance to joining this new 2020 method of payment.

This Committee tried to review websites to determine the current salaries of City Council staff. We found websites that contained some information but the information is not recent and in some cases, was from 2013. We could not find salary history for City Council staff. So if a staff member was making a lower salary and only the public sees the current salary, the public does not see the amount of the increase. The current City Controller's website has information from 2013, nothing later.²⁴ There seems to be no information of what the last salary level was, just the current and the information is sometimes one to two years old.²⁵

²³ Continuation of Health Coverage (COBRA) | U.S. Department of Labor (dol.gov)

²⁴ City Employee Payroll (Current) | Control Panel LA (lacity.org)

²⁵ 2020 salaries for Los Angeles | Transparent California

BACKGROUND

The County of Los Angeles

The five-member Board of Supervisors (BOS), created by the state Legislature in 1852, is the governing body of the County of Los Angeles. Along with the Board, the voters of LA County elect an Assessor, District Attorney, and Sheriff. As a subdivision of the state, the County is charged with providing numerous services that affect the lives of all residents.²⁶

Since 2002, the Supervisors for Los Angeles County are limited to three consecutive four-year terms. If a Supervisor fills a vacancy and there are more than two years left to serve, that time counts towards the term limit.²⁷ Term limits resulted from Measure B which voters approved in 2002 by more than 63%, to limit the terms of the supervisors to three consecutive four-year terms.

Supervisor Burke vacated her office (2nd Supervisorial District) in 2008 and was succeeded in office by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas who termed out in 2020. Here is recent to history of the BOS's elected officials.²⁸

Ridley-Thomas	Mark	2008 - 2020	Second District	Biography
Kuehl	Sheila	2014 - Present	Third District	Biography
Solis	Hilda	2014 - Present	First District	Biography
Barger	Kathryn	2016 - Present	Fifth District	Biography
Hahn	Janice	2016 - Present	Fourth District	Biography
Mitchell	Holly	2020 - Present	Second District	Pending ²⁹

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas was elected to the Los Angeles City Council on December 14, 2020. Because Supervisor Ridley Thomas left County Service in 2020, the At Will Committee wanted to investigate if staff for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas obtained County classified positions or other County unclassified positions.

Each Supervisor has a staff and staff member roles are considered unclassified positions. (Note the City uses the term "exempt", the County "unclassified".) As a general rule, government employment falls into two categories, classified and unclassified. These classifications closely resemble non-exempt and exempt job classifications established under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).³⁰ The County designates a position as classified and unclassified.

²⁶ Government – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES (lacounty.gov)

²⁷ Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors - Term Limits (liquisearch.com)

²⁸ Laalmanac.com/government/gl02.php

²⁹ Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell (lacounty.gov)

³⁰ What Is an Unclassified Employee? (bizfluent.com)

METHODOLOGY

The County of Los Angeles (County)

The Committee researched the internet for articles online concerning at-will status and articles regarding County Supervisors and employment procedures for Board Office staff positions. The Committee also interviewed representatives from the County Departments of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Human Resources (DHR), and the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors (EO).

The At-Will Committee reviewed the County Code,³¹ Charter of Los Angeles County,³² Board Policy Manual,³³ and Title 33 Code of Ordinances³⁴ for information on unclassified employees.

DISCUSSION

County of Los Angeles

The At-Will Committee met with department officials from DHR. At this meeting, an administrative assistant also provided input. The Committee asked questions about what processes DHR completes in the area of unclassified positions. The Committee was informed that DHR “rarely,” meaning a DHR representative “never handles the processing of unclassified Board Office staff positions,” except those with, classifications of “L.” It was explained that “L” classifications are those specialized areas such as Directors of a Department, Specialized Chiefs, etc., but all are unclassified.³⁵

When asked about the budget for the BOS, it was indicated that it is approved by the CEO from the recommendation by the EO.

DHR told us all Board Office staff are processed through the EO. It was suggested that the Committee meet with the EO to ascertain the exact process for the new unclassified hires who assume Board Office staff positions. We were informed that DHR does not have a list of new unclassified Board Office staff. Since the Committee was informed by DHR that it does not get “involved” in hiring, the Committee thought the interview had ended.

³¹ LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE, Code of Ordinances, Los Angeles County (elaws.us)

³² CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, Code of Ordinances, Los Angeles County (elaws.us)

³³ LOS ANGELES COUNTY - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY MANUAL | Board Policy | LA County - BOS, CA | Municode Library

³⁴ CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES | Code of Ordinances | Los Angeles County, CA | Municode Library

³⁵ Division 2 - Standardized Salary Schedule and Table of Classes of Positions | Code of Ordinances | Los Angeles County, CA | Municode Library

However, information was offered that DHR offers guidance to Board Office staff to assist them in transitioning from a Board staff position to another position in the County. It was explained to our Committee that DHR staff completes such a process for those transitioning by evaluating a resume they submitted, and DHR indicated “discussing where they might ‘fit’ in a new County position and what they may be qualified for.” DHR indicated that when they hire an unclassified position it is sent to the CEO for review, and then the entire BOS votes on the additional position.

The question was asked about how any position is added to a County department. We were referred to the County Code which allows the CEO to add position(s) when needed:³⁶

Note: The CEO name was formally changed and the item was approved at the Board meeting by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) on May 15, 2007³⁷:

A. In addition to the number of positions for each item established for each department, an equal number of positions is established for each such item to enable departments to deal with emergencies and to provide flexibility to meet unexpected workload fluctuations and demands.

B. Appointments shall not be made to any of the additional positions established in subsection A of this section unless either:

1. The board of supervisors, or in the event of an emergency the CAO³⁸, determines it is necessary to make such appointments, authorizes the same, and assigns such position to a specific department where the need exists; or

2. The chief administrative officer determines it is necessary to make such appointments, authorizes the same, and assigns such positions to a specific department where the need exists, provided that an authorized and funded position at an equal or higher pay level is established under subsection (A)(2) of Section 6.06.010 is frozen for each such additional position, or that the department has been authorized additional salary and employee benefit funding using an appropriation adjustment.

Next we met was an official from the CEO. Due to time constraints of the CEO representative, we were offered only a fifteen minute phone conversation during the

³⁶ § 6.06.020. Additional positions, Chapter 6.06. AUTHORITY TO FILL POSITIONS, Division 1. General Provisions, Title 6. SALARIES, Code of Ordinances, Los Angeles County (elaws.us)

³⁸ In 2007, the BOS changed the administrative structure and the office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) was replaced with the Chief Executive Office. (See 31961.pdf (lacounty.info).)

representative's lunch hour. The Committee felt this was an inadequate amount of time, since the Civil Grand Jury was inquiring on issues of great importance about the hiring process for unclassified Board Office staff into County classified positions in other County departments. The first question posed was on the individual budget allocation for each County Supervisor. We were informed that the budget is recommended by the EO. The CEO reviews the budget and submits the request to the Board as an agenda item for the Board's approval.

The Committee asked the CEO Representative if the Board wants to add a staff person to any other department in the County whether classified or unclassified and how this is accomplished. The official at the CEO indicated that the request would start from the Supervisor's office to the EO. The CEO will review and contact the impacted department. The position is sometimes posted only for a few days, other times, a position could be open for a lengthy time due to no applicants applying or applicants not having the requisite requirements for the job. Unclassified positions are posted only for a short time. Then, the CEO would adjust the specific department's budget and positions as an item to be placed on the agenda. The item is then placed on the agenda and voted on the BOS on the calendar. The vote must have three ayes from the five-members of the Board to pass.

DHR indicates that the County Code section 6, for unclassified positions will be updated in the future. The official responded that the BOS's agenda item dated, May 15, 2007,³⁹ changed the Los Angeles County Governance and that change is currently in effect now.

The last department the Committee interviewed was the EO. We met with an official from that department. We again asked our questions about how the unclassified staff members were hired by the Board Offices. All potential Board Office staff hires must sign a form acknowledging that the Board Office staff position is unclassified. The form is confidential, but we were advised "possible termination from my position with any cause" was wording that was used within the form.

In addition, we were informed by EO staff that during their orientation the new Board Office staff members are also verbally told that there is no guarantee about their position, or a guarantee to find employment in any other department if the Supervisor's office is vacated. The exception is employees who are transferred from their classified civil service positions to assume unclassified Board Office staff positions. Those employees are eligible to return to their original civil service position. In interviews with employees of the EO, they indicated their office does not keep the personnel record of the individual when they leave their Board Office staff position.

We were informed that currently there are no classified civil service employees who transferred to a recently elected Supervisor's staff. We were told that employees are given an orientation and the EO completes a background check. If the background check returns

³⁹ 31961.pdf (lacounty.info)

something of concern, EO will inform the Supervisor and the Chief of Staff (COS). Whether the employee is not hired or terminated is decided only by the Supervisor.

Only the Supervisor takes an oath of office. No other staff members are required to take an oath of office. To avoid conflicts of interest, Statement of Economic Interest Forms (Form 700) are required by the State of California.^{40, 41}

The Committee asked about unclassified employees receiving a job performance evaluation. During our interview we were told “all employees get evaluated each year by the Supervisor or COS.” We were also informed that there are no policies in place regarding the amount a Supervisor can increase the salaries of staff members per year.

Budgeted dollars are allocated for the same dollar amount for each Supervisorial District. Each Supervisor has a discretionary fund.⁴² This money is allocated annually and can be utilized for salaries of the Board Office staff as well as social programs and projects. The committee was informed that a discretionary fund allocation of \$5,000,000 is given each year each Supervisor. Monies unused will accumulate, although sometimes there is a zero balance at the end of the year. After the Supervisor is termed out or the office, is vacated, the remaining dollars will be forwarded to the newly elected Supervisor’s budget.

Employees of the EO informed the Committee that if a Board Office member is transitioning to another County position, in most instances the Supervisor and COS rate their staff members high. In order to be qualified for a position, the potential employee must be in a high band (usually band 1). The County uses a band system with "Band 1" being the highest rating among several bands. Posting dates for other County positions vary from a few days to a few weeks. We were also informed that if a Board Office Staff member transitions to a classified County position in another department that sometimes the probation period expires before the Board Office staff member begins the new position.

⁴⁰ Conflicts of Interest | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General (summary) Click on PDF link for entire document.

⁴¹ Form 700 (ca.gov)

⁴² California Government Code Section 26227 - California Attorney Resources - California Laws (onecle.com)

FINDINGS

City of Los Angeles

- City-F1.1 City Council staff are allowed raises, at any time period, or as many times as determined by the City Council Member with no restrictions, except to remain in the budget allocated.
- City-F1.2 City Council staff are not always discharged when the Council Member vacates the office.
- City-F1.3 There are no background checks done by the City on Council Member staff.
- City-F1.4 New Council staff hires do not file a standard City application or any type of application and therefore there is no knowledge of their qualifications for the job.
- City-F1.5 There is help available from the City to assist any newly unemployed City Council staff by attending a seminar sponsored by the City's personnel office.
- City-F1.6 Per interviewing City employees they told us that staffers are not considered disaster relief workers as are all other City employees, and there appears to be no
- City-F1.7 Council Members are allowed to hire family members, friends for staff positions, and there is no question to identify family members during orientation.
- City-F1.8 Certain City officials have stated that some City Council staff may not completely follow rules of City employment.
- City-F1.9 Only the City Council Member pledges an oath of office, staff does are not required for an oath of office.
- City F1-10 There appears to be no City website that has recent salary information and salary history for City Council staff. We found websites, but the information appears to include information to 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS

City of Los Angeles

- City-1.1 There should be at a minimum a policy, and potentially an ordinance that would require that all Council Member staff must complete an employment application for their staff position including providing a resume at the time of hiring.
- City-1.2 There should be policies adopted by the City Council to place a limits on the number of raises a staff member for Council Member may receive each year.
- City-1.3 All Council Member staff should be able to view the salary information of other Council staff members.
- City-1.4 The City should not utilize current non-exempt City employees for Council Member staff positions that are classified as exempt.
- City-1.5 Personnel should insure an orientation package is given for outgoing staffers.
- City-1.6 Family members, friends, etc. should not be hired in the City Council Member's office.
- City-1.7 Each City Council Member's staff should pledge an oath of office.
- City-1.8 Each Council Member staff person should be required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) every time the Council Member is reelected, even for part-time positions.
- City-1.9 City Council staff should be paid electronically and not manually.
- City -1.10 All Council Member staff should be *disaster relief workers* as are all other City employees, and this should be enforced.
- City-1.11 City Controller's salary website should be updated regularly.

FINDINGS

County of Los Angeles

- County-F1.11 Supervisors can hire family members and, friends, former City employees, etc.
- County-F1.12 When a Supervisor leaves office, some of their staff may be hired by the incoming Supervisor.
- County-F1.13 There is no probationary period for newly hired Board Office staff members who returned to previously held classified jobs.
- County-F1.14 DHR is rarely involved in the hiring or removal process of Board Office staff.
- County-F1.15 DHR will assist Board Office staff if they wish to transfer to a County department and review the resumes of the Board Office staff to determine the employee's qualifications or "best fit" for the County.
- County-F1.16 CEO evaluates if an unclassified (or classified) position needs to be added to accommodate Board Office staff through the CEO budget committee. The Committee then has the CEO approve and the CEO places its recommendation on the Board's agenda for approval.
- County-F1.17 EO performs the orientation for Board Office staff and requires proper documents to be filed and signed.
- County-F1.18 Supervisors are required to take on oath of office, but no members of the staff pledge to an oath.
- County-F1.19 Staff working for each Supervisor have an evaluation completed by the COS yearly.
- County-F1.20 The County does not guarantee employment to Board Office staff when their Supervisor vacates office.
- County-F1.21 There is no electronic data history regarding transfers of Board Office staff to other positions in County departments. The new County department begins tracking and processing their information when the former Board Office staff member assumes an unclassified or classified position in another County Department.
- County-F1.22 DHR and CEO Departments were not accommodating with their time for this investigation. Both Departments changed appointment dates and times on several occasions and the Committee met with CEO on their lunch hour
- County F1-23 Job postings for Board Office staff positions are posted for a few days or a few weeks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

County of Los Angeles

- County-1.12 Create an electronic database showing the history of Board Office staff transfers to other County unclassified and classified positions.
- County-1.13 Determine if a policy should be developed to ensure ratings of Board Office staff for positions in other County departments are fair.
- County-1.14 Policies regarding raises for Board staff should be created to limit the amount of Board Staff raises per year excluding COLA.
- County-1.15 When Board Office staff transition to a classified County position, the probation period should commence when they assume the position and not before then. County-1.19 The County should approve a policy to not utilize current classified County employees to any unclassified job in a Supervisor's office.
- County-1.16 There should be an orientation package and seminar for outgoing staffers, created by DHR and EO
- County-1.17 County should approve a policy that family members or friends of Supervisors, or current staff members, should not be hired in the County Supervisor's office.
- County-1.18 The Probationary period should start when the employee 'physically' arrives at the newly classified County position job, not before leaving the Supervisor's payroll.
- County-1.19 Supervisor's staff do not pledge to an oath, just the Supervisor. All staff members should pledge an oath of office.
- County-1.20 All Supervisor's staff should file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) every time the Supervisor is reelected.
- County 1.21 Job postings for unclassified and classified employees should be posted for a minimum of 60 days.
- County 1.22 DHR and CEO should be more willing to accommodate any investigation by the CGJ.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933, subdivision (c), 933.05, subdivision (a), and 933.05, subdivision (b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022:

Presiding Judge
 Los Angeles Superior Court
 Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
 210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING AGENCY
1.0 to 1.11	Mayor, City of Los Angeles
1.0, 1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 1.7, 1.10	City Council President
1.2, 1.3, 1.8, 1.11	City Controller
1.1, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10	City Personnel Director
1.7, 1.8, 1.10	Executive Director, Los Angeles City Ethics Commission
1.13-1.15, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20	Board of Supervisors
1.12 to 1.22	CEO
1.13,1.15, 1.16, 1.18, 1.21, 1.22	DHR
1.12, 1.15, 1.16, 1.18, 1.19, 1.21, 1.22	EO
1.22	County Counsel

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michael Cieplik, Chair

Linda Cantley

Scott Larson, Co-Chair Los Angeles County

AVIATION REIMAGINED



2021-2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definitions
BOS	Board of Supervisors
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COA	Certificate of Authorization/Waiver
DRP	Department of Regional Planning
FAA	Federal Aviation Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIS-NET	Regional Planning's GIS system
PIC	Pilot in Command
RPC	Regional Planning Commission
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System
VO	Visual Observer

AVIATION REIMAGINED

(DRONES)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Drones are a relatively new tool for Public and Private Institutions, which prompted this committee to investigate Los Angeles County’s drone/UAS Department of Regional Planning (DRP) operation, policy, safety measures, privacy concerns, and training of drone pilots.

An Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) commonly referred to as a drone is “an uncrewed aircraft or ship guided by remote control or onboard computers”¹. It is the responsibility of the drone operator to understand and abide by the rules established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)² and the city in which the drone is being flown.

Searching the website of the DRP the committee found a page with information on the use of UAS.³

DRP is responsible for regulating land use throughout the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.⁴ DRP’s website provides information on the use of UAS.⁵

DRP uses drones primarily for entitlement processing, site inspections, and permits compliance; i.e. large landfills, surface mines, solar farms, wireless communication facilities, rooftops of buildings, hazardous industrial use properties, remote desert-mountain areas, and other challenging sites.⁶ Prior to the initiation of drones, DRP inspections of these areas were completed solely by “boots on the ground” site visits. The planner or planners previously visited the sites to complete a visual inspection. The “boots on the ground” site visits method require more resources and additional staffing. Using traditional methods can be time-consuming. The planner frequently encounters physical obstacles that may interfere with a thorough inspection of the site. In some instances, hazardous materials may be harmful to the planner and utilizing a drone will circumvent this issue.⁷

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/drone>

² Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) (faa.gov)-20

³ <https://planning.lacounty.gov/uas>

⁴ Unincorporated Areas – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES (lacounty.gov)d

⁵ <https://planning.lacounty.gov/uas>

⁶ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/UAS_Webinar.mp4 3:11-3:46

⁷ Ibid 3:47-5:32

After reviewing the DRP website, this committee decided to focus on the following points:

- Appropriate training for those operating the drones
- DRP's implementation of the rules⁸ and requirements for FAA UAS operators
- Type of equipment, quantity, costs involved, and drone models
- The effect drones have on domestic animals during a site inspection
- Safety and privacy measures for planners as well as members of the public
- Communications from other county departments to DRPs with respect to drone usage
- Number of site inspections completed since the inception of the DRP's drone program
- Utilize future capabilities

BACKGROUND

In order to gather data, the committee chose to research via the internet and the DRP'S UAS website⁹ to unmask data related to the policies and procedures regarding the deployment of drones.

A drone is a UAS without a pilot on board. UAS can fly for short periods of time with a complete battery charge, at a controlled level of speed/height. Some drones are equipped with the ability to map out an area. Before drones were utilized, Planners processed land usage by a Geographic Information System (GIS).¹⁰ DRP's GIS system is named GIS-NET.¹¹ The GIS-NET system is particularly valuable when used in areas with mountains, hills, and rough terrain.

All UAS must be operated with strict oversight within established policies and procedures from the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA).¹²

⁸ <https://www.faa.gov/uas>

⁹ <https://planning.lacounty.gov/uas>

¹⁰ GIS (Geographic Information System) | National Geographic Society

¹¹ <https://planning.lacounty.gov/gisnet>

¹² FAA Drone Registration

The FAA has limits where a person in Los Angeles County can fly drones.¹³ DRP only utilizes drones in unincorporated areas but can fly drones in the City of Los Angeles with prior notification to the City.¹⁴ The City of Los Angeles currently has thirteen areas where one can fly a personal drone.¹⁵ The laws for the City of Los Angeles and the laws or restrictions for any other city with regard to “no-flying laws” must be followed. The cities of Yorba Linda, Calabasas, Hermosa Beach, Malibu, and Rancho Palos Verdes¹⁶ all have special restrictions or permit requirements. The mentioned cities contained specific ordinances for personal drones. These cities created ordinances/rules prior to the FAA updating their rules. The FAA revised their restrictions on April 21, 2021, which overrides the specific ordinances for the aforementioned Cities, still respecting their ordinances and rules, however then decided that any drone operator should apply for a waiver. This would include any government agency, excluding, fire and law enforcement departments. Anyone can apply for a 107 waiver directly to the FAA and receive an exception. DRP has received approval from the FAA to fly DRP’s site inspection in any city that has restrictions.¹⁷

NOTE: FAA exceptions¹⁸ as of April 2021 states that organizations, colleges, and first responders can file for a written exception entitled Certification of Authorization/Waiver (COA) to fly drones in restrictive areas. Any member of the public can purchase a drone from stores or websites. However, every person who flies a drone must follow FAA pilot rules.

FAA ‘BECOME A DRONE PILOT’¹⁹

“In order to fly your drone under the FAA's Small UAS Rule (Part 107), you must obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA.”²⁰

FAA pilot requirements from their website:²¹

Pilot Certification

“To operate the controls of a drone under Part 107, you need a remote pilot certificate with a small UAS rating or be under the direct supervision of a person who holds such a certificate. You must be at least 16 years old to qualify for a remote pilot certificate and pass an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center.”

¹³ Certificated Remote Pilots including Commercial Operators (faa.gov)

¹⁴ 14KONICABH454_CH3CPS_1-20151023130653 (lacity.org) See Section 5 and 6

¹⁵ Where To Fly Drone In Los Angeles: California Drone Law 2022 (staaker.com)

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Waiver Safety Explanation Guidelines for Part 107 Waiver Applications (faa.gov)

¹⁸ <https://www.faa.gov/uas>

¹⁹ Become a Drone Pilot (faa.gov)

²⁰ ibid

²¹ https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/

METHODOLOGY

The committee's investigative procedures included the following:

- Interviewed DRP's employees from the UAS Special Project Zoning and Enforcement Section
- Viewed a comprehensive webinar introducing the drone project created by DRP (see the index in this investigation for times of explanations from the Findings Section and Recommendation Section)
- Collected and reviewed DRP's program policy, training manual and viewed a PowerPoint presentation by DRP
- Extensively reviewed the FAA's policy and procedures on UAS
- Viewed a special PowerPoint slideshow created for this Committee's investigation by the DRP staff

DISCUSSION

The Committee met with DRP staff in the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) hearing room. We were presented with an extensive slideshow depicting their entire UAS program and policy. Staff gave reasons for using drones in place of human site visits.

Also reviewed and discussed were the following topics:

- Drone Equipment
- Other Agency Support (example Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, etc.)
- Future usage of drones with other County departments
- Intent to purchase additional drones in the future—up to four possible
- Costs for the program: insurance, certification, software, and all equipment
- Funding was itemized noting:
 - Total of \$73,385 cost per year²²
 - DRP 25% (this includes certification, equipment, liability insurance and software²³)
 - Quality and Productivity Commission Loan 52%
 - BOS Fifth District Discretionary Fund 22%

DRP currently operates 14 drones all with video capability. DRP utilizes two types of drones: Skydio 2²⁴ and Mavic²⁵ (See Exhibit 1). All drones are battery operated and all operators carry an extra battery pack when on location. Skydio 2 is also equipped with 360° obstacle avoidance features. If the Skydio2 confronts an object such as a person or tree it will not move, but hover a few feet from the object.²⁶

²² See Slide 18 from Regional Planning PowerPoint Exhibit 3

²³ Ibid See Slide 19 on Exhibit 3

²⁴ Skydio 2+ | Skydio

²⁵ <https://www.dji.com/products/mavic>

²⁶ Understanding obstacle avoidance on Skydio 2/2+ Enterprise – Skydio

Approximately 70% of drone flights are used for compliance monitoring, permit compliance, and entitlement processing. The other 30% are special requests from BOS and other County departments. DRP can receive a fee from BOS members from their discretionary fund and other County department's budget to utilize their own general fund monies. As stated previously there is no current allotment specifically for the drone program in DRP's budget. DRP staff indicated that they are requesting a separate budget allocation just for drones, for future purchases. From the slide presented, DRP has conducted 142 parcel inspections utilizing drones. This has yielded an estimated **time savings of 66%** as compared to the previous "on foot" site inspection method.²⁷ DRP indicated that on buildings, especially when completing site inspections, they place a notification of "drone" site inspection date on the front door of the building. However, there is no notification, signs or posting, placed on surrounding sites, buildings, or agricultural land, when DRP's drone inspections are taking place.

To date there have been very few drone site inspections in agriculturally zoned areas. The DRP staff indicates that they contact the owner/manager of any property and ask if they have animals on the site, although there is no formal policy to do so. They will not utilize drones if the animals will be impacted. According to staff, drones can be upsetting to certain animals. Cats find them to be playful but horses "spook" easily and could be injured. Staff indicated that birds flying are the most dangerous to the drones.

Currently, new drone trainees for the drone/UAS program must drive to Dodger Stadium however, during the baseball season, the small parking lot area is limited for training. On occasion, special events may prevent UAS from using the stadium's parking lot. This can result in an inconvenience. DRP employees indicated that currently there are no building rooftops available for the planners to use for practice. Several Wireless/Telephone communication systems are located on top of buildings that the employees are required to inspect, therefore rooftop practice areas are needed. DRP staff indicated that there is no written test required about UAS/drone equipment or rules.

Employees were asked if additional monies are paid to the trained UAS staff. At the present time there are no additional bonuses or salary increases for those who have volunteered to learn how to fly the County drones/UAS at DRP.

The DRP staff indicated that they would strongly prefer to maintain the centralization of the drone/UAS at DRP. DRP was the first to incorporate a drone/UAS program and received a loan for \$38,500 (see exhibit 3) from Quality and Productivity Commission to help aid in their costs.²⁸ DRP has created a policy and training program that can be utilized for any County Department.

²⁷ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/UAS_Webinar.mp4 Regional Planning Webinar 5-27-20, 11:42
Also Exhibit 4 attached to this report

²⁸ http://qpc.lacounty.gov/Portals/QPC/Productivity%20Investment%20Fund/Pdf/FY%202019-20%20PIF%20Projects%20Approved_3.pdf?ver=HL_JQwdLftYUw4QvmbMrOA%3d%3d

Staff indicated that they would like to present live drone feed during the Regional Planning Commission's (RPC) hearing. Staff explained what RPC's duties. The RPC was created to advise the BOS on various zone and land changes.²⁹ Certain types of land or zone changes are referred to the RPC from the DRP. Some of the zone or land changes are referred because the DRP considers them exceptions to County Codes for example may affect the environment, violate zone areas, etc. The commission consists of 5 members, selected by each Supervisorial District. The RPC will 'hear' certain projects that the DRP may have zone or land problems with the County's land or zone ordinances. Currently at the RPC hearing planners show photos or pictures of the land in question to the attending members of the public, planners, etc. The photos or pictures may be a few weeks or a few months old, depending on what available hearing date the RPC has set. The RPC could approve the constituent's zone or land change for approval or deny the project. If the RPC denies the project by 3 votes, the constituent may appeal to the BOS for a public hearing. The photos and pictures are the only available media that is shown at the meeting. The BOS meeting may have delayed the hearing, and now the photos and pictures could be a year or older. DRP indicated that they would like to have the ability to show a 'real time feed' to both the RPC and the BOS, thus viewing the land in question.

In addition to the FAA training rules for all drones/UAS, DRP has added additional rules for pilots and visual operators as listed below:

- Complete a preparation course
- Display a proficient knowledge and understanding of operations, policies, and emergency procedures
- Perform the role of the visual observer (VO) for at least one site visit with a certified UAS pilot
- Demonstrate the ability to accurately communicate the UAS location in relation to obstacles and other pertinent information to ensure a safe flight
- Participate in at least 2 drone practice sessions
- Demonstrate the ability to provide notification and request authorization from the FAA to fly in restricted air space when filing a COA
- Accurately complete the flight checklist (Exhibit 2)
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct successful and safe site visits³⁰

²⁹ Agenda | DRP (lacounty.gov)

³⁰ [https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/up/project/UAS Regional Planning Webinar 5-27-20](https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/up/project/UAS%20Regional%20Planning%20Webinar%205-27-20)

DRP UAS Program Policies³¹

UAS shall be operated in a manner that respects a private individual's fourth amendment rights, civil rights, and reasonable expectation of privacy. Specific criteria must be met to use a UAS for site visits. Some criteria include:

- No reasonable expectation of privacy;
OR
The subject property has an entitlement that allows site visits to be conducted with a UAS;
OR
When a court order has been granted to utilize UAS by the property owner.
- UAS video footage shall not be posted in any online public setting. Pictures or videos captured by drones are made public for hearings only and not for legal enforcement.
- For safety reasons, each request to utilize a UAS for a site visit, shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the UAS coordinator.
- UAS contracts with other agencies to help establish drone policies.
- Should any incidental, accidental, and/or unintentional video or images be captured of private activities, the Pilot in Command (PIC) shall immediately delete the recordings or images and notify the UAS coordinator of the circumstances of the deletion.
- If at any point during the site visit permission to use the UAS is revoked, the PIC must immediately cease operations and ground the UAS.
- DRP can take requests from other County Departments for utilization of drones if needed.
- DRP follows updated FAA rules for UAS.

³¹Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) Program | DRP (lacounty.gov) Below the title look for the "here" to view the entire webinar

FINDINGS

- F1. DRP has financial challenges in regard to the UAS/drone program. Sources of funding are not adequate to meet the operational needs of this program.
- F2. DRP currently charges a nominal fee to other agencies or departments in LA County for use of drones; there is no allocation in DRP's line item budget specifically for drones/UAS for equipment and or additional drones.
- F3. When drones are being utilized in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, no written notification of drone activity is being posted.
- F4. DRP utilizes the Dodger Stadium parking lot for their drone training, except when there is a game or an event. Area used for training is a very small area of the parking lot and is inadequate and inconvenient for training purposes.
- F5. Future expansion includes the purchase of at least 4 additional drones by DRP.
- F6. Planners currently do not receive additional compensation for completing drone training.
- F7. If the site is zoned for animals, the planner will telephone the owner to find out what type of animals are contained on the property, but there is no written formal policy or check list for the staff.
- F8. There is no current BOS county-wide policy on drones.
- F9. New trainees for drones are taken to Dodger Stadium and complete at least two drone flights.
- F10. Currently only pictures are shown at a Commission's meeting. Pictures are dated and DRP hopes in the future to show real time feeds for the Commission.
- F11. DRP wants to keep their drone program central to the County, since they created the program and have the expertise and equipment. Monies can be charged to the department to pay for the equipment they have purchased.
- F12. There is no written test for new drone trainees. Just a test to fly the drone completed two times.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The BOS should consider an additional budget item for funding DRP's drone program including the cost of insurance
- 2.2 DRP to submit to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Budget Staff a formula reflecting the costs associated when employing a drone
- 2.3 DRP should post signs when inspecting private or public sites in order to alert the area of drone activity
- 2.4 Maintain centralization of the drone program at DRP
- 2.5 DRP should present their UAS policy and report their history of accomplishments during a BOS meeting
- 2.6 Locate a larger and more convenient site for training (currently at Dodger Stadium parking lot)
- 2.7 Locate a county-owned building (preferably vacant) for rooftop training purposes
- 2.8 DRP should include in their policy a formal procedure addressing site visits where domestic animals may be present
- 2.9 BOS should adopt a countywide policy on drones for all departments, except County Fire and Sheriff Departments
- 2.10 DRP should establish a written test for new drone operators to ensure they have the knowledge to operate a drone.
- 2.11 BOS should consider additional compensation for planners who have completed Los Angeles County drone training
- 2.12 DRP should have the RPC, as well as BOS, view the drone videos when necessary or requested (RPC meetings and BOS Public Hearing meetings)
- 2.13 DRP should generate a cost analysis for the actual 'live' feed for RPC and BOS meetings for future viewing
- 2.14 DRP to ensure the technical connections from the drones, videos can be viewed in the BOS's Board Room, as needed

COMMENDATION

The Civil Grand Jury investigative committee, after reviewing and evaluating the information presented by the Department of Regional Planning, would like to commend the entire staff and department of the Unmanned Aircraft System Program for their dedication and expertise in developing and implementing the entire UAS/Drone Program.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a), and 933.05(b) required a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

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Responses are required from:

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING AGENCY
2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.9, 2.11, 2.12, 2.14	Board of Supervisors
2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 2.12	Los Angeles Chief Executive Officer
2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
2.12, 2.13	Chair, Regional Planning Commission

INDEX TO DRP'S WEBINAR

https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/UAS_Webinar.mp4

Minute and Seconds: 00:00

LAND USAGES FOR DRONES	3:08
HEALTH HAZARDS FOR PLANNERS	3:49 and 13:23
360° OBSTACLE AVOIDANCE	7:03
COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	9:37
TYPE OF SITES EXAMPLE USED FOR DRONES	11:42
HORSES AND ANIMALS AFFECTED	24:00
FUNDING AND FUTURE PLANS FOR DRONES	30:05
GOOGLE AND GIS VS. DRONES	32:36
COUNTY WIDE POLICY (NONE)	34:23
BUDGET/COSTS/CHARGES	37:28

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michael Cieplik, Chair

Linda Cantley

Elzie Whitlow

Exhibit 1

SKYDIO 2



MAVIC



Exhibit 2

APPENDIX 4 – FLIGHT CHECKLIST

Flight Checklist		
Pre-Flight		
<i>In Office</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather Forecast OK	Description:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notification Provided or Authorization Received from FAA if applicable	<i>Details:</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	iPhone Charged	
<i>On-Site</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual Inspection of Equipment Performed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery Level Checked	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery Installed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gimbal Retaining Clip Removed*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flight App Initiated	
<input type="checkbox"/>	UAS Paired to Controller	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Camera Settings Checked	
Post-Flight		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove Battery from Aircraft	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Install Gimbal Guard*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repack all Equipment	

*The Gimbal is a plastic safety device on the Skydio2 which holds the camera in place when in transit

EXHIBIT 3
 SLIDES 18 AND 19 FROM REGIONAL PLANNING POWERPOINT
 #18

Funding

DRP	\$18,750
Productivity and Investment Fund	\$38,500
SD5 Discretionary Funds	\$16,135
TOTAL	\$73,385





#19

Cost

<u>Certification</u>	
FAA Remote Pilot Exam Preparation Course	\$150
FAA UAS General Small Exam (valid for 2 years)	\$160
<u>Equipment</u>	
Drones plus Accessories	\$1300 - \$7500
FAA Drone Registrations (valid for 3 years)	\$5
<u>Liability Insurance</u>	
Up to 5 drones	\$5,200
Up to 15 drones	\$13,000
<u>Software</u>	
Drone Deploy (per subscription per year)	\$1200
Drone2Map (per subscription per year)	\$1500



EXHIBIT 4

SLIDE 14 FROM REGIONAL PLANNING POWERPOINT

UAS Program Performance Summary

- As of October 2021:
 - }> Conducted drone inspections at 142 parcels since program launch
 - }> Total flight time: 12.5 hours
 - Overall estimated time savings: 66%



**DRIP, DRIP, DRIP
WHERE IS OUR WATER COMING FROM?**



2021-2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

AC	ACRE Feet
CTSE	CalTech Science Exchange
DPR	Direct Potable Reuse
LADWP	Department of Water and Power
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
H ₂ O	Water (Water molecule made up of 2 Hydrogen and 1 Oxygen Atoms) ¹
JPL	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
County	Los Angeles County
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
OCLA	Our County Los Angeles
SWP	State Water Project

¹ Urban Dictionary: H₂O (Definition)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Imagine if you will ...

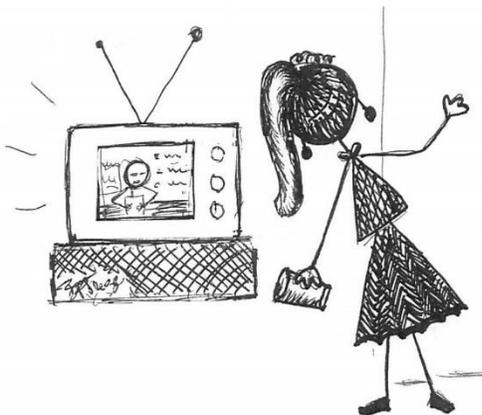
It is early, Friday morning, and the first thing you reach for in the kitchen is a glass of water. Good ol' H₂O, put the glass under the faucet, flip up the handle and ... nothing.

You try again, and again, until you realize nothing is coming out of your faucet, so the first thing you question is if the water has been turned off, and that's when you turn around at the sound of the news anchor reporting something you thought you would never hear.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the County of Los Angeles has run out of water. The Board of Supervisors, along with the Mayor, have declared a county-wide emergency. We go live now to our colleague who is on location at a local supermarket....”



Figure #1->
(Credit: CGJ Juror BPTrigo)



What you see on the screen is hordes of people rushing into the market to grab what water they can find, and also see others fighting in the parking lot over a case of water. There are water bottles strewn everywhere, and as you try and wrap your mind around what you just heard and saw, your empty glass falls out of your hands...

<-Figure #2
(Credit: CGJ Juror, BPTrigo)

That is only an extreme portrayal of what a water shortage in Los Angeles County (“County”) **may** look like if it ever came to a situation where we just used up all of our water resources.

The first reaction would be, “What is going on?!” The questions, “What do we do, now?” “Who can we turn to?” will most likely creep up the next time the local news reports on the water drought.

The situation in the County may not be as dire – yet. However, due to the current levels of water slowly being depleted, and the fact that water is essential to life, we felt it important to look into the causes of the depletion of our water supply.

The purpose of our report is to call attention to and highlight the current shortage of water within the County, and several factors that have been contributing to the decrease in supply levels for several decades, if not longer.

Our initial goal was to seek and locate new sources of water to improve the availability of water supplies throughout the County. Throughout the course of our investigation, we gained valuable

information from several sources that shed light on certain issues of concern that can affect ALL of the residents in the County. This report will cover topics such as 1) sources and resources of water supplies, 2) water levels, 3) making water safe for use (i.e., purification process), 4) the negative impact of earthquakes on water supplies, and 5) water consumption in the County.

While researching these issues of concern, we also came across information documenting and reflecting the work being done to not only combat the issues at hand, but the residual effects related to our water shortage. While the concerns regarding the water supply throughout the County are alarming, there is still hope.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles basin is a semi-arid region, one whose water supply levels are constantly changing, and sometimes these drops can be extreme in nature. The challenges to our water supply are many, and can have a significant impact on the lives of ALL residents in the County.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Throughout the history of Southern California, there have been several instances where water has become scarce and residents faced the task of finding new sources of water. In some cases, the County has pioneered methods that contributed to the water supplies by building facilities to store water and eventually recycle water throughout the years.

Los Angeles County Making History

In 1905, residents of the County, with the backing of San Fernando Valley investors, voted to approve the construction of the nation's first aqueduct. Construction began in 1908 and by the time it was completed in 1913, it was approximately two-hundred thirty-three (233) miles long. Its main purpose was to bring water directly into Los Angeles² from the Owens River.



Figure #3 ->

*The Los Angeles Aqueduct Cascades
near Newhall Pass in Sylmar, CA,
[Photo Credit: Damian Dovarganes/AP]*

The New Kid In Town

Enter The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (“MWD”), which happens to be the “largest supplier of treated water in the United States.”³

According to the article “Environment,” in *CalMatters*, published by Rachel Becker on 06/23/2021, updated 08/20/2021: The MWD supplies imported water to approximately 19 million people in six counties. It takes its supply directly from the Colorado River in order to deliver it to the L.A. Basin. Los Angeles does it again with the construction of the **first** reclamation plant (built in 1962). This was done for the purpose of recycling water (sewage treatment) and resupplying the aquifers.⁴

² Water Scarcity: How Can We Ensure Sustainable Access to Water? | Caltech Science Exchange

³ Metropolitan_Water_District_of_Southern_California.pdf

⁴ <https://calmatters.org/environment/2021/06/california-water-shortage/>

METHODOLOGY

Preamble

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, policies, procedures, and practices were implemented by various entities related to in-person meetings and interviews. In order to gather substantive information to assist in our investigation, the Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) team promptly adapted to the situation, and was able to improvise ways with which to move forward.

The following methods were employed throughout our investigation:

Document review – Extensive research produced a plethora of information, as well as printed material/publications from various agencies, including CalTech, MWD, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (County Sanitation), and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

Internet – We conducted research and fact-checking on websites relative to the agencies, companies, and other involved entities, gathered articles relevant to our investigation, and utilized extensive data in an effort to corroborate the information obtained.

Virtual Meetings – Due to practices implemented by many of our sources, we met with representatives of the MWD via Zoom; this included knowledgeable speakers who provided a further and deeper understanding of the necessity, sources, and resources with respect to our current water supply and scarcity as well;

Phone Calls to various agencies and individuals in position of authority, including interviews with experts at CalTech, MWD, County Sanitation, California Coastal Commission, and LADWP. This also included extensive discussions about the various types of water sources and plans to expand the search and acquisition of new water supplies.

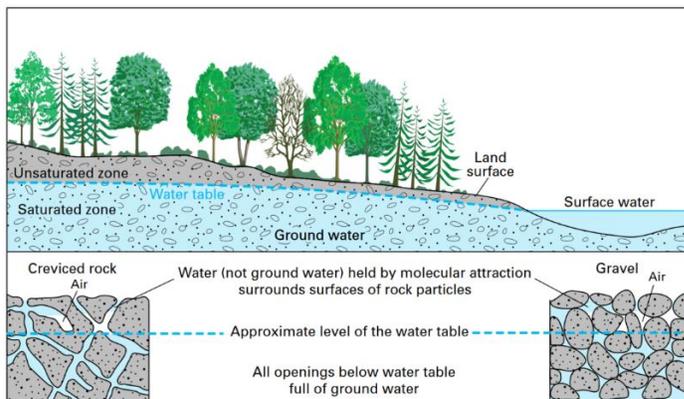
DISCUSSION

OUR WATER SOURCES AND RESOURCES

There are several types of water sources and resources from which the County receives its water supply.

Sources

Surface Water – is the water that usually collects itself above the ground, such as in “streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or oceans.”⁵ While this water is susceptible to evaporation, and can seep into the groundwater collections, it is usually replaced when there is *precipitation*. However, precipitation doesn’t always replenish the amounts lost through *evaporation*.⁶



How ground water occurs in rocks.

[Photo Credit: USGS,
By Water Science School 1999 (approx.)]⁷

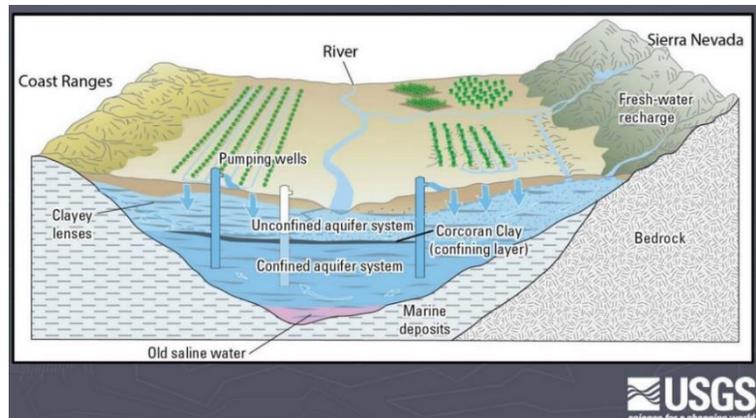
<- Figure #4

Groundwater is usually collected in *aquifers*, “underground layers of water-saturated rock, and sediment,” and is “usually obtain through drilling.”⁸ (See Figure #5)

Figure #5 ->

[Photo Credit: USGS in article by RevealNews.Org
(accessed on 03/16/22)]⁹

Credit: USGS



⁵ Water Scarcity: How Can We Ensure Sustainable Access to Water? | Caltech Science Exchange

⁶ Ibid, evaporation

⁷ Groundwater is the saturated zone of soil/rock below the land surface | U.S. Geological Survey (usgs.gov)
(USGS Images / Illustrations)

⁸ Ibid, groundwater

⁹ 9 sobering facts about California’s groundwater problem - Reveal (revealnews.org)

Resources

Imported Water – There are three (3) main sources from which we import our water: the State Water Project (“SWP”), the Colorado River, and the Los Angeles Aqueduct.¹⁰

Each of these sources is important for sustainability throughout the County in that they provide the necessary supply of water for a variety of uses. The SWP is one of the main providers of irrigation water for farms, as well as various cities in the County. While the majority of the water from the Colorado River is used for farms, it is a vital source for cities within the County.¹¹ The Los Angeles Aqueduct imports water from the Owens River, Mono Lake Basin, and eastern slopes of the southern Sierra.¹²

Local Water – According to the County Department of Public Works, there are two (2) main sources of local water supplies: “groundwater aquifers within the County,” and “surface water due to rainfall in the mountain and valley watersheds.”¹³

Recycled Water – Recycled water is basically wastewater that has been put through many methods of purification. This water is obtained from water used for washing dishes, showering, using the toilet, and doing laundry. It runs through the sewer pipes until it reaches the wastewater treatment plants, where it is then put through a rigorous purification process.¹⁴

MAKING WATER SAFE FOR DRINKING

Water collected and stored in aquifers and treatment plants runs the risk of contamination. A contaminated container, if not properly maintained can become a host for bacteria and other *pathogens*. In order to maintain a clean, safe water supply, it needs to be treated and purified for use and consumption.¹⁵

According to data collected through research, the following is a basic process of water treatment for use:

Step 1 – Removal of grit, and large particles and/or oils. This process involves the removal of particles ranging from sand, gravel, and large objects, such as recyclables that include cans, bottles, branches, and oils. These can cause many types of damage or malfunction within the pipes;¹⁶

Step 2 – Filtration. This water is then sent to the filtration tanks where it is put through a “three-stage cartridge filtration” to achieve the “required maximum particle size” of “1 micron;”¹⁷

¹⁰ Imported Water (lacounty.gov)

¹¹ Ibid, Colorado River

¹² Ibid. Los Angeles Aqueduct

¹³ Local Water (lacounty.gov)

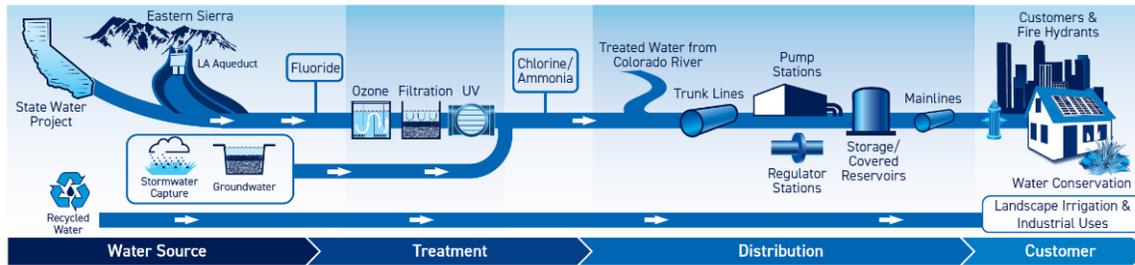
¹⁴ Recycled Water (lacounty.gov)

¹⁵ Water recycling process - Water Recycling

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Step 3 –Chemical removal. Chemicals are removed based on the “type and amount of *surfactant*” (ingredient found in detergent), and by using *phosphate* which makes the water soft but can also be damaging to the environment (both surfactants and phosphate are non-biodegradable). This water is then sent to “pump stations” where it is processed further for distribution to the public for use in irrigation, landscaping, and industrial uses such as parks, golf courses, school lawns, and waterfalls.¹⁸



Credit: Water System Inforgraphic (LADWP 2014)

Figure #6

According to *CalTech Science Exchange*’s report on sustainability and access water, there are several methods applied in the process of purifying water. These methods include:

- **physical** processes such as *filtration*, *sedimentation* (allowing particles suspended in water to settle out under the force of gravity), and *distillation* (converting liquid to vapor and back to liquid again to separate it from contaminants)
- **biological** processes such as the use of *microorganisms* to remove pathogens in *slow sand filters* or *biologically active carbon*
- **chemical** processes, such as the *addition of chlorine*
- *application of ultraviolet light*¹⁹

DESALINATION

The newest industrial form of water purification and cleaning is **desalination**. The process of desalination is quite interesting in that salt/saline is removed from water and converted into fresh drinking water. The residue brine is returned to the ocean. One of the by-products in the brine is rare earth metals that can be used for either batteries or silicon chips or replacement chips. There are safer methods than just a discharge of this brine so that the increased salinity is not toxic to local marine life. The County has the largest body of available water offshore, the Pacific Ocean. Currently there is one desalination plant in the County, and that is the Pebbly Beach Desalination Plant, which is located in Avalon Harbor on Catalina Island.

As of the date of this report, there does not exist a desalination plant on the mainland within the County. And, currently the CGJ is not aware of any formal proposal for the construction of a desalination plant within the County.

¹⁸ Water recycling process - Water Recycling.

¹⁹ Water Scarcity: How Can We Ensure Sustainable Access to Water? | Caltech Science Exchange

A proposed desalination plant could “produce 4 to 5 million gallons of potable water per day, with the possibility of increasing the output to 15 million gallons per day. The water would cost \$2,169 per acre-foot while producing 5 million gallons a day.” - Bryce Alderton, published November 16, 2017, L.A. Times²⁰

In an ABC report broadcast on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 the report stated the following:

As more communities impose water use restrictions because of the drought, the California Coastal Commission is likely to vote on a controversial proposal later this year that could ease water worries for millions of Orange County Residents.

After decades of debate, Poseidon Water just needs approval from the commission to begin construction of a desalination facility in Huntington Beach that would produce 50 million gallons of drinking water per day.

Poseidon Water already runs a desalination facility in Carlsbad, California which is the largest in the Western Hemisphere. The facility was built in 2015 and provides about 12% of the water used in San Diego County.²¹

Excerpts included here:

Although water covers approximately 70 percent of the world’s surface, 97 percent of that is far too salty to drink. This means that water scarcity is the reality for many people and according to the World Wildlife Organization by 2025, two-thirds of the world’s population may face water shortages.²²

“By 2019 approximately 18,000 desalination plants were in operation around the globe, producing more than 95 million cubic meters of clean water every day.²³

A process of desalination has been described by Aristotle as the method Greek sailors used in the 4th century to evaporate sea water to desalt for drinking water by their vessels. In the 19th century the invention of Steam for seagoing transportation & travel created a demand for non-corroding water that could be used in boilers.²⁴

There are two primary methods for desalination: *reverse osmosis* or *multistage flash*. “One of the largest reverse osmosis desalination plants now in existence is located in Sorek, Israel and can produce up to 627 million liters (922 million cubic feet) of desalted water per day.” The process of multistage flash is also described as “a thermal process for desalting relatively large quantities of sea water” One of the largest multistage flash distillation systems is located in Saudi Arabia, and can produce more than 750 million liters of desalted water per day.²⁵

²⁰ How much will water cost from a Doheny desalination plant? South Coast board hears options - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com)

²¹ California drought: Cities are taking a closer look at seawater desalination to deal with water shortages - ABC7 Los Angeles

²² Water Scarcity | Threats | WWF (worldwildlife.org)

²³ Desalination | Saving Earth | Encyclopedia Britannica

²⁴ Water, Water Everywhere | EarthDate

²⁵ desalination | Description, Process, & Production | Britannica

The use of desalination is far from a science fiction dream and we are sharing this background before presenting our local investigation into desalination as a nontraditional source of large amounts of fresh potable water.²⁶ The research and development into desalination is worldwide and even includes looking at the neighboring Salton Sea, which is located in Riverside and Imperial Counties.²⁷

Some interesting research studies from the last 12-18 months related to desalination. One study being conducted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology looks at converting desalination waste materials into useful chemicals, giving it a second life.²⁸ Greener desalination addresses the concerns of the environmental community. Additionally, Berkley Labs is looking into new designs and methods to address the high costs of desalination.²⁹ Lastly, since many of these water-stressed areas are in water scarcity locations worldwide the desalination for these remote areas will require potable water. Monash University is developing a new technology for these areas.³⁰

SUSTAINABILITY

As stated in the *CalTech Science Exchange* (“CTSE”), “According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), the average American family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day at home.”³¹ Pursuant to data provided by a representative of the MWD during an interview with the CGJ, we were informed that in the County alone, the average water usage for 2020 was 137 gallons per capita per day.

With a growing population, and a water level that is at an all-time low, the County is in a serious predicament. It is important to point out the need for developing methods to find new sources of water, and to improve the conditions of existing water storage systems. According to the Water Education Foundation, an average California household uses between one-half and one acre-foot of water per year. To put this into perspective:

*One acre-foot equals about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover an acre of land, about the size of a football field, one foot deep.*³²- Water Education Foundation

A very important and major contributing factor to the depletion of our water supply is the wasteful habits of consumers, namely us.

Water has been a critical factor in the history and growth of Los Angeles, and it remains one of the most important issues in the region’s transition to a sustainable future. The realities of climate change, population growth, and earthquake risks, demand a new approach to water management in the region- Our County L.A.³³

²⁶ Potable Water - Water Education Foundation

²⁷ Desalination plants in San Diego could save the Salton Sea - Water Education Foundation

²⁸ Turning desalination waste into a useful resource | MIT News | Massachusetts Institute of Technology

²⁹ \$100 million desalination project to be led by Berkeley Lab (mercurynews.com)

³⁰ Water solutions without a grain of salt - Monash University

³¹ Water Scarcity: How Can We Ensure Sustainable Access to Water? | Caltech Science Exchange.

³² What's an Acre-foot? - Water Education Foundation

³³ Our-County-Water-Briefing_For-Web.pdf (lacounty.gov), p. 5

As will be discussed in greater detail below, several factors affect the supply level of water in the County, such as drought, water consumption, and wasteful habits as major contributors to the depletion of our water supply. We also found that there have been several methods implemented in an attempt to correct what hasn't worked or improvements needed. At the same time, we noticed that there were methods that are showing promise for problem resolution. There have been changes made to our water systems throughout the decades to deal with every type of challenge regarding our water collection, storage, and uses.

As of *March 2021*, the percent of water allotment from the SWP was down to 5% as a result of “extreme drought conditions.”³⁴ In addition to that, the effect that earthquakes can have on the groundwater, along with increases in population, which in turn leads to higher consumption, negatively impacts the water supply.

WHAT CAUSES WATER SCARCITY?

The County is exhausting its supply of water at a rate faster than it is being replenished. In an interview with experts at CalTech, we were educated on the natural contributors to the depletion of water levels, and were apprised of how much water we are using as opposed to the amount of water being stored and replaced, regardless of the sources and resources.

Main Contributors to Water Scarcity

While we may be a coastal state, and the County is receiving its supply of water from several man-made sources, the fact remains that we are racing against the clock to secure our water supply and ensure that future generations will not have to worry about from where their next glass of water will come.

The sources and resources mentioned in this report are some ways that we can ensure that our supply of water does not dry out, however, there is still the reality that we are consuming water at a faster rate than it is being replenished. Threats to water supplies include, but are not limited to:

Drought

The County being a semi-arid state contributes to the water crisis, and it doesn't help that on average we receive very little of our water from rain. As noted in the Los Angeles Almanac, the average rainfall in Downtown Los Angeles between July 2020 and June 2021, was at 5.82 inches.³⁵

Earthquakes

It is no mystery that California is earthquake country, and here in Southern California we get our water from a variety of sources outside of the County. We utilize several methods to store, recycle and take steps to cut back on our use of water because it is a valuable and necessary source of sustenance.³⁶

³⁴ California water shortages: Why some places are running out - CalMatters

³⁵ Monthly Rainfall for Downtown Los Angeles, California (laalmanac.com)

³⁶ Commentary: Earthquakes can disrupt California water supply. We must prepare | CalMatters

When we read about, hear about or feel that casual bump in the night of one of our many earthquakes, most of us are not aware of what happens when a major earthquake strikes and how it impacts our water supply. In an NBC News broadcast on November 13, 2014 the following was shared:

*The Northridge Earthquake in 1994 had 15 seconds of shaking, resulting in almost 1,100 burst pipes. That translates to more than a year's worth of breaks, costing more than \$40 million dollars in repairs, and leaving some residents without water for almost 2 weeks ... If our aqueducts are damaged during a San Andreas quake, 70-80% of all imported water to Southern California would be cut off, affecting nearly 20 million people for an unknown amount of time.*³⁷

Consumption

Consumption comes in many forms, from drinking water, to watering our lawns, to showering/bathing, farming, landscaping, recreation, etc. As stated in the report by Nathan Halverson at RevealNews.org.³⁸

So for nearly a century, Californians have drained an incredible amount of water from the ground to grow crops and water landscaping. It is not sustainable. The water has not returned. The result is a sinking state. Here are some startling facts about California's groundwater depletion:

- 1. Californians drained about 125 million acre-feet of groundwater (about 41 trillion gallons) from the Central Valley between 1920 and 2013, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.*
- 2. California is sinking at a record pace – one farmer in the Central Valley reported his land sank more than 18 inches last year.*
- 3. It will take at least 50 years for the Central Valley's aquifers to naturally refill, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.*
- 4. California has permanently lost about 18 million acre-feet (6 trillion gallons) of water during the past century, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.*
- 5. California now is pumping water that is 20,000 years old.*
- 6. A great swath of the Central Valley is desert.*
- 7. No one knows how much groundwater California has left. (California doesn't require farmers to report how much groundwater they pump.)*
- 8. Every time California drains its aquifers during a drought, it makes the next drought even worse. (It was not because of farming, it was because there was less water underground. The aquifers were smaller.)*
- 9. The electricity needed to pump groundwater now is about 5 percent of the state's total energy use.*

³⁷ LADWP Tests Japanese Earthquake Resistant Water Pipes – NBC Los Angeles

³⁸ 9 sobering facts about California's groundwater problem - Reveal (revealnews.org)

Pursuant to a study by Our County L.A. (“OCLA”), the County consumes approximately 55% of the water out of the 85% water supply (35% being groundwater, and 10% being recycled water) that is imported from “outside the region.”³⁹

Being that Southern California is more of a semi-arid area, some parts are hydrated more than other parts. This is because it relies on imported water from outside sources. For over 100 years, the County has imported water from neighboring cities, as well as from “groundwater reserves and recycled sewage.” “Downtown L.A. averages about 14 inches [of rain] per year,” according to the report by Rachel Becker, CalMatters (June 23, 2021, updated August 20, 2021).⁴⁰

If we are to continue as a species on this planet, we need to work harder at using water wisely. It is one thing when nature runs its course and that water level changes at a natural pace, it is quite another when the levels drop to such drastically low points due to misuse and abuse.

Water is a necessary source of survival. The human body can go two weeks without food, and only three days without water, before any adverse effects begin to afflict the body. An inadequate amount or lack of water would also have a negative impact on nature, vegetation, and animals.

Examples:

- The body’s inner organs begin to struggle and can lead to serious health impediments;
- Vegetation would dry out, trees would no longer flourish and provide much needed shade on a hot summer day; they would no longer bear fruit for us to eat, and there would be no food for farm animals;
- Lack of water in any areas would trigger even more severe problems.

How most people see our water supply →

*Figure #7
(Credit: CGJ Juror BPTTrigo)*



← The reality of our Water supply

*Figure #8
(Credit: CGJ Juror BPTTrigo)*



³⁹ Our-County-Water-Briefing_For-Web.pdf (lacounty.gov), p. 9

⁴⁰ California water shortages: Why some places are running out - CalMatters

WHAT IS BEING DONE & WHO IS DOING IT?

Because the state of California is prone to drought and earthquakes, there have been many groups that have taken the initiative to resolve these issues, including attempting to lessen the impact of earthquakes on our water storage systems and/or address the long-term effects of drought.

Agencies like the MWD and LADWP and other agencies, companies, organizations and cooperatives that have since been providing the County with the necessary supply of water.

Some examples of how reclaimed/recycled water is used can be found at community parks, golf courses, schools, and anywhere you find landscaping with water fountains and water falls.⁴¹

HOW CAN WE HELP?

At Home and At The Office

- Don't let water run when brushing teeth;
- Use "WaterSense"⁴² showerheads, toilets, faucets, and irrigation system; -->
- Reduce shower time; or fill bath only ½ way up;
- Repair any leaky faucets, indoor and outdoor;
- If washing car:
 - At **home** – use nozzle at end of hose; OR
 - At **carwash** – reduce number of times (if possible);
- Use water-saving appliances such as dishwasher and washing machine), and wash full loads each time;
- Use water nozzle on water hose to help stop water waste; water lawn less often and at cooler time of day;
- If you have a pool, use a pool cover to protect from elements until use;
- Problem yards? Consider replacing grass with artificial turf or desert landscape.



⁴¹ Reclaimed Wastewater | U.S. Geological Survey (usgs.gov)

⁴² The WaterSense Label | US EPA (accessed 03/18/2022). WaterSense is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to label water-efficient products and provide a resource for helping save water.

FINDINGS

F- 1: The problem we face here in the County, is that we will never have ENOUGH water, and we will constantly be working to find new sources or recycle the supply we have.

F-2: We are using more water than we are replenishing.

F-3: Desalination Plants – there is only one in the County, which is located on Catalina Island, and only services itself.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made in the hopes that steps will be taken to address the current challenges facing the County with respect to sustainable water supplies.

- Recommendation 3.1 - Increasing education, and awareness through the media on adopting WaterSense products and help more people understand how to approach and address the issue of water conservancy.
- Recommendation 3.2 – Support water measures and public financing to acquire more water supply and sources. Examples of measures: California Proposition 3 Water Infrastructure bill,⁴³ and A.G. File No. 2021-014 (October 15, 2021).⁴⁴
- Recommendation 3.3 – Consider proposals for and submitting a ballot measure to bring desalination plants into the County.

⁴³ California Proposition 3, Water Infrastructure and Watershed Conservation Bond Initiative (2018) - Ballotpedia

⁴⁴ Water supply. [Ballot] (ca.gov)

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a), and 933.05(b) require a written response to all Recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022:

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Responses are required from:

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING AGENCY
3.1 – 3.4	Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
3.1 - 3.4	Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles County
3.1, 3.2	Los Angeles County Reclamation
3.1, 3.2	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
3.1, 3.2	Los Angeles County Sanitation Department
3.1, 3.2	Metropolitan Water District
3.1 – 3.4	City of Los Angeles Mayor
3.1 – 3.4	Los Angeles City Council

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bernadette P. Trigo, Chair

Tiglath Gaete

Thomas O'Shaughnessy

Thomas Rasmussen

John Wilridge

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW
THE IMPACT ON THE LIVING WHILE CARING FOR
THE DEAD



2021 – 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY

ACRONYMS

CGJ	Civil Grand Jury
ME-C	Medical Examiner Coroner
SORT	Special Operations Response Team
DME	Deputy Medical Examiner
CT	Computed Tomography
NAME	National Association of Medical Examiners

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 27491

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner is required to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden, or unusual deaths occurring within Los Angeles County, including all homicides, suicides, accidental deaths, and natural deaths where the decedent has not seen a physician within 20 days prior to death.¹

The 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) investigated the Los Angeles Medical Examiner-Coroner (ME-C) Department. The report also makes recommendations for the function and improvement of the Department.

As we continue to deal with unprecedented times, it is without question that Covid-19 has brought challenges for people and society.

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: The Impact on the Living While Caring for the Dead, has brought an awareness of death's inevitability, leaving a profound effect on family, caregivers, physicians, nurses, and those who were around them working tirelessly giving care. Their care is extended at the time of death, when the nurse, physician, funeral director, or coroner will begin preparations for services, cremation or burial.

BACKGROUND

When California became a state, the coroner was an elected official, (often a Sheriff), who was charged with determining the cause and manner of death in specific cases. The first Coroner of Los Angeles County was also Mayor of the City of Los Angeles.²

Since 1850, the role and duties of the coroner has evolved. In 1850, the top ten cause of deaths were mainly from contagious diseases that were recorded in a ledger book. However, as administrative workload increased, in 1905 Los Angeles County required death certificates to replace incomplete records kept by local churches and courts.

¹ Coroner – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES (lacounty.gov)

² Department History – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

While investigative duties gradually became more extensive, the coroner's office also changed its location to accommodate the needs and equipment for conducting examinations. Because of the increasing duties involving physical examination and investigation, the coroner position was appointed to a medical physician who was then certified as a medical examiner trained in pathology.³

The Department (which is in an old administration building) is currently located at Mission Road in Los Angeles and is antiquated enough to recommend a budget enhancement to construct a brand new sophisticated state of the art facility.

In recent years, the Department has faced various challenges. For example, on March 11, 2016, Los Angeles County ME-C Dr. Mark Fajardo abruptly resigned, saying he decided to step down because 180 bodies had piled up in the County morgue and toxicology tests were taking six months to complete because he could not get additional funding from the Board of Supervisors to hire more employees.⁴

In December 2020, according to Los Angeles Times, hospital morgues were so full that the National Guard was called in to help County workers as corpses were moved into storage at the Department. The overcrowded crypts at hospitals was a result of private mortuaries running out of space and staff to handle the unprecedented number of COVID-19 deaths.⁵

Other jurisdictions also faced serious problems. In April 2020, social media covered news about dead bodies stacked into trucks during the pandemic.⁶ The death toll in hospitals, funerals and ME-C facilities outweighed available refrigerated trucks and units in facilities.

In normal times, the Department would involve itself in a death only in instances specified by statute, such as sudden, violent, or unusual deaths. But during the pandemic, the Department has become the official backstop for an overburdened system. The Department has continued to move forward despite the extremely uncommon years of the pandemic from 2020 into 2022.

³ Department History – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

⁴ LA County names interim coroner amid department turmoil – Daily News

⁵ Bodies pile up, patient care falters as COVID-19 slams L.A. - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com)

⁶ Coronavirus in NY: Some trucks storing bodies are 'dark, dirty, packed' (nypost.com)

METHODOLOGY

The ME-C Committee consisted of four (4) CGJ members meeting together with concerns for the decedents and where the overflow of Covid-19 reported deaths by hospitals, funeral homes, and homeless, were transported and stored.

The ME-C Committee members had the opportunity to visit and speak with staff members on several occasions.

- An interview with a Department staff official on November 3, 2021
- A tour on December 6, 2021 of the facility
- A virtual interview with a staff official held on January 6, 2021

The November 3 interview with the ME-C official staff member was brief and informative. The questions were answered and explained according to the subjects of concern as stated below:

- Process and storage of Covid-19 decedents
- Homeless deaths
- Homicides and drug related deaths
- Autopsies
- Grief support – (private room for bereaved families)
- Trained staff and budget
- Internal function of the facility
- Specimens sent to a specialized laboratory
- Accreditation
- Priority for a state of the art facility (with sufficient staff and inclusive departments)

Three (3) ME-C Committee members who toured the facility on December 6, 2021, were escorted by a staff official to the forensic laboratory located in the basement in the facility and its adjacent compounds. Information by Department staff and observations noted from the tour were discussed with Committee members following their visit.

DISCUSSION

1. THE UNCLAIMED DEAD

Covid-19 accounted for a higher percentage of deaths, while underlying conditions and homelessness were a major factor.

It has been reported that "[r]oughly 60,000 people die every year in Los Angeles County, and a thousand of them will go unclaimed. For more than a century, the County has held a public ceremony at the close of every year to bury and honor those residents. Their bodies are cremated by the coroner's office, and then held for three years as the office tries to identify and contact the next of kin."⁷

A recent report authored by researchers from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a coalition of unhoused residents, analyzed the LA County ME-C's records to identify 1,493 cases of people who died between March 2020 and July 2021 on the streets and were probably unhoused. The most common cause of death was accidental overdose.⁸

Following are the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistic's published statistics of opioid overdose death rates in the State of California as of January, 2022:⁹

- 6,198 drug overdose deaths per year.
- 2.31% of all deaths are from drug overdose.
- Overdose deaths increased at an annual rate of 10.37% over the last 3 years.
- The death rate is 15.0 deaths out of every 100,000 residents.
- This is 27.54% below the national average death rate.
- 8.81% of nationwide overdose deaths occur in California.

In regard to our question of Covid-19, homelessness, and unclaimed body storage, the Department staff official informed us "the most deaths that occurred were mostly related to drug overdose and substance abuse." The Covid-19 deaths are usually transported to a funeral home or mortuary arranged by hospitals or nursing homes.

Decedents that had no viewing, wake or visitation, were awaiting cremation, or needed longer refrigeration, were kept in refrigerated trucks and mobile units for an extended period of time.

⁷ This Is How Los Angeles Buries Their Unclaimed Dead | LAist

⁸ 1,500 unhoused LA residents died on the streets during pandemic, report reveals | Los Angeles | The Guardian

⁹ Drug Overdose Death Statistics [2022]: Opioids, Fentanyl & More (drugabusestatistics.org)

2. AUTOPSY

“Under California Government Code Section 27491.43 (b), only the decedent can execute a certificate of religious belief against the performance of any autopsy procedure. This must be done prior to death. The next of kin has no standing to decline an autopsy in lieu of this certificate.”¹⁰

An autopsy is a medical examination of a body after death, and may be done for several reasons, such as a suspicious or unexpected death occurs, a public health concern such as an outbreak with an undetermined cause, when a physician cannot state a cause of death to sign the death certificate or family of the deceased person requests an autopsy.¹¹

The Deputy Medical Examiner (DME) will assess whether an autopsy and/or laboratory tests are required as part of the examination. For an autopsy not required for official purposes, the legal next of kin may request one at their expense.¹²

3. GRIEF SUPPORT

On November 3, 2021, when the ME-C Committee members arrived at the ME-C facility, there was no public parking adjacent to the facility, although, there was a parking structure that appeared worn and unkempt to the right side of the street corner by the facility. Once inside the facility lobby, the ME-C Committee observed a distraught family mourning a loved one and no one present to assist or escort them to grieve in private.

The ME-C Committee members discussed with the staff official the possibility of a private room for family members who claim or identify their loved ones and need to process their loss. An expressed interest in a private room was acknowledged by the staff official. Resources to outside agencies are also offered to families who provide bereavement support.¹³

4. STAFF AND BUDGET

The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) is comprised of Department staff members that work throughout the Department on a daily basis. According to the Department's website, this “team is made up of Investigators, Forensic Attendants, Forensic Technicians, Criminalists, Deputy Medical Examiners and a Forensic Anthropologist along with support/clerical staff.”¹⁴ According to staff official, the vision of a modern facility to accommodate staffing and spacious rooms to work in would be beneficial.

The Department official informed us during the interview, the replacement of positions decreased during Covid-19, while at the same time the need for procurement equipment

¹⁰ Hospitals – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

¹¹ FAQ's – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

¹² Our Process – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

¹³ Grief Bereavement Resources – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

¹⁴ Operations – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

and a larger modern facility increased. The Department's 2021-22 Adopted Budget for FY 2021-22 Total Net County cost is \$ 48,787,000.¹⁵

5. INTERNAL FUNCTION OF THE FACILITY

Three (3) Committee members attended a tour of the ME-C facility on December 6, 2021, and were escorted by a Department staff member to specific areas in the building and adjacent compounds. Among these areas were the basement that houses the Forensic Department. There was also a Computed Tomography (CT) which scans a decedent (for religious beliefs) instead of an autopsy. No entry was allowed in the autopsy room and was restricted. The storage room where personal decedent belongings are stored were visible.

ME-C works with staff and divisions to ensure that the facility is operating as it should by completing inspections and conducting examinations. Internal departmental support services include expeditious transcription of all dictated or handwritten autopsy reports, neuropathology reports, microscopic reports and offering clerical support to DMEs.

6. SPECIMENS SENT TO OUTSIDE LABORATORY

According to the Department's website, requests for testing beyond the investigative purposes of the Department or other law enforcement entities depend on next of kin authorization, medical examiner approval and/or the laboratory's availability of methodology and specimens. For tests that require referral to outside laboratories, a fee may be required.¹⁶

In December 2021, during a phone conversation with a laboratory staff official and two (2) ME-C Committee members, we asked about laboratory specimens taking up to 90 days for results. The staff official explained that “if the laboratory had the necessary equipment to process certain specimens that are sent out of state, we would not need to send to an outside laboratory.”

7. INSPECTION AND ACCREDITATION

The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) is the national professional organization of physician medical examiners, medicolegal death investigators, and death investigation system administrators who perform the official duties of the medicolegal investigations of deaths of public interest in the United States.¹⁷

NAME accreditation is an endorsement indicating that the office or system provides an adequate environment for a medical examiner in which to practice his or her profession and provides reasonable assurances that the office or system well serves its jurisdiction. It is the objective of NAME that the application of these standards will aid materially in developing and maintaining a

¹⁵ LA-County-2021-22-Final-Budget-Book-upload.pdf (lacounty.gov)

¹⁶ Additional Laboratory Requests – Medical Examiner-Coroner (lacounty.gov)

¹⁷ About NAME (memberclicks.net)

high caliber of medicolegal investigation of death for the communities and jurisdictions in which they operate.¹⁸

FINDINGS

F-1 As CGJ committee members arrived at the ME-C facility on November 3, 2021, it appeared the facility did not have adequate parking, although, there is a parking structure to the right side of the street corner by the facility.

F-2 ME-C facility appears to lack a private room or person to assist grieving family members claiming or identifying decedents.

F-3 According to a staff member, there is no privacy for family claiming belongings. Personal belongings of decedents are visible in the storage room.

F-4 There is limited space inside the facility to house the various departments that are adjacent to the building.

F-5 Laboratory specimens sent out of state usually take up to 90 days or months for courts to receive a report.

¹⁸ Inspection/Accreditation (memberclicks.net)



MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER FACILITY
(Old Administration Building)



MAIN LOBBY IN THE MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER FACILITY

Photographs courtesy of Medical Examiner-Coroner Office

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** Designate a parking area in front or close to the facility for staff and family claiming or identifying a decedent.
- 4.2** Contract a Chaplain or Counselor to assist grieving family members in a private room at the facility.
- 4.3** Provide a storage room to include individualized compartments/drawers for decedent belongings.
- 4.4** Expand or move to a larger modern facility inclusive of compounds currently adjacent to the facility.
- 4.5** Supply laboratory equipment and staff necessary to analyze specimens that are sent out of state in order to expedite results needed for reports.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a) and 933.05(b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-20122 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022 to:

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Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles CA 90012

Responses are required from:

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING AGENCY
4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5	LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
4.1, 4.4	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
4.2, 4.3, 4.5	CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

CGJ Coroner Committee Members would like to take this opportunity to thank the ME-C staff for their invaluable time, effort and dedication to their work.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ruth Cordero, Chair

Hassan Ferasati

Elaine Killings-Jankins

Maureen Smith

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!



2021-2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

BOS – Board of Supervisors

CGJ – Civil Grand Jury

CIO – Chief Information Officer

DC-1- Datacenter -1

DPSS - Department of Public Social Services

Enterprise Plan - Los Angeles County Enterprise Technology Strategic Plan

GIS - Geographical Information System

ISAB - Information Systems Advisory Board

ISD - Internal Services Division

IT - Information Technology

ITS - Information Technology Services

LASD - Los Angeles Sheriff Department

RRCC- Registrar Recorder County Clerk

SaaS – Software as a Service

UPS – Uninterruptable Power Supply

VSAP – Voting Solutions for All People

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this inquiry is to review the progress made correcting the issues identified in the 2014-2015 Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) report.¹ What we found was a significant change, of a positive nature, in the culture of information systems during the intervening years. Some of these changes to County Information Technology (IT) processes and procedures combined with the development of an IT management structure has created a vibrant and efficient IT infrastructure for Los Angeles County.

The CGJ 2014-2015 report revealed IT infrastructure that was wasting money, not delivering results and mired in failing system development efforts that were costing the County substantial sums of money and were not benefiting the county.

This new report was initiated by one of the authors of the CGJ 2014-2015 report who was serving a second tour of duty with the CGJ 2021-2022. This individual has been unable to complete this second report due to health issues; we wish to acknowledge his contributions to our efforts.

Structure and organization has been implemented in systems operations, increasing reliability and disaster recovery capability. In addition, the previous 64 separate data centers were centralized by the County IT Department and were thereby able to take 40 of those centers and consolidate them into one location called Data Center-1 (DC-1). As a benefit, the citizens of the County are receiving much improved delivery of IT services with costs under control in this new era of information systems.

BACKGROUND

The 2021-2022 CGJ formed a County Information Technology Committee (IT Committee) to investigate the progress made since the CGJ 2014-2015 report. This report will focus on the progress and improvements in County information systems made over the last seven years.

METHODOLOGY

The IT Committee's research procedure consisted of interviews, site tours, and a complete review of the 2014-2015 CGJ report. We also reviewed the March 2021 Los Angeles County Enterprise Technology Strategic Plan (Enterprise Plan).² In addition we chose to focus on the office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and various related oversight committees regarding how they created a dramatic improvement in IT performance within the County.

¹ CGJ Report 2014-2015, County Information Services Report, pp. 47-80. All future references to the 2014-15 report in this report relate to the report found on these pages.

² Strategic Plan and Goals – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES (lacounty.gov)

The committee interviewed seven departments and reviewed the 2014-2015 CGJ report to better understand the status of the IT Systems at that time.

The committee interviewed:

Chief Information Officer (CIO) (10-5-21)

Los Angeles County Assessor (11-4-21 and 12-16-21)

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) (12-7-21)

Department of Health Services (DHS) (11-22-21)

Los Angeles County Sheriff (LASD) (2-3-22)

Internal Services Department (ISD) (2-2-22)

Information Technology Services (ITS)/Data-Center 1 (DC1) (10-12-21)

We also reviewed Software As A Service.³

DISCUSSION

In the 2014-2015 CGJ report, it was noted that the county had 36 Departments, Commissions and Agencies using IT systems in LA County. These entities were running 1606 applications with another 395 in development. In addition to the above, there were three locations outside of the State of California providing IT services. These private locations were providing services to DHS, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), and the County Fire Department.

At the time of the 2014-15 report, the applications running in LA County facilities were via hardware in 64 separate physical locations. The largest was 29,000 square feet with some as small as 30 square feet. This scattering of IT assets throughout the county lead to numerous problems.⁴ Included in the CGJ 2014-15 report were the following observations:

Difficulty in accounting for any overhead costs.

Security being a challenge for a small 30 sq. ft. data center.

Back-up power, or adequate power or climate control was seldom available for a room this size.

As the CGJ 2014-15 report noted, with this collection of hardware platforms, came a lack of structure for programming. There were few programming standards. A number of hardware platforms were operating with programming systems dating back to 1959 such as COBOL and FORTRAN.

Another issue noted in the CGJ 2014-2015 report was software development and program management. County IT had a history of cost overruns and performance short comings. A notable example was with the County Assessor's Office where a significant major system development project had large cost overruns and eventual failure.

Furthermore, as the CGJ 2014-2015 report noted that as IT has morphed from individual task focused programs to systems of large files and data bases, project management has become a major challenge. It also found that, the Internal Services Department (ISD) controlled a number of these

³ <https://www.oracle.com/What is SaaS>

⁴ CGJ 2014-2015 report, p. 52

County systems while the Assessor, Health Services, Sheriff, and other major County departments ran their own shops. In addition, it appeared to the 2014-2015 Civil Grand Jury that there were a complete lack of standards for programming, system design, and documentation.

In the CGJ 2014-2015 report, the first tentative steps to overcome the problems and challenges facing IT in the County were outlined. The creation of the CIO with the authority to coordinate all of the changes and improvements made in the data collection system is in fact the guiding principles which makes all of the below improvements work.

As noted in the CGJ 2014-2015 report concurrent with the aforementioned issues the County reacted to the challenge with a move to more centralized control over IT. This first began in the 1990s. As part of the history of IT development in the County, the steps below highlight some of the actions which have occurred to create today's IT environment.

Step 1. The creation of a Chief Information Officer (CIO). The stated purpose of this new position was to improve standards and to bring a new vision for information systems across the County. This action took place in 1995.⁵

Step 2. The creation of an Information System Advisory Board (ISAB). The purpose of ISAB was to coordinate and standardize applications across the entities of the justice system. Certain members of this group are independent of the County. (The courts are not under the jurisdiction of the County). ISAB insures the respective member's systems can be fluently interchanged with other justice organizations in an orderly fashion.⁶

Step 3. In 1997, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) expanded the CIO's role by requiring that all requests for design, acquisition, expansion or purchase of any automated systems be reviewed by the CIO prior to being placed on the BOS Agenda.⁷

While interviewing various Los Angeles County IT officials from ISD, we were shown an organizational chart. Notable were numerous vacancies within ISD Department of Senior Management.⁸

The CIO responded to his expanded role by clustering departments and agencies into five groups:⁹

Health & Mental Health Services Cluster

Health Services
Mental Health
Public Health

Public Safety Cluster

Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
Alternate Public Defender
District Attorney
Fire Department

⁵ CGJ 2014-2015 report, p. 53

⁶ CGJ 2014-2015 report, p. 53

⁷ CGJ 2014-2015 report, p. 53.

⁸ <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/cio-meet-our-team/>

⁹ CGJ 2014-2015 report, p. 53.

Information Systems Advisor Board
Medical Examiner-Coroner
Probation
Public Defender
Sheriff Dept.

Community and Municipal Services Cluster

Animal Care and Control
Arts Commission
Beaches and Harbors
Community and Senior Services
Consumer Affairs
Parks and Recreation
Public Library
Public Works
Regional Planning

Operations Cluster

Assessor
Auditor –Controller
Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Human Resources
Internal Services Department

Children and Families Well-Being Cluster

Children & Family Services
Child Support Services
Public Social Services¹⁰

Per the CGJ 2014-2015 report, to further encourage participation, the CIO created a forum called the Leadership Committee which meets bi-monthly and consists of the information officers for the County departments who have major IT systems. The Leadership Committee's purpose is to share and discuss information and improvements within the County's IT community. The focus of this committee is standardization and enhancements.¹¹

Some of the objectives enumerated in the CGJ 2014-2015 report were:

Security Centralization
Email Centralization
Production Centralization
Programming Languages Standardization
Application of Advanced Project Management Capability.

¹⁰CGJ 2014-2015 report, p. 55.

¹¹ <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/cio-meet-our-team/>

Migration to systems, large databases and broad analytics capability¹²

The following section highlights the more significant County IT accomplishments over the past seven years. These major implementations have made possible an increase in service to taxpayers.

ASSESSOR

The County Assessor is one of the most significant departments in the County. This department keeps track of 2,400,000 parcels of land within the County. It also is responsible for 300,000 business assessments. In order to identify the owner of each property it is necessary to review 300,000 to 400,000 recorded documents each year. The Assessor also establishes the assessed value for each parcel by doing over 500,000 appraisals per year. In addition tax exemptions must be applied where appropriate. The complete assessed property value totals \$1,300,000,000,000. The annual tax revenue generated equals \$13,000,000,000. This large department maintains the tax rolls for property taxes in the largest County in the nation.¹³

According to an official at the Assessor's office, in the past, attempts were made to upgrade all of the Assessor's applications.¹⁴ They eventually were overwhelmed, resulting in one of the largest failures of Project Management and Systems Development in the history of the County. During the very painful experiences of the final decade of the 20th century and the initial decade of the 21st century, the Assessor over spent and under-performed. The Assessor is now serving the taxpayer for a reasonable cost with a high service level.¹⁵

Commercial of the Shelf (CotS) software was not available because the County is a very large and the unique nature of Proposition 13 record keeping. The Assessor had to start from scratch.¹⁶

The official at the Assessor's Office informed us that the Assessor decided to partner with a major software developer and host the development system in the cloud. One was to partner with a major software developer and host the development system in the cloud. This methodology is called Software as a Service (SaaS). The appeal of this approach is to establish a single vendor relationship. This cloud based system could provide new Virtual Machines and Databases instantly and for negligible labor costs. The operational system is cloud based and operates on a pay as you go basis. Another appeal was the ability to accommodate unexpected requests in the development. The virtual machine approach during the development cycle also eliminated hardware maintenance issues. For the improvement of tax payer service the new software platform supported Language Translation (for 18 Languages) and Chatbot (software that interacts with the client/taxpayer via text messages) a WEB connection.¹⁷

¹² 2014-2015 report, p. 56.

¹³ Interview with Assessor on 11-4-21.

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ See www.propertytax.lacounty.gov.

The new system, called Assessor Modernization Project (AMP), is a five phase program with a development budget of \$100,000,000. The project is nearing completion and COBOL will no longer be used when AMP is complete. AMP is built on a large relational database and tracks all real estate parcels in the county and all transactions that involve those records. The system also permits online interaction with the records by property owners. This process also established user friendly actions that can be done to assist the assessor in public communications. AMP also supports 'walk up' customers at local Assessor Offices throughout Los Angeles County.¹⁸

E-MAIL

Another massive system revision after the CGJ 2014-2015 report was E-mail. The CIO's office reported on this successful project in its recent Enterprise Plan.¹⁹ This plan is a broad statement of goals for deployment of new information technology practices across the County. These goals offer mobility for delivery of services, workforce empowerment, data as a utility, civic engagement through IT systems, and a transformation of the purchasing process.²⁰

The CGJ 2014-2015 report found that County E-mail was extremely disorganized. Each department or other administrative unit contracted with any E-mail vendor that could meet their needs. The result was quick deployment of E-mail in a highly disorganized manner. This was not unlike the disorganized deployment of minicomputers and desktop computers of the same era. An even greater concern was security of information transmitted by E-mail. The Data as a Utility (DaaU) concept of the strategic plan called for a secure and safe way to transmit text and files.²¹

The CIO began an investigation of an E-mail system from a large well regarded software company. The vendor's solution offered secure transmission of data and a reliable system that could be administrated from a central control point. Before this secure data solution was implemented, a recognition of a parallel challenge presented itself.²² This was the procurement of PC's and desktop computers, and obtaining and disseminating these items was as disorganized as the E-mail system. The investigation was revised to include procurement of standardized desk top computers, an appropriate compliment of software, (Word Processing, Spreadsheets etc.) and maintenance, with an additional emphasis on portable laptops which fulfilled another strategic plan goal, mobility.²³

The enterprise E-mail system is up and running, with full security and connected to appropriately configured and maintained work stations. An official from the County's CIO advised that on any given day 4-5,000 attempted hacks occur. With the updated and improved systems that began in 2015 the County is now able to block 92% of the E-mails that are not appropriate for County business. On average only 8% of the E-mails sent to County employees are actually received.²⁴

¹⁸ Interview with official at Assessor Office 11-4-21

¹⁹ Civil Grand Jury Report 2014-2015.

²⁰ Enterprise Plan, p. 2.

²¹ Civil Grand Jury Report 2014-2015, p. 57.

²² Ibid.

²³ Interview with official at Assessor Office 11-4-21

²⁴ Enterprise Plan, March 2021, p. 5.

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK (RR/CC)

This department is another huge collector of data. The RR/CC maintains files of births, deaths and marriages. It also houses real estate, fictitious business names, and domestic partnership data. Since the CGJ 2014-2015 report, the RR/CC has completed transferring their historical records to a digital format.

The RR/CC has one additional function, holding elections, and RR/CC is responsible for registering voters and maintaining voter files; conducting federal, state, local and special elections; and verifying initiatives, referendums, and recall petitions. In addition the RR/CC files copies of veterans' DD214 forms. With more than 500 political districts and five million registered voters, the County is the largest and most complex election jurisdiction in the nation. The RR/CC conducts about 200 city, school, and special district elections.²⁵

The RR/CC handles requests for record retrieval in person, by phone, and online. This department is the embodiment of the Enterprise Plan directive for IT to participate in digital civic engagement. While the scanning of Birth Certificates, Marriage Licenses and Deeds was not a recommendation of the 2015 Report, in 2021 the RR/CC completed the digitizing of this task in the past year.

One of the most important aspects of the registrar is the handling of five million registered voters in Los Angeles County and RRCC's major accomplishment for the past six years is a completely re-done election process called Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP). Nationwide punch card voting had contributed to allegations of mistaken counts. RRCC is also responsible for the custody and issuances of vital documents.

Security has been a primary consideration in the implementation of VSAP. This new system is "AIR GAPPED." There is no connection between this system and the outside world; that includes no Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, physical, electrical, or wireless connection to the outside world. According to a highly placed official at RR/CC, security for this project is based on three points:²⁶

Make it difficult to get into the systems from the outside.

Monitored Access by authorized persons.

Ongoing improvements based on experience.

The team supporting VSAP has three subdivisions:²⁷

Systems Development: These are the folks that created internal systems with colorful names like JEDI and YODA.

Special Projects: Information Security Office, Election Poll Book Preparation and Print Services, Ballot Brochures, etc.²⁸

Database and Data Analytics: This group maintains databases, registered voter lists, election workers identity, vote files, etc. They also "scrub" the data for precise and proper formatting and

²⁵ <https://vsap.lavote.net>

²⁶ Interview with RR/CC 12-7-21.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ RR/CC must ensure that ballot brochures and other items for the public are available in multiple languages.

maintain business intelligence and analytics. Finally, they analyze where to put voting centers and what days to operate, with community oversight. We viewed the public and media viewing window used for observing the vote counting process.

VSAP includes online registration, ballots in 18 Languages, and walk-up registration for the purpose of enabling every voter the right to participate. The system will even support mobile polling sites for special needs such as medical workers, transportation centers, utility workers, the homeless and the disabled.²⁹

VSAP has also garnered interest from other government entities including foreign countries. This new system has passed, with flying colors, a major presidential election in 2021 with minimum problems. VSAP is a comprehensive approach to insuring accurate elections that accommodates voters with special needs as well as the everyday voter.³⁰

OUT OF COUNTY DATA CENTERS

The CGJ 2014-2015 report expressed concern over three data centers and the Oracle cloud located outside of the State of California. These include:

- UNISYS Data Center, Eagan, MN (DPSS)
- Northrop Grumman Data Center, VA (Fire)
- Cerner Data Center, Kansas City, MO (Health Services)
- Oracle Cloud (Added since CGJ 2014-2015 Report) (Assessor)

These centers actually perform data processing as a service for the County. These sites are operated by software developers, who are providing a service. The previous CGJ had concerns about this type of solution, however, this solution is attractive because the risks associated with developing a new system are with the vendor. The system at Cerner Data Center, which keeps the patient records for all County hospitals, is in the sixth year of a 10-year contract for health services. This system is called Odyssey.³¹

PUBLIC SAFETY CLUSTER

This silo is unique in that six of the eight agencies are part of the criminal justice system. In addition members of this cluster have connections to state and federal agencies with respect to data privacy. Since this need for data security is paramount, development of new systems require special care.³²

The Sheriff is a good example of this requirement teletype machines and multipart carbon paper forms to keep track of the movement of this large number of inmates. This system creates double work for the same data with systems that do not communicate with one another. Fortunately there is a replacement data system, in development, for special systems. Among other responsibilities the Sheriff operates the jails. This police agency has 7,000 to 10,000 individuals consigned to

²⁹ Interviewed official from the Los Angeles County Registrar/Recorder 12-6-21

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ 2014-2015 report p. 69.

³² Virtual interview with Los Angeles County Sheriff Dept. 2-3-22

their care as a major responsibility. Currently this responsibility uses the antiquated teletype machines and multipart carbon paper forms to keep track of the movement of this large number of inmates. This system creates double work for the same data with systems that do not communicate with one another. Fortunately there is a replacement data system in development.³³

DC-1

Operations have now been consolidated in a new secure location. The facility has 4,000 sq. ft. to house most of the County's information systems. There is a cooling system for the processors that maintains a temperature of 75 degrees Fahrenheit. This system can detect temperature changes of 1/10 of one degree. Provisions for auxiliary power are filled by a large diesel generator. Power can continue, if required, for up to 48 hours without refueling. The external back-up station to DC-1 is not concealed from public view.³⁴

Virtually all the 64 previous datacenters have been consolidated into this amazing facility. Environmental systems keep the facility dust free and there are tack mats at the entrances collecting miscellaneous hitch hikers on the sole of shoes. There are six legacy data facilities that have the potential to be moved to DC-1.³⁵

Findings

5-1 Sheriff's system for keeping track of inmates is cumbersome, expensive and uses teletype machines and multipart form sets. A replacement is in process.

5-2 Review of the various organizational charts for the CIO and County IT Department found a concerning number of vacant positions.

5-3 Dramatic changes have been made with programming and system development standards. Most of this was done as part of the consolidation at DC-1. However, currently there still remains six legacy data centers that need to be moved to DC-1.

5-4 The County Leadership Committee continues to meet and discuss countywide IT issues.

5-5 The CIO recognized the need for additional IT organization in some of the larger departments. (Assessor, Social Services, Health Services.)

5-6 Major changes which have been made since the CGJ 2014-2015 report are as follows:
Creation of DC-1

County Assessor now uses the cloud based system to house its information

The Assessor AMP Project is nearing completion. This improves property transaction information for all county real estate with the public.

The E-mail system in the past varied from department to department creating security and incompatibility problems. Interoperability is no longer a problem and security has been greatly enhanced.

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Interview ITS 10-12-21.

³⁵ Interview DC-1 10-12-21.

The RR/CC now uses an air gaped secure voting system. Personal computers and similar devices are now centrally controlled through purchasing with approved vendors and software providers. The new extensive election process is now in place, VSAP, and helps reduce inaccuracies, cheating and allegations of mistaken voting errors. This process makes public accessibility to voting, whether by mail or at the polls, easier and more transparent.

Recommendations

- 5-1 Any remaining small data centers should be absorbed by DC-1.
- 5-2 The CIO office should consider including the remaining six legacy data centers in DC-1
- 5-3 CIO to ensure achievement of all goals outlined in the March 2021 Enterprise Plan
- 5-4 Prioritize creation of system to eliminate paper inmate records between the courts and the jails.
- 5-5 CIO and should fill or consolidate senior management positions as soon as possible.
- 5-6 Conceal electrical sub-station and generators at DC-1 for improved security.
- 5-7 The County Leadership Committee and the ISAB needs to continue to meet to insure that the best and most current IT solutions are available in this complex system.
- 5-8 The County to continue to seek the latest security enhancements to protect the County E-mail system.

Commendation

The Information Systems Committee of the 2021/2022 Civil Grand Jury wishes to commend John Acevedo and his 2014/2015 Committee for its outstanding report, which is the foundation of this document.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a) and 933.05(b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022 to:

Presiding Judge
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Responses are required from:

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING AGENCY
R5-1, R5-3 to R5-8	LA County Board of Supervisors
R5-1 to R5-8	LA County CEO
R5-4	LA County Sheriff's Department
R5-1 to R5-8	LA County CIO

Committee Members

John G. Miller, Chair

Linda Cantley

Scott Larson

Thomas Patrick O'Shaughnessy

**MEN’S CENTRAL JAIL
“IS IT STILL NEEDED?”**



**2021 – 2022
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

ATI:	Alternatives to Incarceration
BOS:	Board of Supervisor
CGJ:	Civil Grand Jury
CTC:	Correctional Treatment Center
IRC:	Inmate Reception Center
DMH:	Department of Mental Health
JCIT:	Jail Closure Implementation Team
LASD:	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
MCJ:	Men's Central Jail
VPAN:	Veterans Peer Action Network

MEN’S CENTRAL JAIL

“IS IT STILL NEEDED?”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) is located at 441 Bauchet Street. It is centered within a cluster of Los Angeles County detention buildings at Bauchet & Vignes Streets. This entire cluster of detention buildings was inspected during the annual inquiry into detention facilities as required by the Penal Code. In our three person team visit we noted sufficient questions to form an Investigation Team to report on our additional concerns and particular usage of MCJ. As the reader should be aware all our inspections and more detailed investigations are conducted in the confidential rubric that guarantees the anonymity of persons spoken with whether in person, on a witnessed phone call or the often practiced zoom calls due to Covid-19.

In the past, there have been plans to condemn and take down this part of the jail complex and build a mental health facility for the needs of the community.¹ Times have changed in regards to how the mentally ill are cared for in Los Angeles County. This report looks at mental health services provided in the community, as well as alternatives to incarceration, that reflect efforts to rehabilitate individuals and avoid incarceration when other means can adequately address the issues.

These changes in mental health services removes the one reason to replace MCJ. MCJ as constructed and layed out is still needed for imprisoning hardened criminals that are jailed in Los Angeles County. The inmate population housed at MCJ are different in regards to levels of documented violence, than those jailed in the more modern Twin Towers Correctional Facility; as well as other custody facilities within Los Angeles County. In our extensive interviews with the custodial deputies, this point was indelibly impressed on us. Whether convicted or awaiting trial these inmates are the most violent population being held in the LA County jail system. There are also State prisoners held here during trials and being sent here as witnesses.

During the Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) tour & inspection, along with the subsequent investigation, we observed the need for the retention of MCJ. In the past, MCJ maintained a minimum accommodation for over 3,000 inmates. MCJ has a current capacity now of 6,750 inmates.² We noted in the custodial jail deputies' thorough tour that Twin Towers Correctional Facility, which is primarily constructed with Pod³ like dormitory areas for most of their inmates, holds a mixed jail population. MCJ facilities have individual cells in the more recognizable cell block structure designed for inmates who are career criminals, or those convicted or indicted for violent crimes.

¹ L.A. County Supervisors Vote to Replace Men’s Central Jail With Mental Health Treatment Center | KTLA.

² LA's Men's Central Jail plagued by overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, violence | 89.3 KPCC

³ <https://www.quora.com/Whats-the-meaning-of-a-pod-in-prison>

MCJ even has roof recreation yards that are covered with barbed wire so inmates can experience daylight, but have no chance to escape. There are even phone booth sized, individual open air cells for extremely violent inmates. They can only be taken out in full shackles & released from inside the locked booth for limited outdoor recreation. Further follow up interviews with key supervisory custodial personnel reinforced the fact that this is the sole prison-like facility in a system of County jails.

BACKGROUND

Advances in treatment protocols by the Los Angeles County Mental Health Department have allowed for outside treatment being administered in the at-risk person's own neighborhood. For example, in Los Angeles County the two year old Veteran Peer Action Network [VPAN],⁴ which has contracted with community action agencies in the five Supervisorial Districts, has pushed for more storefront access and referrals to more concentrated care. This model of a more localized treatment for individuals exemplifies the new model of treatment, which removes the necessity for a major Los Angeles Mental Health Department Detention structure to replace MCJ. We were fortunate to have interviewed a member of the VPAN Advisory Board who had been in that capacity from its beginning.

There is a well-recognized need for alternative treatments that can decrease incarceration for non-violent criminals, as well as for first time offenders whose lives can be changed. These programs point to diversion for persons whose offenses are misdemeanors. There is currently a County program started in 2020 "Alternatives to Incarceration" [ATI] which is using techniques in keeping with their motto "Care First, Jail Last."⁵ While these type of programs may further reduce the inmate population, there is still a need for a jail facility that is more like a prison than a jail, like MCJ.

MCJ is still needed because violent or career criminals still must be housed, but also kept away from the general inmate population due to the often heinous violent crimes (murder, arson, sex crimes, sex crimes against children, etc.) they have committed. In our one on one interviews with MCJ personnel it was explained that this segregation was necessary. They must be housed away from both each other and more vulnerable inmate populations who might be victimized by them if they were mixed together. These hardened criminals require a custody facility that can accommodate those who prey on society, including hardcore gang members who make up a significant part of the current population at MCJ, according to MCJ personnel. Because of this need, MCJ should be maintained.

⁴ Veteran Services - Department of Mental Health (lacounty.gov)

⁵ The L.A. County Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative – Los Angeles County (lacounty.gov)

METHODOLOGY

The CGJ's investigative team reviewed the history of detention inspections of MCJ by reviewing annual written reports by previous CGJs. We also reviewed media coverage regarding the issue of whether the MCJ should remain active, or be torn down to construct a newer facility. We reviewed Detention Reports, along with media reports, that often followed the Board of Supervisors (BOS) actions or rulings based on court cases. We conducted multiple site visits to the MCJ along with one extensive in-depth inspection. The continuing need for MCJ to stay in operation was why the CGJ added MCJ as an individual action report for further investigation. When the CGJ speaks of the differences between MCJ and other correctional facilities, this is based on shared observations and research we have extensively conducted.

The Deputy Sheriffs who staff MCJ who the CGJ members spoke with also imparted a great deal of institutional memory and offered occupational acumen. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) should be recognized for their hard work. The LASD also has many other responsibilities beyond custody responsibilities. They include security staffing at the Los Angeles Superior Court, civil process, transportation security (trains and buses) patrol, and law enforcement services for the Los Angeles Community Colleges.

DISCUSSION

The CGJ investigative team had conversations with key custodial personnel, along with other County subject matter experts, and discussed the need for reduced incarceration levels when alternatives to incarceration can be found. These extensive reforms are in addition to excellent Department of Mental Health programs in Los Angeles County. The obvious need to separate career criminals, violent hardened offenders, and lifetime predators from non-violent offenders highlighted the need to maintain different security levels at custody facilities. Members of the CGJ held discussions focusing on the viewpoint the County's different levels of jail facilities, along with the unassailable fact that MCJ as a main facility under County supervision, addresses the key issue of maintaining separation of violent and/or career criminals and hardened gang members from the general public and the non-violent inmate populations.

We reviewed some of the previous inspections of MCJ by the CGJ to see the results over time. Over the years, critical aspects of inspections varied and there seemed to be more of a recent appreciation for the closing and/or replacing MCJ as a topic of conversation. These proposals have had various fans and critics in the public safety community, as well as social welfare operations conducted by excellent community care organizations. We heard both opinions shared in our interviews and witnessed phone conversations. Due to the Covid-19 strictures we did use varying techniques that were beyond only personal interviews. Zoom was essential in speaking to various knowledgeable personnel and representatives of different departments.

The following stands out when these reviews are compared to one another. The Report of the CGJ from 2012 - 2013⁶ had the following recommendation on page 201--after noting it was an older facility not meant to accommodate its current population, the Report stated "The BOS should promptly commit to replacing Men's Central Jail as soon as possible." In this same Report the CGJ states "Nearly every commission or other group that has inspected MCJ agrees that it should be demolished and replaced."⁷

We learned through interviews & witnessed phone calls that around the same time period, with the passage of AB 109 Criminal Justice Realignment⁸ and its implementation on October 1, 2011, there was a shift of more serious felons to County incarceration in order to prevent overcrowding in state prisons. Page 186 in the 2012-2013 CGJ Report⁹ notes that "the jail system in Los Angeles County was built to accommodate misdemeanors sentenced to no more than one year." The change in the jail population caused by the impact of realignment was noted "as of October 12, 2012, provided by Supervisor Antonovich, reports that over 40 inmates have been sentenced to greater than 8 years and most are sentenced for over one year."¹⁰

⁶ <http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/gjury12-13/Final%20Report%20%202012-13.pdf>

⁷ Ibid, at p. 188

⁸ Bill Text - AB-109 Criminal justice alignment. (ca.gov)

⁹ <http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/gjury12-13/Final%20Report%20%202012-13.pdf>

¹⁰ Ibid

In the following year's CGJ 2013–2014, Report the CGJ made the following recommendation, found on page 341:¹¹ “The Los Angeles County BOS needs to approve the Sheriff's funding request for replacement of MCJ or approve funding to move inmates to facilities that provide opportunities for rehabilitation.” This of course does not address the transfer of serious hardened inmates to other facilities not constructed to house such a population. Subsequent inspection results over the last decade did not consistently show the same observations. For example, the CGJ 2014-2015 Report on page 199 indicated MCJ was “Unsatisfactory;”¹² the CGJ 2014-2015 Report on page 199 indicated MCJ was “Unsatisfactory;” the CGJ 2015-2016 Report on page 414 indicated MCJ was “Satisfactory”¹³ as were the CGJ 2017-2018¹⁴ on page 310 & CGJ 2018-2019¹⁵ Detention page 11 Reports which also listed MCJ as “Satisfactory.”

In the latest CGJ Report dated 2019-2020, the Detention section noted the following two observations: “The use of Twin-Towers as a Correctional Treatment Center [CTC], the largest in the state; by a state of the art 196 bed medical unit in the Twin Towers Correctional Facility” and also indicated¹⁶ the lessening of the MCJ ground space as a treatment facility replacement. Finally the inspection findings in this last report stated the following: “Several facilities are beyond repair, in particular, Men's Central Jail [MCJ] in downtown Los Angeles.”¹⁷

As is obvious, these earlier reports were a benchmark of the continual observations of prior CGJs. With this as a multiple year template we were able to integrate the various facts derived from many visitations at jails, holding cells, and at court houses and city jails. When we reviewed our tour and the following inspection of the IRC, we recognized many of the different treatment areas as inmates were transferred to the various courts by LASD buses. We also realized by the distribution of prisoners to various jails that different complexities often determined inmate placement. The custodial LASD personnel explained the subtle differences between various child molesters [straight, gay & trans] as well as gang members of various rival gangs. Again this is why career criminals and violent offenders are jailed at Men's Central Jail rather than at other facilities determined by their security status.

A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department handout dated 8/21/2013 does fully explain the various levels of security. Those listed were Minimum Security, Medium Security & Maximum Security. Also were Special Management Housing for particular segregated inmates with a “keep-away status.” The definition of “Maximum Security – Inmates designated as custody levels 8 or 9. Inmates who are assigned to a maximum security level shall be those who have been charged extremely serious felony crimes and/or have holds or other pending court action considering such

¹¹ http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2013-2014_Final.pdf.

¹² http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2014-2015_Final.pdf

¹³ <http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/LOSANGELESCOUNTY2015-2016CIVILGRANDJURYFINALREPORT.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2017-2018%20Los%20Angeles%20County%20Civil%20Grand%20Jury%20Final%20Report.pdf>

¹⁵ http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/Los%20Angeles%20County_2018-2019_Civil_Grand_Jury_Final_Report.pdf

¹⁶ [http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2019-](http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2019-20%20Los%20Angeles%20County%20Civil%20Grand%20Jury%20Final%20Report.pdf)

[20%20Los%20Angeles%20County%20Civil%20Grand%20Jury%20Final%20Report.pdf](http://www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2019-20%20Los%20Angeles%20County%20Civil%20Grand%20Jury%20Final%20Report.pdf), p. 338

¹⁷ Ibid. at p. 335

types of crimes. In addition, such inmates may be individuals who have displayed a significant disciplinary problem within custody and/or display a need of maximum amount of supervision. Their program participation shall be limited to those programs that are conducted within the security of the facility.” These then are the types of inmate/prisoners who are mostly held at Men’s Central Jail! This was obvious as the custodial LASD deputies fully described the different populations that could not be mixed together.

Because of the needed separation and especially in the recreation roof top areas, repairs to promote safety should be considered; the needed maintenance will also include renovations when they are required and available.

Notwithstanding the above we also would note:

*Although in August 2019, the County BOS voted to cancel a \$1.7 Billion dollar contract to replace the jail!*¹⁸

On March 1, 2022, the BOS passed a motion titled "Care First, Jails Last: Establishing a Justice, Care and Opportunities Department to Promote Collaboration and Transparency in a Person-Centered Justice System."¹⁹ The only reference to MCJ was in relation to the continuation of the “Office of the Jail Closure Implementation Team [JCIT].” “ The JCIT will continue its work, as directed in previous actions of the Board, to close Men’s Central Jail without a replacement jail facility and will work with the ATI to build and maintain a Countywide mechanism for tracking bed availability for the justice-impacted population.”²⁰

It is the totality of compelling facts that required this fresh look in 2021-2022 at MCJ both for the essential need for this type of facility & also that such a facility fulfills its role of incarcerating hardened criminals separately from low level misdemeanor & otherwise mentally compromised individuals.

While we appreciate the immediate above actions; further inquiry has not altered our well thought out & investigated report with its following Findings & Recommendations.

¹⁸ <https://la.curbed.com/2019/8/13/20803756/mens-central-jail-los-angeles-contract-vote>

¹⁹ Motion_2004 (lacounty.gov)

²⁰ Statement Of Proceedings (lacounty.gov), p. 19

FINDINGS

- Finding 6-1 There are seven large jails in Los Angeles County which include the four at Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic. Men's Central Jail, as stated by its custodial personnel, is the only facility rated for incarcerating hardened criminals and violent inmates that must be kept separated from each other. This facility requires the repairs as needed as well as renovations to maintain isolated & separated inmate custody!
- Finding 6-2 DMH has established a diverse countywide mode of treating categories of patients in local centers partnering with community care organizations. Because of these more neighborhood-focused treatment centers, the argument for transforming the MCJ property into a mental health facility is no longer relevant. Given its sturdy old style penal holding facility appearance it would be more like St. Mary's of Bethlehem rather than a modern mental health hospital or hospice. MCJ would not be a suitable facility for such a purpose.
- Finding 6-3 There are any number of well-placed County agencies dealing with both diversion & re-entry, as well as the newest program "Alternatives to Incarceration" [ATI]. These programs allow for certain inmates to be removed from the more serious jail population that are housed at MCJ.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 6-1 Scrap long delayed & debated plans to demolish the Men's Central Jail [MCJ]. It serves a custodial & penal mission for hardened criminals. MCJ should continue to be used for this purpose.

Recommendation 6-2 Plan needed repairs and renovations of MCJ, as outlined in Finding 6-1 as the only facility rated for hardened criminals & violent inmates that must be kept separate from each other. This addresses the facility usage as the continued penal home for hardened career criminals, gang members, and violent long-term inmates in this "prison" like facility rather than any of the other usual County Jails.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a), and 933.05(b) required a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

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R6-1 & R6-2	LA County CEO
R6-1 & R6-2	LA County Sheriff's Department
R6-1 & R6-2	Director, Alternatives to Incarceration
R6-1 & R6-2	LA County Dept. of Mental Health

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thomas Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Chair

Linda Cantley

John "Jack" Miller

**MISLEADING SHOULD BE COSTLY – PAY THE
PRICE**



2021 – 2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

CGJ	CIVIL GRAND JURY
SB 90	SENATE BILL 90
ALADS	ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES DEPUTY SHERIFF'S
LAPPL	LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE
SCO	STATE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE
LASD	LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
LAPD	CITY OF LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
CMS	COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
PSB	PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
IAD	INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
CPC	CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE
CCC	CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The right of a citizen to challenge and speak out against government authority is enshrined in our Bill of Rights and both the United States and State of California Constitutions. But does that include the right to knowingly lie in order to trigger an unnecessary investigation? Is the citizen protected from consequences when that person knowingly seeks to harm a person for simply doing their job? For a personal reason? To disrupt and delay? To inflict an economic cost on fellow citizens and residents because once begun, the investigation of a complaint, whether knowingly false or honestly presented, is mandated to completion?

This Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) investigation reviewed the history of knowingly false civilian complaints filed against law enforcement, the relevant State of California law and court cases, as well as the policies and procedures of both the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). It is important to reinforce the proposition that a citizen standing up and filing an honest complaint against law enforcement should have nothing to fear. This is true whether the citizen's complaint turns out to be valid or not after a mandated investigation is completed, so long as it comes from a place of honesty. Currently, California law seeks to ensure that the dishonest person who knowingly files a false complaint will potentially be exposed to negative consequences; criminally as well as civilly, and provides mechanisms for law enforcement agencies to recover the taxpayer funds that were wasted on the investigation.

In Los Angeles County, according to certain members of the Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL) and the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's (ALADS), both the LAPD and the LASD are not enforcing the law or even attempting to enforce it, as it pertains to a person knowingly filing a false complaint against a peace officer. These individuals, as well as personnel from the Discovery Unit of the LASD, informed us that this has cost the citizens of Los Angeles County millions of dollars over the past twenty (20) years, some of which has been recovered under the State of California Senate Bill 90, Reimbursement of Mandated Costs. The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations for reducing these costs by providing strategies to decrease the number of false complaints filed against law enforcement.

BACKGROUND

In this report, the CGJ will look at the following two law enforcement agencies: the LAPD and the LASD.

The LAPD is the primary law enforcement agency for almost 4,000,000 residents of the City of Los Angeles. With almost 10,000 sworn officers and 3,000 civilian staff, it's the third largest municipal police department in the United States behind the cities of New York and Chicago. The LAPD has an almost \$1.2 billion budget and patrols approximately 21 Station areas grouped into four (4) operational bureaus.¹

¹ Los Angeles Police Department, Wikipedia.

The LASD is the largest sheriff's department in the United States with almost 10,000 sworn deputies and nearly 9,300 civilian staff. The LASD provides law enforcement services to 153 unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County, as well as 42 cities. The LASD also runs the Los Angeles County Jail system and provides law enforcement services for the Community Colleges and Superior Court of Los Angeles County.²

This report will also look at the enforcement of California Penal Code (CPC) section 148.6, which makes it a crime to knowingly file a false complaint. The California Legislature, which enacted this law in 1995, has not voted to rescind the law to the present day, underscoring that the act of knowingly lying to trigger an unnecessary and potentially harmful investigation of a peace officer is a criminal act. The California Supreme Court, the highest State Court in California has agreed and found CPC section 148.6 to be Constitutional at both the State and Federal levels.³ Currently, the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals disagrees.⁴ This disagreement eventually led to a lawsuit filed by the LAPPL against the City of Los Angeles. On April 16, 2020, Superior Court Judge Broadbelt found that CPC section 148.6 is valid and enforceable and made an order prohibiting the City of Los Angeles or the Chief of Police from accepting an allegation of misconduct against a peace officer without requiring the complainant to read and sign the advisory set forth in CPC section 148.6 (a)(2).⁵⁶ This order is currently being appealed by the City.

METHODOLOGY

The following methods were used to gather and review information and data in putting together this comprehensive overview regarding the question of what can be done to reduce the number of false complaints filed against peace officers while protecting the rights of citizens:

- Conducted phone interviews with representatives of ALADS (Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's) and representatives of LAPPL (Los Angeles Police Protective League).
- Obtained information and data from the LASD and the LAPD.
- Obtained information and data from the State of California Controller's Office.
- Reviewed United States Justice Mandated Reports concerning the monitoring of the Federal Consent Decree under which the Palmdale and Lancaster Stations of the LASD currently operate.
- Reviewed information and data from the California Commission of State Mandates.
- Reviewed State of California legislation specific to statutorily mandated policy and procedures concerning civilian complaints and how documentation is to be maintained and stored after any investigation is complete.
- Reviewed both State of California and United States Federal Court decisions concerning peace officer complaint issues.

² Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Wikipedia.

³ *People v. Stanistreet* (2002) 29 Cal.4th 497

⁴ *Chaker v. Crogan* (2005) 428 F.3d 1215

⁵ *Los Angeles Police Protective League vs. City of Los Angeles* (Case No. BC676283)

⁶ See 4/16/2020 Order of Judge Robert B. Broadbelt, Appendix A

- Reviewed complaint procedures and policy for both the LASD and the LAPD.

DISCUSSION

In 1995, the California Legislature enacted CPC section 148.6. The creation of this Section was in response to a wave of false accusations of misconduct against peace officers after the Rodney King unrest.⁷ The statute made it a misdemeanor to file an allegation against a peace officer knowing the allegation to be false.

CPC section 832.5(a)(1) requires that each department or agency in California that employs peace officers shall establish a procedure to investigate complaints by members of the public against the personnel of these departments or agencies, and shall make a written description of the procedure available to the public. CPC section 832.5(b) sets up how complaints, and any reports or findings relating to these complaints, are to be maintained and stored. This section also outlines how complaints that are “sustained” are to be retained for not less than fifteen (15) years and complaints that are “not sustained” are to be retained for five (5) years. CPC section 832.5(c) states that even complaints that are found to be frivolous, unfounded, or lead to an exoneration, or any portion of that complaint, shall not be maintained in a peace officer’s personnel file, but will be retained in a separate file by the peace officer’s agency or department.

So the false allegation made against the peace officer survives past the investigation refuting it, along with the possibility it can be used against the peace officer in the future, either by the peace officer’s agency or the media. This possibility was confirmed by a member of the LAPPL who stated that the existence of such allegations are often brought up in promotional interviews with officers seeking advancement being asked by interviewers to explain the circumstances of incidents that had previously been determined to be unfounded or as having led to an exoneration.⁸ There have been controversial, high profile cases over the years where previous allegations made against a peace officer, who ended up cleared after an investigation, suddenly reappear again because of a current controversy.⁹

In August 2020, NBC News reported on allegations of police misconduct and included a statement by the LAPD Chief of Police. The story covered the release of LAPD's 2019 Annual Complaint Report to the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners regarding misconduct allegations. The LAPD Report itself noted that while allegations of police misconduct had gone up in the previous years, the majority of the allegations were unfounded.¹⁰ The assigned NBC anchor led the story by citing misconduct involving officers accused of driving drunk and being involved in domestic disputes. Then the reporter assigned to the story cited over 3,700 complaints filed against officers, but added that “few of them filed by the public were deemed to be ‘legitimate.’” The reporter then cited more statistics of officers accused of misconduct in various categories including “neglect of duty, domestic altercations and driving while impaired.” The reporter did share that over 2,000 of

⁷ *People v. Stanistreet* (2002) 29 Cal.4th 497, 502-503

⁸ Phone Interview with LAPPL member, April 2022

⁹ <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/lapd-los-angeles-police-complaints-2019/2424542/>;

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2020/05/06/lapd-officer-under-investigation-for-assault-also-involved-in-three-shootings/>

¹⁰ Annual Complaint Report 2019. Los Angeles Police Department Annual Report to the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners.

the complaints filed against officers were cleared because of video evidence from body worn cameras, as well as other police cameras (dash cams). The story ends with the reporter stating that 16 LAPD officers were in fact fired for misconduct and 138 officers were suspended. He then quoted the LAPD Chief who, according to the reporter, stated a desire for more authority to fire and discipline officers because apparently he doesn't have enough authority to do so at present. The LAPD Chief stated a ballot initiative may be needed to give him that authority.¹¹

It must be remembered that most of the LAPD officers accused of misconduct in this 2019 LAPD report were cleared after an investigation, often accompanied by video evidence supporting their side of events. This was also found to be the case in an earlier LAPD Report to the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners that cited 2018 and prior data.¹² It would be understandable if the public at large came away from this NBC News story feeling that police officers somehow got away with misconduct, but if they could just vote to give the Chief of Police more authority, he would fix the problem. What problem? Which officer got away with misconduct despite an investigation that cleared that person? How many officers absconded from being held accountable according to the tone of this story? According to the LAPD Report itself, but missing in context from the NBC News Report, almost 700 of the 3,700 cited complaints filed against officers were not from the public, but were instead filed by the Department itself or by Department employees.¹³

A May 3, 2021 report by Fox News detailed an April 23, 2021 traffic stop by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy of a woman claiming to be a teacher. The traffic stop was based on the deputy's observation that the woman was talking on her cell phone while driving, which is a violation of section 23123(a) of the California Vehicle Code. It was subsequently discovered the driver didn't have her driver's license in her possession. What followed was a tirade where the woman called the deputy a murderer and made offensive comments about the deputy regarding race and ethnicity. The deputy recorded the encounter on his personal body cam and had a supervisor respond to the scene. Despite the deputy's professionalism, the driver, who apparently has a history of filing false complaints against peace officers, filed a complaint against the deputy which triggered an Internal Affairs investigation.¹⁴

As was pointed out in the California Supreme Court case *People v. Stanistreet*, the right to criticize the government and government officials is among the quintessential rights Americans enjoy under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. In California, these rights fall under the California Constitution, Article I, Section 2.¹⁵

On a practical level the right to report police misconduct serves as a safety valve for society to avoid the targeted corruption and abuse that can follow if citizens have no way of reporting misconduct from the very government officials who have been invested by society with great power over others to keep the citizenry safe, such as peace officers.

¹¹ <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/lapd-los-angeles-police-complaints-2019/2424542/>

¹² <https://www.governing.com/news/complaints-against-lapd-officers-up-body-worn-cameras-catch-cops-doing-the-right-thing-more-often-than-not-.html?msclkid=32d7ac38c4c311ec93aec48460b49ebe>

¹³ https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2021/09/2019_annual_report_final.pdf, p. 1

¹⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PJbbz-21Fo>: Tucker Carlson Tonight (May 3, 2021)

¹⁵ *People v. Stanistreet* (2002) 29 Cal.4th 497, 504

When a civilian files a complaint against a peace officer alleging misconduct, that act carries great weight. It is assumed the civilian has a valid reason for filing such a complaint. A mandated investigation begins with the goal of getting to the bottom of the allegation. No law enforcement agency, especially in current times, wants the stench of improper conduct to smear an agency's reputation with the public at large. According to members of the LAPPL and ALADS, depending on the severity of the complaint, a peace officer's career may be placed on hold while the allegation is investigated. Potential promotions are delayed or even lost, causing financial stress. Job or location transfers can be delayed or stopped. Investigations or work the accused peace officer is involved in, or prior work, can be suddenly considered suspect by the public, depending on how the allegation is presented by the news media. The possibility of employee discipline, termination of employment, even criminal prosecution and exposure to civil litigation may be on the table. And again, depending on the allegation, media coverage of an allegation often assumes the allegation has merit and that assumption can be presented to the public as fact. Public outrage and demands for accountability can follow placing enormous pressure on law enforcement executives to "do something" immediately.¹⁶

But what if the complaint that is filed alleging misconduct is knowingly false? According to both LAPPL and ALADS members, the current practice in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, and County of Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, is to do little to nothing to impede or discourage individuals from filing dishonest, knowingly false complaints. Members from both law enforcement unions stated that over the last 15-20 years, they are unaware of a single misdemeanor filing against a person who, after an investigation, was found to have filed a knowingly false complaint against a peace officer. Without enforcement of laws against filing knowingly false complaints, complainants who file such complaints suffer no criminal penalties, even if the complaint has been investigated and determined to be frivolous, unfounded, or the peace officer is exonerated.

In addition, according to members of both LAPPL and ALADS, as well personnel from LAPD's Risk Management and LASD's Discovery Unit, there is currently no easy way to track the various costs associated with investigating knowingly false complaints.

What the Law Says

CPC section 832.5(a)(1) mandates that each department or agency in the State of California that employs peace officers shall establish a procedure to investigate complaints by members of the public against the personnel of these departments or agencies, and shall make a written description of the procedure available to the public.

According to CPC section 832.5(b), complaints and any reports or findings relating to these complaints, including all complaints and any reports currently in the possession of the department or agency, shall be retained for a period of no less than five (5) years for records where there was *not a sustained* finding of misconduct and for not less than fifteen (15) years where there was *a sustained* finding of misconduct. A record shall not be destroyed while a request related to that record is being processed, or any process or litigation to determine whether the record is subject to release is ongoing. All complaints retained pursuant to this subdivision may be maintained

¹⁶ <https://news.yahoo.com/cases-against-lapd-officers-accused-120004583.html>

either in the peace or custodial officer's general personnel file, or in a separate file designated by the department or agency, as provided by department or agency policy in accordance with all applicable requirements of law. However, prior to any official determination regarding promotion, transfer or disciplinary action by an officer's employing department or agency, the complaints found to be frivolous, unfounded, or exonerated shall be removed from the officer's general personnel file and placed in a separate file designated by the department or agency in accordance with all applicable requirements of the law.

Complaints that are Found to be Frivolous, Unfounded, or Exonerated

CPC section 832.5(c) states that "complaints by members of the public that are determined by the peace or custodial officer's employing agency to be frivolous, as defined in section 128.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, or unfounded or exonerated, or any portion of a complaint that is determined to be frivolous, unfounded, or exonerated, *shall not* be maintained in that officer's general personnel file. However, these complaints *shall* be retained in other, separate files that shall be deemed personnel records for purposes of the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code) and Section 1043 of the Evidence Code.

- (1) Management of the peace or custodial officer's employing agency shall have access to the files described in this subdivision.
- (2) Management of the peace or custodial officer's employing agency shall not use the complaints contained in these separate files for punitive or promotional purposes except as permitted by subdivision (f) of section 3304 of the Government Code.
- (3) Management of the peace or custodial officer's employing agency may identify any officer who is subject to the complaints maintained in these files which require counseling or additional training. However, if a complaint is removed from the officer's personnel file, any reference in the personnel file to the complaint or to a separate file shall be deleted."

CPC Section 823.5(d), sets forth the following definitions:

- (1) "General personnel file" means the file maintained by the agency containing the primary records specific to each peace or custodial officer's employment, including evaluations, assignments, status changes, and imposed discipline.
- (2) "Unfounded" means that the investigation clearly established that the allegation is not true.
- (3) "Exonerated" means that the investigation clearly established that the actions of the peace or custodial officer that formed the basis for the complaint are not violations of law or department policy.

According to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 128.5, "frivolous" means "to be totally and completely without merit, or for the sole purpose of harassing an opposing party."

Section 832.7(f)(1) of the CPC states "The department or agency shall provide written notification to the complaining party of the disposition of the complaint within 30 days of the disposition."

Legal Prohibitions against Filing a Knowingly False Complaint (Criminal and Civil)

According to section 148.6(a)(1) of the CPC "Every person who files any allegation of misconduct against any peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2, knowing the allegation to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

Additionally, section 148.6(a)(2) states that any law enforcement agency accepting an allegation of misconduct against a peace officer shall require the complainant to read and sign the following advisory, all in boldface type:

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER FOR ANY IMPROPER POLICE CONDUCT. CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES THIS AGENCY TO HAVE A PROCEDURE TO INVESTIGATE CIVILIANS' COMPLAINTS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROCEDURE. THIS AGENCY MAY FIND AFTER INVESTIGATION THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO WARRANT ACTION ON YOUR COMPLAINT; EVEN IF THAT IS THE CASE, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE COMPLAINT AND HAVE IT INVESTIGATED IF YOU BELIEVE AN OFFICER BEHAVED IMPROPERLY. CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS AND ANY REPORTS OR FINDINGS RELATING TO COMPLAINTS MUST BE RETAINED BY THIS AGENCY FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT THAT YOU KNOW TO BE FALSE. IF YOU MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST AN OFFICER KNOWING THAT IT IS FALSE, YOU CAN BE PROSECUTED ON A MISDEMEANOR CHARGE.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE STATEMENT

COMPLAINANT _____

Section 148.6(a)(3) requires that the advisory be available in multiple languages.

Section 148.6(b) provides that "Every person who files a civil claim against a peace officer or a lien against his or her property, knowing the claim or lien to be false and with the intent to harass or dissuade the officer from carrying out his or her official duties, is guilty of a misdemeanor. This section applies only to claims pertaining to actions that arise in the course and scope of the peace officer's duties."

Civil Liability for a Civilian Filing a Knowingly False Report

California Civil Code Section 47.5 allows a peace officer to "bring an action for defamation against an individual who has filed a complaint with that officer's employing agency alleging misconduct, criminal conduct, or incompetence, if that complaint is false, the complaint was made with knowledge that it was false and that it was made with spite, hatred, or ill will. Knowledge that the complaint was false may be proved by a showing that the complainant had no reasonable grounds to believe the statement was true and that the complainant exhibited a reckless disregard for

ascertaining the truth.” Other law enforcement agencies, including the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department do include a 47.5 admonishment on their complaint form.¹⁷ The Orange County Sheriff’s Department in their admonishment states: *“By signing this form, I certify that the statements contained in it are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.”*¹⁸

According to members of the LAPPL and ALADS, there is currently no process in place for officers or deputies bringing an action for defamation under California Civil Code Section 47.5 to receive reimbursement for legal costs directly from their department, or as an employee benefit that would cover the cost of filing a legal action against the person making a knowingly false complaint. This creates a disincentive for officers or deputies to bring these actions, even if they have merit.

Complaint Process – Los Angeles Police Department

Any member of the public, or Department employee, may file a complaint alleging misconduct against any employee of the LAPD. The complaint (see Appendix B) can be filed using virtually any method: in person at an area station, Internal Affairs Group, the Police Commission, or the Office of Inspector General, as well as a Los Angeles City Council Field Office; or by telephone, letter or electronically (online). The person filing the complaint may identify themselves or remain anonymous. This form was last updated in July, 2012.¹⁹

Department supervisors are required to initiate a personnel complaint investigation whenever they are notified of the complaint, or if they themselves become aware of potential misconduct. Failure to follow-up with this duty may lead to disciplinary action by the Department. In addition, non-supervisory employees are required to report potential misconduct to a supervisor, or the LAPD’s Professional Standards Bureau (PSB).²⁰

The process of filing a complaint generally consists of the following steps:

1. Complaint Intake
2. Investigation
3. Adjudication
4. Penalty Determination – if appropriate
5. Appeal Process – an option the employee has via the administrative process if they disagree with the determination/penalty

“These reporting requirements are based on policies approved by the Board of Police Commissioners and mandates set forth in the Consent Decree between the City of Los Angeles and the United States Department of Justice.

¹⁷ [https://www.riversidesheriff.org/663/Transparency; Form Center • Riverside County Sheriff, CA • Civic Engage \(riversidesheriff.org\)](https://www.riversidesheriff.org/663/Transparency; Form Center • Riverside County Sheriff, CA • Civic Engage (riversidesheriff.org))

¹⁸ <https://www.ocsheriff.gov/sites/ocsd/files/2021-10/Complaint%20Form-English.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.lapdonline.org/office-of-the-chief-of-police/professional-standards-bureau/report-employee-misconduct/?msclkid=6757a69dc4d911ecb4cebe707cafccf5>

²⁰ [https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2021/06/PSB-Annual-Review-2020-Final.pdf \(P.4\)](https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2021/06/PSB-Annual-Review-2020-Final.pdf (P.4))

A complaint can allege any type of misconduct from a discourteous remark to the commission of a crime.

In addition, the Department may initiate a complaint investigation against an employee for violations of Department policy and procedure such as failing to qualify with a service firearm, failing to appear in court to testify, employing inappropriate tactics in a use of force and unprofessional behavior toward another Department employee.

Once the complaint is accepted, the supervisor receiving the complaint initiates a preliminary investigation, attempts to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the complainant, and documents the complaint on a Complaint Form.

Complaints are accepted unless the sole reason for the complaint is either (1) a disputed citation, (2) delay in providing service, (3) low flying airship, (4) complaint by inmate regarding accommodations, food, etc., or (5) vehicle impound and the initial conversation with the complainant does not identify any misconduct.

Even if the complaint is resolved to the complainant's satisfaction, the complaint is still recorded, investigated, and classified as depicted below. The supervisor forwards the documentation of the complaint and preliminary investigation to the watch commander for review.

Once a complaint has been entered into the Department's Complaint Management System (CMS), the case is assigned for investigation by either the employee's chain of command (a supervisor within the division or bureau where the employee is assigned) or by investigators in PSB's Internal Affairs Division (IAD)."²¹

"Whether assigned to IAD or the employee's chain of command, the investigators conduct interviews of the complainant, any relevant witnesses, and the accused employees. They also search for and collect any available physical evidence and will examine the complaint history of the employee to identify any patterns of prior misconduct. In limited circumstances, investigators assigned to PSB may conduct surveillance to determine whether the employee is still engaged in the alleged misconduct.

By law, investigations and disciplinary proceedings are generally confidential unless an accused officer waives his or her statutory right to confidentiality.

After an investigation is complete, the accused officer's Commanding Officer must review the investigation and determine whether the allegations are supported by a preponderance of the evidence. If the Commanding Officer finds that an allegation should be sustained based on the evidence, he or she must then recommend an appropriate penalty or non-disciplinary disposition.

The Commanding Officer summarizes the investigation and provides his or her recommended findings to the Bureau Chief and Profession Standards Bureau. The Bureau Chief may recommend findings different than those recommended by the Commanding Officer.

²¹ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2021/06/PSB-Annual-Review-2020-Final.pdf> (P.4)

When a disciplinary complaint is sustained, the potential penalties are as follows:

For sworn personnel: (1) No penalty; (2) admonishment; (3) official reprimand; (4) suspension; (5) Board of Rights for removal; (6) demotion; (7) suspension and demotion; or (8) termination on probation.

For civilian personnel: (1) Admonishment; (2) official reprimand (used for misconduct for which no other penalty is appropriate); (3) suspension; (4) discharge; or (5) termination on probation.

For sworn employees, the Chief of Police may recommend discipline up to 22 suspension days or direct an officer to a Board of Rights.

A Board of Rights can impose suspension days greater than 22 days and remove an officer from employment.”²²

Complaint Process – Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

- Complaints can be anonymous.
- Complaints can be filed at any Sheriff’s station, facility, courthouse, and the County of Los Angeles Office of Inspector General. (Appendix C)
- Complaints can be made in person, via telephone, email, regular mail, text, social media site such as Facebook, Twitter.
- Once the complaint has been received it will be investigated to completion.
- A copy of the complaint is given to the person making the complaint.
- The person making the complaint can check with the Department at any time regarding the status of the complaint.
- Once the investigation is complete the complainant will be notified.
- If the complaint is substantiated, appropriate action will be taken against the employee.
- If the complaint is not substantiated, the complainant will be advised to the reason.
- If the complainant is dissatisfied, the Station Captain, or the person in charge who was looking into the complaint can be contacted.²³

Current Need for Working Website and Updated Service Comment Report Handbook

The CGJ noticed the website link to the Personnel Complaint Policy of the LASD is down and has been down since at least the latter part of 2021. The Antelope Valley area of Los Angeles County (Lancaster and Palmdale Stations) has been under a Federal Monitor since May 2015. This was part of a settlement between the United States Department of Justice and the LASD. Part of the reforms that have been overseen by the Federal Monitor have been how the LASD conducts its complaint policy.²⁴ These reforms will impact not only the Antelope Valley area covered by the

²² <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2021/06/PSB-Annual-Review-2020-Final.pdf> (P.5)

²³ <https://lasd.org/public-complaint/>

²⁴ *United States of America v. The County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department*. Case 2:15-cv-03174-JFW-FFM. Filed May 2015; [Monitoring of the Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement](https://www.antelepevalleysettlementmonitoring.info) ([antelepevalleysettlementmonitoring.info](https://www.antelepevalleysettlementmonitoring.info)); [Antelope Valley LASD Settlement Agreement FILED.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/antelopevalley-lasd-settlement-agreement) ([justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov))

Lancaster and Palmdale Stations, but the entire Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. This underscores the need to have an operational website, link, or page for the public to use.

In addition, the LASD's Service Comment Report Handbook does not appear to have been updated in over ten years.²⁵ This is the handbook the LASD relies on to provide guidance on how its personnel handle various types of complaints and what procedures are used with each type of complaint. The latest copy furnished to the CGJ by the LASD Discovery Unit was dated June 23, 2011. Part of the reforms being implemented under the guidance of the Federal Monitor is an update on the Service Comment Report Handbook.²⁶

Current Need to Make LASD's Complaint Resolution Categories Consistent with those of the State

One other reform the Federal Monitor is working to resolve with the LASD is to bring the complaint resolution categories the LASD currently uses into compliance with how the State of California identifies those categories.²⁷ According to the LASD Discovery Unit, this is another area that is expected to be resolved sometime in 2022.

LASD uses the following categories to describe the resolution of the complaint: Conduct Appears Reasonable, Conduct Could Have Been Better, Conduct should Have Been Different, Exonerated, Pending, Resolved – Conflict Resolution, Service Only – Review Complete – No Further Action, Unable to Determine, Service Review Terminated.²⁸ On the other hand, the categories used by the State are: Sustained, Not-Sustained, Unfounded, and Exonerated.

Summary of Data related to Complaints and Costs

The tables below depict various data related to complaints received by both the LASD and LAPD, including the resolution of those complaints, investigatory costs, and SB 90 reimbursements. Currently, there is no centralized methodology, database, or mechanism that exists to document the total associated and/or recoverable costs of investigating knowingly false complaints.

Data from Tables 1 and 2 are drawn directly from calculations provided by the LASD and LAPD. The data is different from the information the CGJ received for requested reimbursement costs from the Office of the State Controller (SCO).

²⁵ Service Comment Report Handbook: Handling Public Complaints. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Prepared by: Internal Affairs Bureau Leadership and Training Division

²⁶ *United States of America v. The County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*. Case 2:15-cv-03174-JFW-FFM. Filed May 2015; [Antelope Valley LASD Settlement Agreement FILED.pdf \(justice.gov\)](#) at p. 30.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Per LASD Discovery Unit

Table 1 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Aggregate Totals – Civilian Complaints	
FISCAL YEARS	2018-2021
Number of Complaints	4,785
Number of Exonerations	145*
Cost Per Complaint	\$127.59 ²⁹
SB 90 Reimbursement	\$446,419

*Note: Data is limited and reflects the number of “exonerations” submitted to the State of California for reimbursement. It does not reflect the total number of complaints placed in other categories such as “unfounded.”

Table 2 City of Los Angeles Police Department			
FISCAL YEAR	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Number of Complaints	3535	3741	3799
Demonstrably False Complaints	736	1402	1143
Exonerated Complaints	281	349	246
Approximate Cost Per Year	\$441,600	\$841,200	\$685,800

The cost analysis presented in Table 2 is based on data calculated by LAPD’s PSB. It is based on approximately five (5) hours of investigation time at \$70 per hour and five (5) hours of the accused officer’s time at \$50 per hour. This cost analysis uses conservative 2020 Pay Grades. As part of this study, staff from PSB stated that in 2019 and 2020, there were some “outlier” cases that took between 20-30 hours to prove they were demonstrably false. The figures for Table 2 do not include Command Staff review times.³⁰

Tables 3 and 4 depicts the LAPD data drawn from the SCO, Local Reimbursement Section, Local Government Programs and Services Division while Tables 6 and 7 depicts the LASD data drawn from the SCO.³¹

²⁹ According to the LASD Discovery Unit, the cost per Complaint was calculated through an analysis of the time spent investigating the complaints and cost of personnel assigned to handle the particular complaint

³⁰ Data obtained from LAPD’s PSB and calculated by PSB. Study requested by LAPPL (February 2022)

³¹ Peace Officers Personnel Records: Unfounded Complaints & Discovery Claim for Payment FY 2018-2019 & 2019-2020 City and County of Los Angeles, State Controller’s Office; Mandated Cost Manual for Local Agencies: October 2021 (Revised) State of California Controller’s Office

Table 3 City of Los Angeles Police Department			
FISCAL YEAR	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Number of False Complaints	2045-2533*	2186-2593	Pending data
Cost of Investigating False Complaints:			
SB90 Reimbursement Requested	\$211,717	\$259,220	Pending data
SB90 Reimbursement Approved	\$211,717	\$248,688	Pending data

*Note: The Number of False Complaints for FY2018-2019 is presented as a minimum (2045) reviewed by a Sergeant II and a Senior Clerk Typist; and a maximum (2533) reviewed by a Senior Clerk Typist at Intake.

Table 4 City of Los Angeles Police Department			
FISCAL YEAR	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakdown of Salary + Benefits:	Range	Range	
Senior Clerk Typist	\$12,960- 33,519	\$13,799- \$34897	Pending data
Sworn/Sergeant II	\$92,396	\$108,817	Pending data
IRCP*	\$59,002	\$88,128	Pending data

*Note: Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (IRCP) equates to 10% of salaries for employee reviewing the complaint plus first line supervision.

Table 5³² Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Aggregate Totals – Personnel Complaints		
YEAR	Personnel Complaints	Exonerated
2018	1031	30
2019	1000	53
2010	963	38
2021	769	16
TOTAL	3,763	137

Note: A single Personnel Complaint may involve several employees with different dispositions. i.e., a Personnel Complaint might be made against three employees involving one incident. Two of the resolutions may lead to a finding of "Conduct Appears Reasonable." The final resolution leads to a finding of "Exoneration." This can be confusing to the public who may assume that a single incident means one employee.

³² Information in this table obtained through an interview with member of the LASD Discovery Unit

Table 6³³			
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department			
FISCAL YEAR	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Number of False Complaints	847-862*	893	Pending data
Cost of Investigating False Complaints:			
SB90 Reimbursement Requested	\$119,276	\$114,168	Pending data
SB90 Reimbursement Approved	\$119,276	\$114,168	Pending data

*Note: Of the 862 false complaints investigated in FY 2018-2019, 15 of those complaints were still pending completion at the time data was collected.

Table 7³⁴			
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department			
FISCAL YEAR	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Breakdown of Costs: Salary & Benefits:			
Intermediate Typist Clerk	\$6,264	\$6,583	Pending data
Lieutenant/Sergeant	\$2,887	\$3,038	Pending data
Sergeant & Secretary V	\$91,773	\$96,112	Pending data
Postage & Forms	\$810	\$1,052	Pending data
Storage (Mandatory Retention)	\$2,832	\$2,652	Pending data
Total Indirect Costs*	\$6,713	\$6,801	Pending data
TOTALS	\$114,168	\$119,276	

*Note: Indirect Costs are incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective.

³³ California State Controller's Office: Local Government and Services Division

³⁴ California State Controller's Office: Local Government and Services Division

Table 8 depicts the costs incurred by the LAPPL for assisting members for those complaints that were ultimately considered exonerated or unfounded.³⁵

Table 8 Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL) Attorney Costs Incurred*					
YEAR	EXONERATED COMPLAINTS	COSTS	UNFOUNDED COMPLAINTS	COSTS	TOTAL COSTS INCURRED BY MEMBERSHIP
2017	219	\$65,700	1677	\$503,100	\$568,800
2018	156	\$46,800	1385	\$415,500	\$462,300
2019	173	\$51,900	1425	\$427,500	\$479,400
2020	496	\$148,800	580	\$174,000	\$322,800

*Note: Cost Analysis of LAPPL Attorney Representation Cost Data obtained from LAPPL

History of the Issue

On August 31, 2000, Senate Bill 2133 was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis. The Bill reiterated Section 148.6(a)(1) of the CPC, which was first enacted in 1995 and added the requirement that the advisory, which had to be read to anyone filing a complaint against a peace officer, be available in multiple languages. This requirement added State mandated costs to local law enforcement agencies. The ultimate cost would be determined by the California Commission on State Mandates.³⁶

In December 2002, the California Supreme Court held that CPC section 148.6 was constitutional and did not violate free speech rights protected by the First Amendment. The ruling held that section 148.6 proscribed only constitutionally unprotected speech-knowingly false statements of fact. The Court stated that 148.6 did not apply to all accusations of misconduct against peace officers but only to complaints filed with a law enforcement agency in a way that legally obligates the agency to investigate the complaint, as well as retain the complaint and resulting reports for a period of at least five (5) years.³⁷

On November 3, 2005, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decided in *Chaker v. Crogan* that CPC section 148.6 was unconstitutional. The main focus of the Court's reasoning was that section 148.6 criminalizes knowingly false speech critical of peace officer conduct but offers no regulations for knowingly false speech that is supportive of police officer conduct, such as a commendation. The statute also criminalizes some speech attached to government employees in one occupation (peace officers) and not others, such as a firefighter, paramedic, or teacher, which may cause civilians seeking to file a legitimate complaint regarding peace officer

³⁵ Source: LAPPL

³⁶ Bill Text-SB-2133 Law Enforcement: complaints of misconduct. (ca.gov)

³⁷ *People v. Stanistreet* (2002) 29 Cal 4th 497

misconduct to hesitate because of the special category that peace officers appear to hold. In other words, section 148.6 “chills” a citizen’s First Amendment right to criticize their government.³⁸

On May 15, 2006, the United States Supreme Court denied a petition for review of the *Chaker* decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals which held that 148.6 was unconstitutional.³⁹ This left the Ninth Circuit ruling in place.⁴⁰ The Supreme Court’s decision also left in place a judicial dispute between the California Supreme Court at the state level and the federal Court system with jurisdiction over California.

On July 25, 2016, Assembly Bill 1953 was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. A portion of that bill reiterated California’s Legislative intent that knowingly filing a false complaint against a peace officer was a misdemeanor under section 148.6(a)(1) CPC and amended the statute to replace the term “citizen” with “civilian.”⁴¹

Lawsuit Filed by the Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL)

In September 2017, the Los Angeles Police Protective League, which is the union that represents all police officers, police detectives, sergeants and lieutenants working for the City of Los Angeles, filed a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles, and then Chief Charlie Beck of the LAPD.⁴² This was an effort to force the City of Los Angeles to again enforce California state law which requires a complainant to read and sign the prescribed admonition found in CPC section 148.6(a)(2) prior to filing a complaint against peace officers.⁴³

Part of the reasoning set forth by the LAPPL in arguing their position was that from 2001 to 2013, the Los Angeles Police Department was operating under a Consent Decree with the United States Department of Justice following the Rampart police scandal in the 1990’s. Part of the Consent Decree dictated that no potential complainant was required to sign any form that in any way limited or waived the ability for a civilian to file a police complaint with the LAPD, or any other entity. In May of 2013, the Consent Decree was dismissed and the City of Los Angeles was asked by the LAPPL to resume the admonishment under section 148.6(a)(2). The City of Los Angeles refused which triggered the lawsuit by the LAPPL.⁴⁴

On November 26, 2019, Judge Broadbelt of the Los Angeles County Superior Court tentatively found for the LAPPL and ordered the City of Los Angeles to begin enforcing section 148.6(a)(2) again.⁴⁵ The judgement was finalized on April 16, 2020. The City of Los Angeles had argued that section 148.6(a)(1) was unconstitutional and based that opinion on the Ninth Circuit’s ruling in *Chaker v. Crogan*. Judge Broadbelt reasoned that California Supreme Court was the controlling judicial authority in the State of California on all state questions. The United States Supreme Court

³⁸ *Chaker v. Crogan* (2005) 428 F. 3d 1215 Court of Appeals 9th Circuit

³⁹ <https://darrenchaker.blogspot.com/>

⁴⁰ *Chaker v. Crogan* (2005) 428 F. 3d 1215 Court of Appeals 9th Circuit

⁴¹ [Bill Text - AB-1953 Peace officers: civilian complaints. \(ca.gov\)](#)

⁴² [Judge: LAPD Must Warn That Making False Complaints Against Officers is Illegal - MyNewsLA.com](#)

⁴³ First Amended Complaint for Declaratory Relief filed December 18, 2017, *Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL) v. City of Los Angeles* (Case #BC676283)

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ [Judge: LAPD Must Warn That Making False Complaints Against Officers is Illegal - MyNewsLA.com; Judge Rules For Cops and Against People Who File False Complaints | National Police Association](#)

is the controlling authority on all federal questions. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, while persuasive, is not the controlling authority on state matters, especially since on this issue there was no binding United States Supreme Court decision. Therefore the California Supreme Court controls, and its holding in regards to *People v. Stanistreet* is binding. Section 148.6 is “Constitutional on its face.”⁴⁶

On July 19, 2021, the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office filed an appeal with the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division 7, seeking to reverse Judge Broadbelt’s lower Court ruling. The City again argued that section 148.6(a)(1) “chills” the First Amendment rights of citizens wishing to file a complaint against their government while leaving knowingly, false speech supportive of the government (police or witnesses who lie in support of officers) unpunished. It was argued that section 148.6(a)(2) also discourages a citizen’s ability to exercise their First Amendment rights by forcing them to read and sign an admonishment.

On November 17, 2021, the LAPPL responded to the appeal filed by the City of Los Angeles. The LAPPL again argued the City’s reliance on *Chaker v. Crogan* was wrong. LAPPL stated it was the California Supreme Court’s ruling in *People v. Stanistreet* that was binding. The LAPPL also posited that simply asking a citizen who is filing a complaint to read and sign an admonition was tantamount to someone simply signing a document under penalty of perjury, or asking someone to attest the information contained in the document they are signing is accurate to the best of their understanding and memory. The LAPPL also stated that knowingly filing a false complaint wasn’t limited to the complainant’s uttering or submitting a falsehood in writing. The act triggered governmental action that will result in an official investigation of the subject officer that could well impact that officer’s rights and liberties, that may well cause harm to the officer personally and to his or her career. LAPPL deals with the City’s argument that section 148.6 fails to penalize citizens who file false commendations by pointing out that there is no mandate to launch an investigation by IAD each time a citizen files a commendation that is sincere (non-false) in favor of an officer; the results of the investigation do not remain in the officers Personnel File for five (5) years; and will not lead to administrative leave while the investigation takes place, a loss of peace officer powers, or the potential loss of employment. LAPPL posited the City was arguing about two completely different things.⁴⁷

Senate Bill 90 (SB 90)

SB 90 is how municipalities and law enforcement agencies are reimbursed by the State of California for the cost of investigating and processing knowingly false complaints against peace officers.

The concept of state reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for state mandated activities originated with Property Tax Relief Act of 1972 (Senate Bill 90, Chapter 1406, Statutes of 1972) known as SB 90. The primary purpose of the Act was to limit the ability of local agencies and school districts to levy taxes. To offset these limitations, the Legislature declared its intent to reimburse local agencies and school districts for the costs of new programs, or increased level of

⁴⁶ *Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL) v. City of Los Angeles* (Case #BC676283) April 16, 2020.

⁴⁷ *Los Angeles Police Protective League v. City of Los Angeles*. CA 2nd District Court of Appeal. Case #B306321.

service mandated by state government. The Legislature authorized the State Board of Control to hear and decide upon claims requesting reimbursement for costs mandated by the state.⁴⁸

False Reports of Police Misconduct Added to Mandated Reimbursable Costs

On January 29, 2004, the Commission on State Mandates adopted its Statement of Decision for False Reports of Police Misconduct program. The Commission found that Section 148.6(a), along with its subsections (2) and (3), constitute a new program, or higher levels of service that impose a reimbursable State mandated program upon city and county law enforcement agencies. This fell within the meaning of Article XIII B, Section 6 of the California Constitution and imposed costs mandated by the State pursuant to Government Code Section 17514.

The program required any law enforcement agency accepting an allegation of misconduct against a peace officer to have the complainant read and sign a specified information advisory and required the advisory to be available in multiple languages.⁴⁹

Parameters and Guidelines were adopted on March 30, 2005 by the Commission.⁵⁰

Peace Officer Personnel Records: Unfounded Complaints and Discovery

On September 25, 2003, the Commission on State Mandates adopted the Statement of Decision for *Peace Officer Personnel Records: Unfounded Complaints and Discovery* (00-TC-24). The Commission found that Evidence Code Section 1043, subdivision (a), Penal Code sections 832.5, subdivisions (b) and (c), and 832.7, subdivisions (b) and (e) constitute a new program, or higher level of service. The Commission determined this new law to be a reimbursable state mandated program upon local agency employers of peace officers within the meaning of Article XIII B, Section 6, of the California Constitution.⁵¹

FINDINGS

7.1 Complaint Form and procedures need to be updated – LAPD

- Complaint procedures regarding how to file a complaint against a department employee are available on the LAPD's website.⁵² The Complaint Form used by the LAPD was last updated in July, 2012 (see APPENDIX B).
- Since 2001, the Section 148.6 Advisement has not been printed or made available to civilians filing a complaint with the LAPD.

⁴⁸ <https://csm.ca.gov/history.php>

⁴⁹ <https://csm.ca.gov/matters/00-TC-26/20.pdf>

⁵⁰ <https://csm.ca.gov/matters/00-TC-26/5.pdf>

⁵¹ <https://csm.ca.gov/decisions/00tc24pg.pdf>

⁵² <https://www.lapdonline.org/information-on-how-to-file-a-complaint/>

7.2 California Civil Code 47.5 is not cited by either LAPD or LASD

- Section 47.5 is cited to the public by other law enforcement agencies; the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department is an example.⁵³ The Civil Grand Jury was unable to find any advisement regarding Section 47.5 contained anywhere within LAPD’s or LASD’s complaint process.

7.3 There is no general admonition cited or requested on Complaint Forms

- There is no language contained in any part of LAPD’s or LASD’s Complaint Forms, or noted in the complaint process, that seeks to deter anyone from filing a knowingly false complaint. Some law enforcement agencies; the Orange County Sheriff’s Department for example,⁵⁴ include an advisement on their complaint form stating:

“By signing this form, I certify that the statements contained in it are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.”

7.4 Complaint Form and procedures need to be operational – LASD

- The Department webpage containing the LASD Personnel Complaints Policy has not been operational since at least September 2021.⁵⁵ It is unknown when that information might become available to the public again.⁵⁶

7.5 Current Problems with LASD information and datasets – Handbook

- The current *Service Comment Report Handbook: Handling Public Complaints* is seriously out of date with the copy furnished to the CGJ by the LASD dated June 23, 2011. Also, according to the LASD Discovery Unit, a revised and updated Handbook is expected to be published during the latter half of 2022.

7.6 Current problems with LASD information and datasets – complaint resolution categories need to be more compatible with California Codes

- Under the CPC, the categories for complaint resolution are as follows: Sustained, Not-Sustained, Unfounded, and Exonerated. These categories do not match those used by LASD, which are: Conduct Appears Reasonable, Conduct Could Have Been Better, Conduct should Have Been Different, Exonerated, Pending, Resolved – Conflict Resolution, Service Only – Review Complete – No Further Action, Unable to Determine, Service Review Terminated. This lack of conformity makes it difficult to get an accurate depiction when comparing State and County complaint data. This is one of the issues the Federal Monitor is working to resolve beginning

⁵³ <https://www.riversidesheriff.org/663/Transparency>

⁵⁴ <https://www.ocsheriff.gov/sites/ocsd/files/2021-10/Complaint%20Form-English.pdf>

⁵⁵ <https://lasd.org/pdfjs/web/PublicComplaintsDT.pdf>

⁵⁶ <https://lasd.org/public-complaint/>; <https://lasd.org/commendation-complaint.html>

with the Antelope Valley Sheriff's area. Once completed and resolved it will then be expanded to the remaining areas of the LASD.

7.7 Current problems with LASD information and datasets – overlap

- There is no consistent and easily understandable process for identifying the various resolution categories of complaints received by the LASD. This often leads to complaints being misclassified, or complaint classifications that don't match with State of California definitions.

7.8 Both LAPD and LASD need more accurate data to truly reflect the cost incurred from processing and investigating knowingly false complaints.

- The cost amounts that are recovered from the State of California via the SB 90 Mandated Costs Program are only a partial recovery of expenditures. Every cost item that can be recovered, should be recovered, inclusive of management expenditures to incidental costs. Currently, there isn't a centralized methodology, database, or mechanism to document the total associated and/or recoverable costs of investigating knowingly false complaints.

7.9 Indirect Costs need to be more clearly defined and calculated

- Recovery of costs through the SB 90 mandated program is limited. At the local level, every cost that is remotely connected to investigating and processing a knowingly false complaint needs to be identified and added to the cost recovery efforts.

7.10 LAPD and LASD do not provide financial assistance to officers and deputies bringing defamation actions.

- Since there is currently no process in place for officers or deputies bringing an action for defamation under California Civil Code Section 47.5 to receive reimbursement for legal costs directly from their department, or as an employee benefit that would cover the cost of filing a legal action against the person making a knowingly false complaint, officers or deputies, due to litigation cost concerns, may be dissuaded from taking action, even if it has merit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

7.1 There should be a disincentive for a person to knowingly file a false complaint against a peace officer. This could be achieved while protecting the right of a citizen to hold government accountable through the legitimate use of the complaint process, by implementing the following:

- a. Update all current LAPD Civilian Complaint Forms to include the California Penal Code section 148.6 advisement.

- b. Add the advisement for Section 47.5 of the California Civil Code (CCC) to the LAPD Civilian Complaint Form.
- c. Since the filing of a civilian complaint triggers a mandated investigation, and if the investigation results in the discovery that the filed complaint was knowingly false, and if the peace officer targeted by the knowingly false complaint has suffered damage due to his/her employment status as a peace officer, the City of Los Angeles should pay for the legal representation in pursuing a 47.5 CCC lawsuit to recover the damages the knowingly false complaint caused.
- d. Should the above 47.5 CCC solution to pay for the officer's legal representation not be feasible, then 47.5 CCC legal insurance should be offered as an employment benefit so the officer can pursue damage recovery themselves.
- e. The City of Los Angeles, if discovered that the filed civilian complaint was knowingly false, should seek recovery of damages in Small Claims Court that includes the cost of the investigation and any other monetary loss due to the filing of a knowingly false complaint.
- f. The LAPD needs to review and update if appropriate, its software and equipment concerning the tracking of civilian complaints so there is one primary data source for both valid complaints to assist in peace officer accountability for misconduct; and the tracking of false complaints to assist in providing accountability for the false complainant, as well as cost recovery.
- g. The LAPD needs to do a thorough review of all policies, criteria, and practices regarding the recovery costs associated with every aspect of investigating knowingly false complaints; and follow-up the review by implementing cost recovery recommendations.
- h. The City of Los Angeles, if discovered that the filed civilian complaint was knowingly false, should reimburse the LAPPL, for attorney fees and all costs associated with defending or assisting the officer in contesting the complaint.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- 7.2** There should be a disincentive for a person to knowingly file a false complaint against a peace officer. This could be achieved, while protecting the right of a citizen to hold government accountable through the legitimate use of the complaint process, by implementing the following:
- a. Update all current LASD Civilian Complaint Forms to include the California Penal Code section 148.6 advisement.
 - b. Update the LASD website to restore citizen access to the entire department complaint process and procedures.
 - c. Review the LASD Civilian Complaint Process for "ease of use" by civilians. In other words, can the complaint process and Form be easily located? Can the information contained on the Form be easily located? Can the information contained on the Form be easily understood by the layperson?
 - d. Add the advisement for 47.5 of the CCC to the LASD Civilian Complaint Form.

- e. The filing of a civilian complaint triggers a mandated investigation. If the investigation results in the discovery that the filed complaint was knowingly false, and the peace officer targeted by the knowingly false complaint has suffered harm, the County of Los Angeles should pay for the legal representation in pursuing a 47.5 CCC lawsuit to recover the damages the knowingly false complaint caused.
- f. If the above 47.5 CCC solution to pay for the officer's legal representation is not feasible, then the County of Los Angeles should offer 47.5 CCC legal insurance as an employee benefit so the peace officer can pursue damage recovery themselves.
- g. The County of Los Angeles, if the filed civilian complaint is discovered to be knowingly false, should seek recovery of damages in Small Claims Court to recover the costs associated with the investigation, and any other monetary loss due to the filing of a knowingly false complaint.
- h. The LASD needs to update its complaint resolution categories to more closely match State law. For example, if the LASD has a resolution of "Conduct Appears Reasonable," then the complaint can be listed as "Unfounded," or "Exonerated" in the peace officer's file that is separate from that officer's personnel file.
- i. The LASD needs to update its software and equipment concerning the tracking of civilian complaints so there is one primary data source for both valid complaints to assist in peace officer accountability in regards to misconduct; and the tracking of false complaints to assist in providing accountability for the false complainant, as well as cost recovery.
- j. The LASD needs to do a thorough review of all policies, criteria, and practices regarding the recovery of costs associated with every aspect of investigating knowingly filed false complaints; and follow-up the review by implementing cost recovery recommendations.
- k. The County of Los Angeles, if discovered that the filed civilian complaint was knowingly false, should reimburse ALADS, for attorney fees and all costs associated with defending or assisting the peace officer in contesting the complaint.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a) and 933.05(b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022 to:

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Responses are required from:

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING AGENCY
7.1 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h)	City of Los Angeles Police Department
7.2 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k)	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
7.1 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h)	Mayor, City of Los Angeles
7.1 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h)	City of Los Angeles City Council, President
7.2 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k)	County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
7.2 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k)	Chief Executive Officer, County of Los Angeles

Responses are invited from:

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING ORGANIZATIONS
7.1 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h)	Los Angeles Police Protective League
7.2 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k)	Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

James R. Lamb, Chair
Elaine Jenkins
Gertie Moncrief
Vivian Ozuna

APPENDIX A - JUDGMENT DATED APRIL 16, 2020: LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE VS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

APPENDIX B - LAPD COMPLAINT FORM

APPENDIX C - LASD COMPLAINT FORM

APPENDIX A

FILED

Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

04/16/2020

Sherril R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: K. Mason Deputy

Electronically Received 12/05/2019 01:56 PM

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE
LEAGUE

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, a municipal
corporation; and CHARLES BECK, Chief of
Police, City of Los Angeles, and DOES 1
through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. BC 676283

~~PROPOSED~~ JUDGMENT GRANTING
PLAINTIFF LOS ANGELES POLICE
PROTECTIVE LEAGUE DECLARATORY
RELIEF AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION

TRIAL DATE: January 23, 2019
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 53
JUDGE: Hon. Robert B. Broadbelt

[Action Filed: 9/18/17]

Electronically Received 12/05/2019 01:56 PM

~~PROPOSED~~ JUDGMENT

1 On January 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., this matter came on regularly for a non-jury trial in
2 Department 53 of the above-entitled Court before the Hon. Robert B. Broadbelt, Judge Presiding.
3 Plaintiff Los Angeles Police Protective League was represented by Christopher D. Nissen, Esq. of
4 Rains Lucia Stern St. Phalle & Silver, PC. Defendants City of Los Angeles and Charles Beck, Chief of
5 Police of City of Los Angeles were represented by Deputy City Attorney Ben Chapman.

6 After full consideration of the evidence and all written and oral submissions by the parties, the
7 Court determines that Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against Defendants.

8 NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

- 9 1. Judgment ^{is} ~~be~~ entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants.
- 10 2. A declaratory ^{judgment is issued declaring} ~~adjudication shall issue~~ that: (a.) the provision set forth in Penal Code
11 Section 148.6, subdivision (a)(2), which provides a law enforcement agency accepting an
12 allegation of misconduct against a peace officer shall require the complainant to read and
13 sign the advisory set forth in that statute, is valid and enforceable, and (b.) Defendants City
14 of Los Angeles and the Chief of Police for the City of Los Angeles are required to comply
15 with that statutory provision.
- 16 3. A permanent injunction ^{is issued that prohibits} ~~shall issue against the Defendants prohibiting~~ Defendants City of
17 Los Angeles and the Chief of Police for the City of Los Angeles from accepting an
18 allegation of misconduct against a peace officer without requiring the complainant to read
19 and sign the advisory set forth in Penal Code 148.6, subdivision (a)(2).
- 20 4. Plaintiff is entitled to its costs against Defendants in the amount of \$ _____, as determined
21 by subsequent filings.
- 22 5. The permanent injunction in paragraph 3 is stayed until either (1) the time to file an appeal has expired
23 and no timely notice of appeal has been filed or (2) a timely notice of appeal is filed and the Court of Appeal
24 issues a remittitur or the appeal is dismissed.
- ~~6. The Clerk shall enter this Judgment forthwith.~~

25 IT IS SO ORDERED:

26 Date: 04/16/2020



Robert B. Broadbelt

Robert B. Broadbelt / Judge

Hon. Judge Robert B. Broadbelt of the Superior Court

1 PROOF OF SERVICE

2 I am employed in the City of Santa Monica, State of California. I am over 18 years of age and
3 not a party to this action. My business address is Rains Lucia Stern St. Phalle & Silver, PC, 16130
Ventura Blvd., Suite 600, Encino, CA 91436, Telephone: 747.221.7100, Facsimile: 747.221.7101.

4 On the date below I served a true copy of the following document(s): [PROPOSED] JUDGMENT
5 GRANTING PLAINTIFF LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE
6 DECLARATORY RELIEF AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION on the interested parties to said
action by the following means:

7
8 (BY MAIL) By placing a true copy of the above, enclosed in a sealed envelope with
appropriate postage, for collection and mailing following our ordinary business practices. I am
9 readily familiar with this business's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for
mailing. On the same day that the correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is
10 deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed
envelope with postage fully prepaid.

11 (BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY) By placing a true copy of the above, enclosed in a sealed
12 envelope with delivery charges to be billed to Rains Lucia Stern St. Phalle & Silver, P.C., for
delivery by an overnight delivery service to the address(es) shown below.

13
14 (BY E-MAIL or ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION) Based on a court order or an
15 agreement of the parties to accept service by e-mail or electronic transmission, I caused the
documents to be sent to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed below. I did not receive,
16 within a reasonable period of time, after the transmission, any electronic message or other
indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

Office of the City Attorney

17 Benjamin Chapman
18 200 North Main Street, City Hall East, 6th Floor
19 Los Angeles CA 90012
Tele: (213) 978-7556

20 benjamin.chapman@lacity.org

21
22 I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of California that the foregoing is
true and correct.

23 Dated: December 5, 2019

By: /s/ Michele Hengesbach
Michele Hengesbach

1 *Respectfully submitted by:*
2 RICHARD A. LEVINE, ESQ. [SBN 91671]
3 CHRISTOPHER D. NISSEN, ESQ. [SBN 202034]
4 RAINS LUCIA STERN ST. PHALLE & SILVER, PC
5 16130 Ventura Blvd., Suite 600
6 Encino, CA 91436
7 Telephone: 747.221.7100
8 Facsimile: 747.221.7101
9 Email: rlevine@RLSlawyers.com
10 cnissen@rlslawyers.com

11 Dated: December 5, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
RAINS LUCIA STERN
ST. PHALLE & SILVER, PC

/s/ Christopher D. Nissen
By: Christopher D. Nissen
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Los Angeles Police Protective League

APPENDIX B

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMPLAINT OF EMPLOYEE MISCONDUCT**

This form is for reporting employee misconduct. Matters reported on this form that are other than employee misconduct will be referred to the responsible entity for appropriate action.

Please complete the form entirely and provide as much detail as possible. Once you have completed the form, you may return it to the Los Angeles Police Department by bringing it in person to any Los Angeles Police Station, sending it by mail to Los Angeles Police Department, Internal Affairs Group, Post Office Box 30158, Los Angeles, CA 90030, or sending it via facsimile to (213) 473-6700. You may also return the form to the Los Angeles Police Commission, Office of the Inspector General, in person or by mail, at 350 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1002, Los Angeles, CA 90071, or sending it via facsimile to (213) 687-7473.

Name _____ Phone _____
Cell phone _____ Email address _____
Preferred method of contact _____ Best time to contact you _____
Address _____ Primary language spoken _____
_____ Date and time of occurrence _____
Location of occurrence _____

Names, Badge Numbers or Serial Numbers of Employees Involved (if known).

Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses present at the time of occurrence (if known).

LIST ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES AND/OR WITNESSES UNDER THE "DETAILS" SECTION

Details - (Explain what happened, when it happened and where it happened. If you do not know the involved employees' names or badge numbers, please describe them. Be as detailed as possible and include any information you have that will help us investigate your complaint.)

If you have any questions, please call the Internal Affairs Group, Complaint Classification Unit at (213) 473-6739.

Date _____ Signature _____

01.81.06 (07/12)

APPENDIX C



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

How Do I Make A Complaint?

You may make a complaint in person, or by calling or writing to any Sheriff's station, jail or facility. If you write, your complaint does not have to be on any special form. When you make your complaint in person, ask for the Watch Commander or person in charge. The Watch Commander will listen to your complaint and fill out what we call a Service Comment Report. If you choose to call in your complaint, dial 1-800-698-TALK. Upon completion of the Public Complaint form, return it in person to the nearest Sheriff's station, or mail the form to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Professional Standards Division, 211 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

What Happens After I Make A Complaint?

The Sheriff's Department will look into your complaint and talk to the people involved. Please give us a list of people you think we should talk to that can give us specific information about your complaint. The amount of time it takes to complete a complaint review or investigation depends on many factors and can vary from a few days to several months.

You can check with the Sheriff's Department at any time about your complaint. When we are finished looking into the matter, we will write and tell you what was decided. The Department may find that your complaint is justified and take appropriate action with respect to the employee.

On the other hand, the Department may not find enough information to substantiate misconduct on the part of our employee. If you are dissatisfied with that decision, you can talk to the Station Captain or the person who was in charge of looking into your complaint. They will listen to your reason for dissatisfaction and try to assist you.

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

A Tradition of Service
— Since 1850 —

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC COMPLAINTS**

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date/Time of Occurrence _____ Date of Complaint _____

Location of Occurrence _____

Names and I.D. Numbers of Deputies Involved (if known)

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_____	_____

Has any member of this Department attempted to discourage you, in any way, from bringing this matter to the attention of the Department? Yes No

If yes, who? _____

Details: (Please summarize your complaint, and include names of witnesses and any other factual, supporting information.)

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Page 1 of _____

Signature: _____

**ONLY WE CAN PREVENT L.A. COUNTY
WILDFIRES**



**2021-2022
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

BOS	Board of Supervisors
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FSA	Fire Suppression Aids
LACCD	Los Angeles Community College District
LACFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
LATC	Los Angeles Training Center

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a committee (Committee) of the LA County Civil Grand Jury, we decided to look into the current state of the fire camps as managed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD). According to the LACFD, the fire camps are invaluable to the Department. The prisoners aid the LACFD's fire suppression efforts when fighting wildfires, which are becoming more frequent and more powerful. This program is an integral part of LACFD's firefighting efforts, and these prisoners have become essential to the personnel needs of the LACFD.

According to an LACFD official, LACFD does not have enough money in their budget to adequately fund a fire camp training program that will actually help in fighting wildfires in LA County. In addition, the LACFD official stated that LACFD does not have enough manpower to adequately serve their LA County constituents in the event of a tragic wildfire. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) 2022 Fire Season Outlook: "California continues to experience longer wildfire seasons as a direct result of climate change. Extended dryness originating from January is expected to continue into the spring with little precipitation, leaving most of the state in moderate to extreme drought conditions prior to summer. These continued dry conditions, with above normal temperatures through spring, will leave fuel moisture levels lower than normal, increasing the potential for wildland fire activity."¹

BACKGROUND

California fire camps were established in 1915.² The fire camps have been both a help to aid firefighters in LA County and to the prisoners who are incarcerated. The prisoners learn real life skills of how to fight a fire through training classes taught by the LACFD. They are also compensated for their work. The prisoners are low level, non-violent offenders.³

The LACFD manages the camps and supplies fire crew supervisors for the camps. Camps are administered by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) whereby CDCR has custody of the state prisoners during off work hours. The CDCR transfers custody to the LACFD Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm for fire suppression training. There is a superintendent and crew boss from the LACFD always on duty during those hours. At the end of the training day, LACFD transfers custody of the prisoners back to the CDCR.

Prisoners participate in the fire camp program on a voluntary basis, and they are not required by the prison system to participate. Prisoners need to be at least 16 years of age to participate in this program. When the prisoner firefighters are in training or fighting a brush fire, they are supervised by LACFD. The prisoners live in the fire camp full time and do not have to live within the boundaries of the prison walls. If there is a fire, the prisoners move on to the location of the fire and may set up camp nearby. When they are not in training or fighting a brush fire, they are in the custody of the CDCR. They do receive a stipend. If a prisoner firefighter goes to a fire, he receives an increase in the stipend. The prisoners also gain fire suppression training and life skills training

¹ 2022 Fire Season Outlook (ca.gov)

² Conservation (Fire) Camps - California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

³ Ibid

as well as skills that will help them acquire jobs after incarceration by working as, among other things, an inspector in commercial and residential fire inspections, a fire alarm repairman, an educator, a fire clean up worker and equipment maintenance technician. Prisoners may also be able to get their sentences expunged through the program as well, which is certainly a help to a prisoner who wants to find a job after he is released from prison.⁴

According to California's Assembly Bill (AB) 2147, signed into law in 2020, prisoners who "successfully participate in the California Conservation Camp program ... or successfully participated as a member of a county incarcerated individual hand crew" is eligible to petition the court for expungement.⁵ According to the CDCR website, " 'Successful participation' is defined as any formerly incarcerated person who was a fire crew member in a Conservation Camp and was not removed from the program for negative behavior. The amount of time spent at camp is not a deciding factor in successful participation."⁶ AB 2147 allows the defendant to petition the court in county where the defendant was sentenced, and CDCR certifies that the petitioner successfully participated in the conservation camp and has been released from custody.⁷

METHODOLOGY

1. In person interview with officials from LACFD
2. Zoom interview with officials from LACFD
3. Extensive internet research
4. Phone call interviews with officials from LACFD and LACCD

DISCUSSION

1. HOW FIRE CAMPS WORK

Fire camps have been advantageous for the prisoners who participate in them, as well as the LACFD and the community at large who benefit from the prisoners' work in mitigating fires. In the article "What's Next for Incarcerated Firefighters in California" the author states that: "Once a person steps foot in fire camp, their remaining sentence is reduced, sometimes by as much as half. And life at a fire camp is more permissive than in a general population prison." The author of this article also outlines the restrictions of the program: "Only people who the state deems a low safety risk are eligible, and everyone must pass a series of physical fitness tests and be trained."⁸

⁴ In person, Zoom and telephone interviews with officials from the LACFD

⁵ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB2147

⁶ https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/facility-locator/conservation-camps/fire_camp_expungement/#:~:text=In%20September%202020%2C%20Governor%20Gavin,they%20can%20seek%20jobs%20as

⁷ Ibid

⁸ <https://www.kqed.org/news/11846622/whats-next-for-incarcerated-firefighters-in-california>

If there is a fire in progress, all prisoners involved in the training program respond to the fire location immediately. CDCR staff members accompany the prisoners on the call for extra security. On Saturday and Sunday when there is no training, the prisoners are free to check out of the prison camp unless there is a fire call. Inmates are allowed to fight fires in-state only. However, if a fire is burning in a state that borders California, the inmates may be able to assist in that fire.⁹

The training program is voluntary and the courses are strategically geared toward fire suppression. In addition, the prisoners have the opportunity to learn a skill that may advance their fire suppression career or other careers that they may want to pursue. The program also focuses on life skills training so that inmates can become more competitive when they return to the job market.¹⁰

The fire camps are jointly operated by the CDCR and the LACFD, as well as the CAL FIRE. According to an LACFD official, prisoners are in the custody of the CDCR unless they are in training or fighting fires. In some cases, CDCR will accompany the fire crews if the fire is in a nearby residential area. An LACFD official stated that five (5) CDCR fire camps aided the LACFD in the past, but are currently not utilized. They are located in Acton, San Francisquito Canyon, the Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel and Malibu. However, the LACFD official is hopeful that these camps will again be open again to aid the LACFD.¹¹

According to a February 25, 2021 article in U.S. News entitled “Amendment Would Ban 'Servitude' by California Prison Inmates,” prison camp firefighters “have dwindled in recent years as the state has eased sentencing laws and shifted more offenders to county custody instead of state prisons.”¹² This reduction in fire crews has led to a reduction in wildfire firefighting services offered to the community by the LACFD. The article also states that: “California has long depended on inmate firefighters to help battle increasingly monstrous wildfires.”¹³

According to the LACFD, the LA County fire camp program participant numbers have been decreasing precipitously because of Covid and the shrinking prison population because of changes in laws related to incarceration.¹⁴ There has been a seventy-eight percent (78%) drop in LA County fire crews since 1990. In 1990, there were a total of two-hundred and seventy eight (278) CDCR crews, two-hundred and fifty (250) CAL FIRE crews and twenty-eight (28) LACFD fire crews in LA County. By 2010, fire crews dropped. In 2010, there were two-hundred and sixteen (216) CDCR crews, one-hundred and eighty eight (188) CAL FIRE crews and twenty-eight (28) LACFD fire crews. Today, there has been a precipitous drop in fire crews with only seventy (70) CAL FIRE crews left and an astounding eight (8) LACFD fire crews left in LA County.¹⁵

2. FIRE SUPPRESSION AIDS AND HOTSHOTS

Besides inmates, the LACFD also relies on other individuals to assist in fighting fires. Within the LACFD, there are four (4) camps that have paid full time County employees acting as Fire Suppression Aids (FSAs). But according to an LACFD official, even though these crews help the

⁹ Zoom interview with officials from LACFD

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Amendment Would Ban 'Servitude' by California Prison Inmates | California News | US News

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ In person interview with official at the LACFD's headquarters

¹⁵ Zoom interview with officials from the LACFD

firefighters with fire suppression, there are not enough employees working as FSAs to meet the high demand for wildfire firefighters during the wildfire season in California, which currently is pretty much a year round event.¹⁶

The FSAs are essential to the LACFD because they typically assist the firefighters who are actually fighting the wildfire. The FSAs clear brush and trees around the fire to keep the wildfire from spreading. In addition, they also use preventative methods such as prescribed burns to help contain wildfires. FSAs also provide important functions such as clerical support and small equipment repair to free up the firefighters to dedicate their resources to fight and extinguish dangerous wildfires.¹⁷ The Committee found that more FSAs for the LACFD will certainly enhance the Department's ability to keep our communities who are prone to wildfires safer. Given the shortage of FSAs and difficulty getting trained prisoner firefighters on board as staff, there need to be an easier way for the prisoners to become employees of the LACFD as FSAs to fill this void.

Some camps have crews known as Hotshots that are employees of the federal U.S. Forest Service. Hotshots received their name because they work on the hottest part of wildfires.¹⁸ These Hotshots help the LACFD with wildfires. However, these positions do not take the place of having prison inmate crews to help in wildfire firefighting. These crews have also dwindled in California, as well. According to the Los Angeles Times article dated May 18, 2021, reporting on the understaffing of Hotshot crews amid the California wildfire season: "Roughly 30% of the federal Hotshot crews that work on the front lines of wildfires in California are understaffed, according to the union that represents most Forest Service employees." The same article noted that low pay and a heavy time commitment by the Hotshots caused the understaffing because Hotshots left their posts for higher paying jobs with less of a time commitment. According to the article, Katie Porter points out that "We have a real problem with recruiting, with morale, with retention, and it's because we have not let the budget and the investment keep up with the scope of the problem."¹⁹ According to an LACFD official, dwindling Hotshot staffing has certainly been a systemic problem for the LACFD because the LACFD has relied on the Hotshots to augment their wildfire crews for many years.

3. HELP IS ON THE WAY?

In terms of staffing, there may be some other relief on the way for the LACFD. On January 25, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) made a motion to implement the Los Angeles Training Center Program (LATC) at Camp David Gonzales in Calabasas. The LATC would include a pilot reentry job training fire camp in conjunction with the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative (an initiative of the BOS), which will support firefighter training and employment opportunities for the previously incarcerated. Relevant County, State and community stakeholders will help to create the pilot program for firefighter fire suppression training at Camp Gonzales.²⁰

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lacounty/jobs/1736168/fire-suppressionaid?keywords=fire&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

¹⁸ Hotshots | US Forest Service (usda.gov)

¹⁹ <https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2021-05-18/hotshot-shortage-hits-california-as-wildfire-season-begins>

²⁰ <https://supervisorkuehl.com/board-of-supes-take-5-january-25-2022/>; Motion_2004 (lacounty.gov)

Since 2019, the BOS has been working on helping the prison camp workers with more opportunities for employment after their incarceration. According to the Witness LA's website article dated August 2, 2019, "Supes Vote to Explore Boosting Job Opportunities for LA County's Inmate Fire Camp Workers," the BOS was focused on increasing avenues to employment for LA County's formerly incarcerated fire camp workers. Supervisors Shelia Kuehl and Hilda Solis stated in their motion that: "Although Los Angeles County relies heavily on some inmates to fight fires, it does not provide any path to employment in the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) upon their release" which they characterize as a missed opportunity to reduce recidivism.²¹

According to a Committee interview with officials of the LACFD at their headquarters, having prior inmates obtain employment with the LACFD still remains a challenge to this day. Even though the prisoners worked on the front lines of a firefighting crew, formerly incarcerated people cannot qualify for an Emergency Medical Technician or an Emergency Medical Responder license, which are required in order to be hired on a professional firefighting crew, unless they successfully obtain expungement of their convictions.²² In addition, as a hiring agency, LACFD would have to choose to hire an individual with a criminal record that still shows up on a background report after the record is expunged. This criminal record is usually used as an impediment to employment for an ex- fire camp prisoner.²³

The Committee believes the path to employment with the LACFD for a prison firefighter should be easier, and the BOS should implement more programs to allow them to obtain jobs at the LACFD. For instance, for an FSA position, the LACFD could waive a live scan exam (live scan is commonly used for criminal booking, sexual offender registration, civil applicant and background checks).²⁴ Employing ex-prison camp firefighters would certainly be beneficial for the LACFD because they have already been trained by the LACFD and are aware of the Department's policies and procedures for wildfire firefighting.

In investigating how the local Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) might contribute to training wildfire crews, the Committee verified that various campuses hold local fire academies. For example, Glendale College's Verdugo Fire Academy's mission is to "develop, train and educate interested candidates in the safe execution of firefighting skills, tactics and strategies" by offering their students an excellent foundation on which to "build a career as a viable member of the firefighting family and to a greater extent the community in which they will serve."²⁵ Our latest conversations with the LACCD highlighted that the LACCD is contemplating expanding the fire academy program to include brush fire techniques and the use of forest fire equipment such as axes and other heavy duty tools for the clearance of brush for fire breaks as needed.²⁶ The LACCD would work closely with the LACFD to implement this expanded program. As a result, the LACFD would have a more expansive pool of trained firefighters to choose from for employment with the Department.

²¹ Supes Vote to Explore Boosting Job Opportunities for LA County's Inmate Fire Camp Workers – UPDATED | (witnessla.com); DoubleMotion_2012 (lacounty.gov)

²² <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/07/california-inmate-firefighters/619567/>

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ <http://gcc.glendale.edu/fire/academyinfo.html>

²⁶ Phone interviews with officials and faculty from LACCD

4. THE BUDGET

The LACFD fire camps are jointly operated by LACFD, CDCR and CAL FIRE. CDCR is “responsible for the selection, supervision, care and discipline of the inmates”²⁷ for the LACFD fire camps. According to our Zoom interview with the LACFD, the CDCR budget for the LACFD inmate prisoner program is twenty-five (25) million dollars (\$25,000,000). In addition, because CAL FIRE maintains the camp and supervises the work of the inmate fire crews, CAL FIRE reimburses LACFD with five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the LACFD fire camps.²⁸

Any mutual aid offered by LACFD and the inmate fire camps may also be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a federal program. According to FEMA’s “Special Report: Mutual Aid: Lessons Learned from the California System,” mutual aid is “help among neighbors” and “an integral part of emergency response.”²⁹ In order for LACFD to receive FEMA reimbursement, the wildfire has to be declared a federal disaster. The report goes on to state that: “Given the current economic and social climate, it is simply unrealistic to assume that a single community has all the resources required to cope with any and all emergencies it may face.”³⁰

According to FEMA's Disaster Assistance Policy, among other requirements to be eligible for reimbursement by FEMA, the mutual aid assistance offered to the LACFD “should have been requested by a Requesting Entity or Incident Commander; be directly related to a Presidentially-declared emergency or major disaster, or a declared fire; used in the performance of eligible work; and the costs must be reasonable.”³¹

LACFD is considered to be a central fire district and no funds are budgeted from the general LA County budget. The funds for the LACFD program budget are obtained from LA County property tax and contracts along with the funds received from the CDCR and CAL Fire.³² The budget for LACFD should be commensurate with current conditions during the wildfire season, which change from year to year depending on the length of the wildfire season. Budgeting for personnel will also depend on the current conditions of the wildfire season.

5. LACFD’S PRISON CAMP PROGRAM IS IN GRAVE DANGER OF BEING DIMINISHED ALTOGETHER

In 2021, previous Assembly member (now State Senator) Sydney Kamlager introduced the constitutional amendment “ACA (Assembly Constitutional Amendment) 3: Constitutional Amendment to End Involuntary Servitude in California.” A California State Assembly Democratic Caucus press release released on March 4, 2021 announced this constitutional amendment which will “amend the Constitution of California to end involuntary servitude in California.”³³ According to the California Legislative Information website, ACA 3 passed out of the Assembly, went to the Senate and was referred to various Senate committees for review.³⁴ If passed, the amendment could

²⁷ <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/facility-locator/conservation-camps/#CAL>

²⁸ Zoom interview with LACFD officials

²⁹ TR-042 Special Report: Mutual Aid: Lessons Learned from the California System (fema.gov), p. 1

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Microsoft Word - Mutual Aid Policy_FinalVII_2_.doc (fema.gov), p. 3

³² In person interview at LACFD headquarters and Zoom interview with LACFD

³³ Asm. Kamlager Announces ACA 3: The California Abolition Act to Abolish Involuntary Servitude | Assembly Democratic Caucus (asmdc.org)

³⁴ Bill History - ACA-3 Involuntary servitude.

put the wildfire prison camp program in grave jeopardy because prisoners may be prohibited from joining the prison camps programs leaving fire departments like the LACFD without the ability to fully staff up their wildfire crews.

According to the website, Ballotpedia, the amendment amends the California Constitution “to prohibit involuntary servitude in all instances, by removing the current exception that allows involuntary servitude to punish crime. For example, requiring inmates to work without pay would not be permitted.”³⁵ The California Abolition Act Coalition, the organization that backs the amendment, continues to advocate for a change in the California Constitution that “slavery and involuntary servitude is prohibited,”³⁶ which may place LACFD’s fire camps in jeopardy in the future if the amendment is passed.

Nina Salarno, president of Crime Victims United of California, expressed that ending prison inmate fire programs “would be devastating to California, especially on the fire crews.”³⁷ She goes on to say that instituting the planned Assembly Constitutional Amendment 3 (ACA 3), the California Abolition Act, which will amend the Constitution of California to end “involuntary servitude” in California “would hurt rehabilitation efforts...because you are then taking away incentives for inmates to learn skills and trades so they can come back into society and be self-sufficient.”³⁸

For the time being, perhaps the LACFD has a brief reprieve from completely losing its fire camp program. With the additional aid of the BOS, perhaps the LACFD will be the recipient of FSAs who participate in the BOS’s Camp Gonzales program and the LACCD Fire Academies. Also, since the BOS has advocated for prison inmate camp workers to be offered a path to employment after their incarceration, perhaps the BOS can help bolster support for keeping the previous robust fire camp program that the LACFD would sorely miss if it ends.³⁹

FINDINGS

F8.1 The LACFD does not have enough money in their budget to adequately fund a fire camp training program that will actually help in fighting wildfires in LA County. Because of the expansion of the fire season, costs for the program have increased because of the manpower needed to fight fires year round.

F8.2 The LACFD does not have enough manpower to adequately serve their LA County constituents in the event of a tragic wildfire.

F8.3 The personnel needs of the LACFD changes from year to year depending on the wildfire season and needs to be adjusted accordingly on a case by case basis so the current personnel needs of the Department are met.

³⁵ California Prohibit Slavery and Involuntary Servitude Initiative (2022) - Ballotpedia

³⁶ <https://endslaveryincalifornia.org/faqs/>

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ <https://witnessla.com/motion-seeks-to-boost-job-opportunities-for-la-countys-inmate-fire-camp-workers/>

F8.4 The fire camp program benefits both the LACFD and the prisoners. The LACFD gains trained prisoner firefighters who help the LACFD with manpower. The prisoner population gains life skills training.

F8.5 The inability of the County to hire former inmates to seek employment as FSAs may contribute to the lack of manpower within LACFD.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R8.1 Keep and expand the prison camp program to help both the LACFD and prisoners who participate in this worthwhile program.

R8.2 Fund and implement ASAP the new LACFD fire camp at Camp Gonzales (motion passed recently by the BOS).

R8.3 Arrange for a larger budget from LA County's general fund for the program, which changes from year to year depending on the wildfire season, to be adjusted accordingly on a case by case basis so the current personnel needs of the LACFD are met.

R8.4 More funding to hire additional FSAs should be evaluated after each fire season in anticipation of the next season to fulfill the budgetary needs of the LACFD.

R8.5 Add more fire academies to the local LA County community colleges that offer FSA training so that the LACFD will be able to hire additional trained personnel.

R8.6 The LACFD budget should be increased to satisfy current personnel and department needs, which vary from wildfire season to wildfire season.

R8.7 Personnel needs should be reviewed for each current wildfire season and should be adjusted to fit the needs of the LACFD's wildfire division.

COMMENDATIONS:

We sincerely thank the LACFD for their bravery in keeping us safe during all the wildfires we have experienced in LA County.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a) and 933.05(b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022 to:

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Responses are required from:

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONDING AGENCY
R8.1, R8.2, R8.3, R8.4, R8.6	Chief Executive Officer-LA County
R8.1, R8.2, R8.3, R8.4, R8.6	Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
R8.5	Los Angeles Community College School District
R8.1, R8.2, R8.3, R8.4, R8.5, R8.6, R8.7	Los Angeles County Fire Department

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Maureen Smith, Chair

Tiglath Gaete

Thom O'Shaughnessy

Tom Rasmussen

**WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE
LEAKING FROM THE PIPES**



**2021-2022
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

AM Plan	Asset Management Plan
GWP	Glendale Water & Power
LAC	Los Angeles County
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
SCADA	System Control and Data Acquisition
WWU	Whittier Water Utility

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the state of the water pipe networks in the Los Angeles area. To that end, the Water Pipe Committee of the Civil Grand Jury will review the policies and procedures employed by three local water utilities to maintain and replace the water pipe infrastructure. Water pipe infrastructure is an area of concern, as illustrated by a significant pipe failure in 2020¹ that closed Sunset Boulevard and flooded large parts of the UCLA campus when 20 million gallons of water gushed out of an old, broken water main.² Through a review of the water pipe infrastructure in the Los Angeles area, this report found that proper planning and proactive maintenance can minimize pipe failure. Solutions that can be employed for dealing with this troubling issue include actively searching for new water pipe technology and continuing efforts to maintain and monitor the infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

North America's water infrastructure is on the decline, leading to water main breaks that result in floods and service disruptions. Other significant social and economic impacts caused by water main breaks include the loss of treated water, increased maintenance budgets, traffic and business disruptions, and property damage.³ For these reasons, ensuring a well-functioning and sustainable water pipe network is extremely important, including evaluating the best materials to use for the pipes.

Four types of pipe materials make up 91% of distribution water mains in the US & Canada:

Cast Iron 28%

Ductile Iron 28%

Asbestos cement 13% (Mostly in North East USA)

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) 22%

The remaining 9% of pipes are made of concrete steel cylinder, polyethylene, steel & other materials.⁴ Steel is used for large diameter, high pressure trunk lines for water transport from reservoirs and pumping stations to the distribution network.⁵

Cast Iron is a legacy material and is no longer used in new installations. For new installations there is nearly equal acceptance of Ductile Iron and PVC.⁶

¹ Martin L. Adams, 20-1076_rpt_DWP_09-15-2020.pdf (lacity.org)

² UCLA flood: 'Substantial' damage at campus | CNN

³ Water Main Break Rates In the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study (usu.edu)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid. at p. 25

⁶ Water Main Break Rates In the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study (usu.edu), p. 17

According to a national study in 2018 there is a wide variation in break rates for distribution water mains as follows:

Asbestos Cement	10.4
Cast Iron	34.8
Ductile Iron	5.5
PVC	2.3
Steel	7.6
Other	12.4 ⁷

Compared to a 2012 survey by the same institution, PVC was the only widely used material with a declining break rate. Break rates are “the most important and critical factor used to quantify the condition and occurrences of failing underground pipe networks.”⁸

PVC’s immunity to corrosion is another factor creating the low break rate for this material.⁹

A Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) engineering representative stated during an interview with the Committee that LADWP no longer uses asbestos cement pipe in their system. Only one of the LA area utilities interviewed uses steel for major trunk lines. We also learned that corrosion is the most frequent cause of pipe failure.

METHODOLOGY

In researching the state of the water pipe infrastructure in Los Angeles County (LAC), the Committee reviewed a study, “Water Main Break Rates in the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study” published by Utah State University, Buried Structures Laboratory.¹⁰

In addition, the Committee conducted in person and virtual interviews with representatives from the Whittier Water Utility, Glendale Water and Power, and LADWP. These interviews were designed to discover the current status of the water pipe network overseen by each utility, the history of pipe failures, and the plans for scheduled replacement for overaged pipes.

Finally, the Committee reviewed two letters. The first was by a previous General Manager of LADWP¹¹ and the second from an official of Public Accountability for the City of Los Angeles.¹²

⁷ Water Main Break Rates In the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study (usu.edu), p. 24

⁸ Water Main Break Rates In the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study (usu.edu) p. 3

⁹ Water Main Break Rates In the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study (usu.edu)P. 5

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Martin L. Adams, 20-1076_rpt_DWP_09-15-2020.pdf (lacity.org)

¹² Frederick H. Pickel, Ph.D., opaimportantdoc3249100444_12112015.pdf (lacity.org)

DISCUSSION

As noted above, the Committee focused its investigation on three water utilities – Whittier Water Utility, Glendale Water and Power, and the LADWP. Below, we provide information about each of these utilities.

Whittier Water Utility

Whittier Water Utility (WWU) is a small municipal provider in LAC. According to a representative of the WWU, it is a unique utility for a jurisdiction in the LA basin because their major source of water is from wells. The wells are unusual in that they are not within the city limits. The wells are located on small “islands” of incorporated land near a local river. Because the well locations are outside of the city proper, it was necessary to run large trunk lines under the right of way of an Interstate Highway. The solution was to build a tunnel fifteen feet in diameter, and run two large trunks through a fifteen-foot diameter tunnel.¹³

The WWU representative that the Committee interviewed informed us that Whittier has a mix of corrosive and non-corrosive soil and approximately two hundred miles of distribution pipes. The pipes are primarily ductile cast iron, some legacy cast iron and some PVC in areas with corrosive soil. There is an active program to repair and replace the pipes based on age, soil types, history and some interesting data analysis that predicts pipes which are at high risk for leaks. The official did not have values for the parameters mentioned above at his fingertips. These parameters are used to rate pipe degradation using letter grades.

Whittier is located in a foothill area and is able to use gravity to pressurize their network. Certain areas of the water distribution network, located in lower parts of the city, have higher pressures which have been the cause of certain pipe failures. The installation of new pipes with higher pressure ratings has corrected this power. New stronger pipes have been utilized to upgrade pipes in these low areas.

The WWU gave the Committee some insight into the special preparation required to install PVC pipe. To prevent pipe damage from hard objects, the trench is refilled with an engineered material to protect the pipe from mechanical damage. Our contacts acknowledged that PVC has proven to be superior in corrosive soil environments. However, broad application of this innovative material is limited because of high expense.¹⁴

Glendale Water and Power

Glendale Water and Power (GWP)¹⁵ is a medium sized water distribution system. Through the Committee's interview with a GWP representative, we learned that this agency has 404 miles of pipe in their network. Forty percent of the network was installed before 1960 and consists of cast iron, ductile iron and PVC. The soil in this franchise area is mostly low corrosive. PVC is used in the areas where corrosion is a significant problem.

¹³ Virtual Interview with Whittier Water Utility representative

¹⁴ Virtual Interview with Whittier Water Utility

¹⁵ Glendale Water and Power | City of Glendale, CA (glendaleca.gov)

The GWP franchise area consists of hills and the flood plain for a local river. The agency gets water from multiple sources: ground wells, a neighboring water agency and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).¹⁶ The MWD operates the Colorado River Aqueduct, which brings Colorado River water from Lake Parker. The City of Glendale is a founding member of the MWD.¹⁷

The GWP has an active program, similar to WWU, to replace three (3) to five (5) miles of water pipe per year, based on A through F grades.

A GWP official reported that some leaks have been discovered in their pipes. Usually these are a slow seep or dribble type of leaks, not geysers. Agency crews perform most of the leak repairs. Pipe replacement is done by outside contractors and the official prefers bidders that are qualified to both design and construct the repairs.

Since corrosion is not the exclusive cause of leaks, the GWP also monitors pressures throughout their system with a SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition) telemetry system. The data collected by this system can detect low pressure, an indication of water leaking or high pressure, a situation where pipes may be damaged.¹⁸

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

LADWP¹⁹ is one of the largest water utilities in the United States, with over seven thousand (7,000) miles of pipes. Their water is sourced from ground water, MWD, the Owens River and The California Water Project.²⁰

This extensive water network has all types of soil and an area that is transected by hills. They transport large amounts of water over a significantly large ranges of hills. This creates additional issues on the wear experience of pipes. Very high pressures occur within the pipe that may lead to large pipe leaks. The LADWP network is sixty six percent (66%) cast iron pipe. The remainder of the system is steel for the large high pressure trunks and PVC for the corrosive areas.²¹ LADWP is also conducting evaluations of Japanese earthquake resilient pipes.²²

LADWP employs plastic wrap on their pipes during installation. The trench is then back filled with noncorrosive material in order to minimize leaks. In certain Ocean front locations, extra precautions are required to check corrosion due to the incursion of sea water.

¹⁶ About Your Water | City of Glendale, CA (glendaleca.gov)

¹⁷ <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WhoWeAre>

¹⁸ Interview with City of Glendale, 141 N. Glendale Blvd. CA 91206

¹⁹ About Us (ladwp.com)

²⁰ Our History (ladwp.com)

²¹ LADWP interview

²² LADWP replacing critical areas along its 7,000 miles of water pipeline with earthquake resilient ones - ABC7 Los Angeles

The chart below contains a few statistics to illustrate the size of the LADWP:²³

Territory: 464 Square Miles	1 Water Treatment center
15 Reservoirs	61,000 Hydrants
84 Pumps	7,300 Miles of Pipes.

In the summer of 2020, the LADWP experienced a dramatic event. Two 20 inch trunk lines under Sunset Boulevard ruptured and spilled twenty (20) million gallons of water over the street and the nearby UCLA campus. A subterranean garage, built in a back filled ravine was flooded. Many of the athletic venues facilities, including famous Pauley Pavilion, experienced water damage.²⁴

No customer service was disrupted and the pipes were replaced within two (2) weeks. The pipe failure was caused, in part, by wet conditions created by a drain culvert constructed after the pipe was installed. The improperly installed culvert trapped water around the pipe causing the rupture. The cause of this failure was unique but the flooding of UCLA caught the public's attention and forced LADWP to improve procedures for maintenance and repair of installed pipe.

The LADWP was forced to deal with the fact that they had an ageing pipe infrastructure that required immediate attention. The pipe network was appraised using data collected by the Asset Management Plan (AM Plan). The AM Plan looks at data, including leak history, age, soil corrosiveness, pipe material, pressures, risk, service, and community disruption and is used to assign a grade of A through F as designators indicating which pipe needs to be replaced. Five hundred thirty miles of pipe were identified for replacement by 2030.²⁵

Another technology utilized by LADWP engineering is the Corrosion Protection Anode Replacement Program (CPARP). Many homeowners know their water heater is equipped with an anode that helps to prevent corrosion. Metal water heaters have replaceable sacrificial anode rods that prevent corrosion. The corrosion attacks the anode instead of the water heater. The same technology works with iron water pipes. LADWP has about 20,000 corrosion protection anodes in the water pipe network. The anodes are an electrical active material that draws off the corrosion from the pipes. LADWP has set a goal to continually replace these anodes.²⁶

LADWP has revised installed pipe life expectancy up to 150 years, according to an agency official. The increased expectations are due to LADWP practices like back filling pipe excavations with special polymer materials, coating replacement pipes with Zinc and wrapping the plated pipes with plastic protective material. With these practices, the leak rate should continue to decline. The excavation and pipe installation for replacement pipe will to be done by LADWP crews.

²³ Virtual Interview with LADWP

²⁴ Los Angeles water main break hits Sunset Blvd, UCLA | CNN; Water main break damages Pauley Pavilion, other UCLA facilities | UCLA

²⁵ Virtual Interview with LADWP

²⁶ Martin L. Adams, 20-1076_rpt_DWP_09-15-2020.pdf (lacity.org), p. 2

FINDINGS

- 9-1 The maintenance and installation practices of the water pipe infrastructures appear consistent throughout the industry.
- 9-2 The 2020 Sunset/UCLA pipe break may have been caused, in part, by a lack of communication between the various services using the underground right of way in the public streets.
- 9-3 PCV water mains have the lowest break rates of any pipe material.
- 9-4 Japanese manufactures have developed earthquake resilient pipes and LADWP has begun evaluation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9-1 Utilities and Public Works departments should create interagency practices to avoid encroachments
- 9-2 Due to the corrosion proof nature of PVC and proven low break rate, the water utilities should review their policy on this noteworthy pipe material.
- 9-3 Continue evaluation of earthquake resilient pipes and expand usage of this material as indicated.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a) and 933.05(b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022 to:

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Responses are required from:

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESPONDING AGENCY

9-1 to 9-3

LA County Board of Supervisors

9-1 to 9-3

LA County Chief Executive Officer

9-1 to 9-3

**City of Los Angeles
The Office of Public Accountability**

9-1 to 9-3

City of Whittier, Office of the Mayor

9-1 to 9-3

City of Whittier Water Agency

9-1 to 9-3

City of Glendale, Office of the Mayor

9-1 to 9-3

**City of Glendale Department of Water &
Power**

9-1 to 9-3

**Los Angeles Department of Water &
Power**

Committee Members

John G. Miller, Chair

Frank Chavez

London Jones

Tom Rasmussen

Maureen Smith

**WHO CAN YOU TRUST?
AN OVERSIGHT OF CONSERVATORSHIPS**



**2021-2022
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

ACRONYMS

AARP	American Association of Retired Person
APS	Adult Protective Services
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BOS	Board of Supervisors
CSAC	California State Association of Counties
CAPAPGPC	California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators
CRM	Countywide Resource Management
CGJ	Civil Grand Jury
ACS	Department of Aging and Community Services
DPSS	County Department of Public Social Services
ERS	Enriched Residential Services
EADACPA	Elder Abuse and Adult Civil Protection Act
County	Los Angeles County
DMH	Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
City	Los Angeles City
DOA	Los Angeles City Department of Aging
LASC	Los Angeles Superior Court
LPS	Lanterman, Petris and Short Act
MHC	Mental Health Court
NAMILA	National Alliance on Mental Illness Westside LA
NAMRS	National Adult Maltreatment and Reporting System
OASDI	SSA/Old Age, Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance
NARSA	National Adult Protective Services Association
OPD	Office of the Public Defender
OPG	Office of the Public Guardian
PALA	Purposeful Aging Los Angeles
WDACS	Workforce Development, Aging and Community Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

If you have read or listened to the news for the past few years, you have certainly heard of the famous Britney Spears conservatorship controversy and legal case.¹ Many conservatorship advocacy movements already exist and many have been formed as a result of the Spears case. It was even announced that Britney Spears will be testifying before Congress about the alleged abuses that she experienced at the hands of her conservator father to help Congress further reform the conservatorship system in the United States.²

Because of Britney Spears' case, public interest in conservatorships has skyrocketed. The entertainment industry is also discussing conservatorships in its TV programs and movies where they have exposed conservatorship abuses. Recently, both Dr. Phil and Wendy Williams aired shows about conservatorship abuse on their TV talk shows. Lately, many movie and television documentarians also have discussed conservatorship abuse in their work. The movie "I Care a Lot" concerns "a con woman who makes a living as a court appointed guardian, seizing the assets of vulnerable elderly people..."³

Obviously, Britney Spears is a young celebrity with lots of financial resources that helped her in her court battle against her father for the alleged abusive conservatorship relationship she experienced. As a result of all the press in the Spears' case, the Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) formed a Conservatorship Committee (Committee) to research how conservatorships affect individuals in Los Angeles County (County) who do not have the financial means of a celebrity and do not have the support system of the world to advocate for them. Because of the outcry for conservatorship reform by the general public, the Spears' case caught the eye of the CGJ whose duty is to be a "watchdog" for the County.⁴

The Committee found that there are many conservatorship reforms afoot in both the County and in the state. In addition, we found that that the County needs to continue working on these reforms through the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) and other senior social service organizations such as Workforce Development, Aging and Community Service (WDACS), Adult Protective Services (APS), Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) as well as the Los Angeles City (City) Department of Aging (DOA).

¹ Britany Spears' conservatorship was a probate conservatorship, and her father, not the OPG served as her conservator.

² <https://variety.com/2022/music/news/britney-spears-congress-testify-conservatorship-white-house-1235184075/>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D40uHmTSPew>

⁴ <https://www.courts.ca.gov/civilgrandjury.htm>

For instance, the Committee could find no comprehensive reporting database in the County that could be used across all social service agencies to track conservatorship abuses and complaint. The Committee also determined that County and City social service agencies should provide educational and advocacy programs so the public can spot and report conservatorship abuses.

All County and City social services departments, such as APS, WDACS, PALA, and DOA should be working closer with the OPG to track conservatorship complaints and abuses and help their constituents resolve them through educational and outreach programs. These senior social services agencies should also be working with the OPG to create outreach and educational materials for all County constituents that may need help in identifying conservatorship abuse along with information on how and where to report it. Also, these social service organizations should offer educational programs for their constituents that help them navigate the County conservatorship court system to ensure that their loved ones are protected from conservatorship abuse.

BACKGROUND

Our investigation was limited to how the conservatorship program at the County's Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) operates and how the OPG and other County social service organizations can protect individuals from the harm that Britney alleged happened to her. Even though Britany Spears was a young woman when her conservatorship was created, many of the alleged abuses she experienced may also experience by other individuals under a conservatorship in the County. The Committee researched County local controls over conservatorships created by the OPG and what procedures are in place to make sure that those who are conserved by the OPG are treated fairly because many of them have no voice of their own.

As a Committee, we also decided to research other ancillary County and City social service agencies who serve the general public and seniors as constituents and who could possibly advocate for seniors in a conservatorship. These agencies include the DOA⁵ and the two County agencies; WDACS⁶ and APS⁷. We also evaluated the PALA program,⁸ a joint program administered both by the County and the City.

The Committee did not review legal decisions, or oversight of conservatorships by the Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC). This report focuses on the conservatorships administered by the OPG and other social services programs and how these programs advocate for conservatees in the County.

For this report, the Committee discusses the creation of the OPG and researched both probate and Lanterman, Petris, Short (LPS) conservatorships administered by the OPG. In addition, the Committee also researched social service organizations who should be providing outreach and education on both PG and non-OPG conservatorship services to the public.

⁵ Department of Aging | (lacity.org)

⁶ LA County WDACS

⁷ Adult Protective Services (APS) – LA County WDACS

⁸ Purposeful Aging Los Angeles | (purposefulagingla.com)

According to the DMH website, the OPG was established in 1945 as the first OPG in California to oversee finances for those committed to psychiatric facilities. As time progressed, the OPG began to take on more responsibility for the care of their clients. In addition, according to the website, “The landmark LPS Act of 1969 and subsequent changes to the Probate Code meant that the Public Guardian became the substitute decision maker for vulnerable populations of the county, such as the frail elderly and persons with serious mental illness.”⁹

The DMH website goes on to explain that public guardians or conservators working in the OPG “provide a vital service to persons unable to properly care for themselves or who are unable to manage their finances. The service is provided through a legal process known as conservatorship. Persons in need of conservatorship are physically or mentally disabled to the point where they cannot utilize community services and resources. They usually have no family or friends able or willing to help.”¹⁰

In addition, according to the “California Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians & Public Conservators Legislative Platform” dated 1/13/2021, conservatorship services offered by public guardians must be “sufficiently resourced to provide health, wellness, (and) protection from elder abuse.”¹¹

DMH’s Publication “Helping Your Loved One” (Helping)¹² defines conservatorship as follows: “Conservatorship is the term used in California for the more familiar word "guardianship" when applied to adults. Conservatorship is a legal proceeding in which the court decides if someone should be appointed as the legally responsible party for someone who is unable to properly care for themselves. The responsible party is the conservator and the client or patient is the conservatee.”¹³

The OPG handles both LPS and Probate conservatorships. Both types of conservatorships have the terms "conservator" and "conservatee".¹⁴ The LPS conservatorship is also known as a mental health conservatorship.¹⁵ Unlike Probate conservatorships, in an LPS conservatorship, the conservator is “authorized to approve mental health treatment even against the wishes of the patient” and "is to provide individualized treatment, supervision and placement" for the conservatee.¹⁶ In addition, the conservator must make sure the conservatee has proper food, clothing, and shelter. Also, they need to make sure the financial needs of the conservatees are met.¹⁷ A conservator has the following duties:

- To approve or disapprove the conservatee’s living arrangements
- To approve or disapprove medical treatment and medication for the conservatee
- To help to develop a treatment plan for the conservatee

⁹ <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/public-guardian/>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ https://www.calbhbc.org/uploads/5/8/5/3/58536227/pagpc_platform_1.13.2021.pdf

¹² http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dmh/1054579_HELPINGYOURLOVEDONE-6THEdition-4-2019.pdf
Helping at p.1

¹³ Helping at p.1.

¹⁴ In person Interview with official from the OPG.

¹⁵ http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dmh/1054579_HELPINGYOURLOVEDONE-6THEdition-4-2019.pdf

¹⁶ Helping at pp.1-2.

¹⁷ Helping at p.2.

- To help regain the conservatee’s life to as close to normal before they became ill ¹⁸

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Westside Los Angeles (NAMILA) in its “Guide to LPS Conservatorships for Family and Friends,” a person put under an LPS conservatorship must be “gravely disabled and have a serious mental illness.” Gravely disabled means that “the mentally ill person cannot take care of his/her basic needs for food, clothing, and/or shelter.” ¹⁹ A qualified psychiatrist petitions the OPG for an LPS conservatorship. Then, the OPG petitions the court for conservatorship of the person. ²⁰ When no alternatives are available for the conservatee, the court places them under an LPS conservatorship. ²¹

A probate conservatorship is initiated differently and does not require grave disability, only a finding that the individual is unable to provide properly for his or her personal needs for physical health, food, clothing or shelter. ²² A probate conservatorship can also be initiated for those individuals substantially unable to manage their financial resources or resist fraud and undue influence. ²³

For probate conservatorships involving the OPG, upon receiving a referral that someone may be in need of a probate conservatorship, the OPG conducts an initial investigation. If OPG determines if there is a need for a probate conservatorship, then they initiate conservatorship proceedings in the Probate Division of LASC, and conservatorship matter will be set for a hearing. For probate conservatorships, there is no requirement that a physician testify regarding the need for the conservatorship. ²⁴ Probate conservatorships can be of the person, estate, or both. ²⁵

If the Court determines that a conservatorship is needed and appoints the OPG as the conservator, each year thereafter, the LASC assigns a Probate Investigator to determine if a conservatorship is still needed, and report on the conservator's conduct. This report is filed with the court. For matters where OPG is the conservator of the estate, yearly, the OPG will file an accounting that will be reviewed by the court as well. ^{26, 27} The OPG has the duty to oversee probate conservatorships in collaboration with the court and under the statutory authority provided by Probate Code Sections 1801 and 2920. ²⁸

¹⁸ In person interview with LPS Case Manager and with an official of the OPG at the office of the OPG.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ <https://namila.org/resources/guide-to-lps-conservatorship-family/>

²² [Dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/public-guardian/conservatorship/](https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/public-guardian/conservatorship/)

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Phone interview with an OPG Probate Investigator.

²⁵ Prob. Code, § 1800.3.

²⁶ The Probate Investigator performs these tasks for non-OPG conservatorships as well.

²⁷ Phone interview with County Counsel for the OPG’s Probate Division and in person interview with an OPG Probate Investigator.

²⁸ https://www.calbhbc.org/uploads/5/8/5/3/58536227/papGPC_platform_1.13.2021.pdf

METHODOLOGY

- Zoom presentation from high ranking officials from the DMH and OPG
- Zoom interview with an official from the DOA
- In-person CGJ Headquarters Office interview with a high ranking member of the OPG
- In -person office interviews at DMH’s OPG’s Headquarters with high ranking official of the OPG, OPG Probate Case Manager and Investigator and LPS Case Manager and Investigator at the DMH office
- Live stream public meeting with the California Assembly on Reform of California Conservatorship Law: December 15, 2021
- Phone interviews with the following:
 - OPG Probate County Counsel
 - Representative from APS
 - Representative from LA Victim Services
 - Official from WDACS
- Extensive Internet Research
- Extensive Document Review
- Extensive analysis of Committee’s first person observations

DISCUSSION

There are conservatorship reforms afoot in the County and California. The County needs to continue working on these reforms through the OPG and other social service organizations mentioned in this report. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) needs to work closely with their legislative analysts to advocate for and make sure that positive California state reforms are implemented to keep County constituents safe from conservatorship abuse. Due to the publicity and the public outcry for conservatorship reform, the Committee is very encouraged to see that there is a movement afoot both within the County and throughout California to change how the conservatorship laws and procedures work to better protect those who are under conservatorship.

For many years, the DMH and OPG have convened stakeholders, professionals and officials to discuss reforms while diligently and consistently reporting their findings back to the BOS. In a July 10, 2018 letter to the BOS, Dr. Jonathan Sherin, the Director of the DMH, wrote in a report on “Response On Expanding the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) and Probate Conservatorship Capacity in Los Angeles County” that on August 8, 2017, the DMH “was instructed to convene a broad set of stakeholders and report back with recommendations for improving both the capacity and the process for conservatorship in LA County. By engaging with multiple groups and perspectives, our stakeholder process produced over one hundred recommendations that are distilled and combined in this report.” The report identified many recommendations to the BOS including better tracking and reporting, more staffing, and better budget resources.²⁹

²⁹ <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/116143.pdf>

Dr. Sherin updated the BOS annually on conservatorship reform with many letters and reports explaining reform updates and assessments. Unfortunately, it appears that some of these reforms are still being discussed, such as more staffing, funding, and better reporting.³⁰

The California State Assembly has also taken up the issue of conservatorship reform, which, if adopted, will affect conservatorships throughout California. In the Eureka Times-Standard article dated June 30, 2021 by Ruth Schneider and titled “Amid #FreeBritney Discussion, California Legislature Talks Conservatorship Reform,” Assemblyman Evan Low (D-Campbell), who viewed a Spears’ conservatorship documentary, was quoted as saying “Like many people, I was deeply disturbed by what I saw in the Britney Spears documentary, which shed light on numerous problems regarding conservatorships in the state of California.” He goes on to say “As a result, my staff and I did our own research, and we found the failings of the current system were even more widespread than feared.”³¹

Due to the highly publicized nature of Spears' case and reports of her efforts to end her conservatorship, a movement known as #Free Britney emerged. According to Leanne Simmons, a Free Britney L.A. organizer, Britney’s case started to shed light on conservatorship abuse: "We started our movement for Britney Spears, but we quickly learned that conservatorship abuse is rampant across the state of California and beyond." She also said that "The successful termination of Britney's conservatorship helped to shine a light on the problems with conservatorships, but there is much work to be done."³²

Even though the Committee concentrated on probate conservatorships both in the OPG as well as probate conservatorships who have family members, friends and private professional fiduciaries who act as conservators, we could not ignore the LPS conservatorship reforms that are happening in the state and in the County.

Though we have no jurisdiction over state conservatorship law, the Committee viewed part of the online Joint Informational Hearing presented by the California Assembly Health and Judiciary Committees titled “The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act: How Can it be Improved?” on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. The open, public hearing was convened to analyze conservatorship reform in California. Dr. Sherin, the Director of the DMH, even did an extensive presentation to the Assembly Committee on the concept of who is “gravely disabled” and discussed other reform issues that are pertinent to the DMH and the OPG.

According to the California Assembly website, the meeting was called because: “There is general agreement that the LPS system and California’s broader mental health system are failing far too many people. Although there may not be agreement on all of the various proposed solutions, the various options mentioned in this paper may provide a roadmap for how California can reform its mental health system. All Californians – particularly those who are mentally ill and those who love

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Amid #FreeBritney discussion, California Legislature talks conservatorship reform – Silicon Valley

³² <https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/politics/2022/01/19/assemblyman-introduces-legislation-to-curb-conservatorship-misuse>

and care for them – deserve so much better.”³³ To date, over 30 bills regarding conservatorships have been introduced in the California Legislature from 2017-2021.³⁴

REPORTING CONSERVATORSHIP ABUSE PROBLEMS

In all our Zoom interviews, in person interviews, phone interviews and extensive research, the Committee has been unable to readily obtain information or a database on conservatorship abuse complaints or conservators who have been removed for cause. Perhaps this information is difficult to obtain because of confidentiality and legal liability reasons. The Committee was quite surprised to find that no information seemed to be readily available to the general public that contains this pertinent information on how to even report conservatorship abuse. The Committee would like to see the OPG and County and City social service agencies set up at least a reporting structure for all agencies to make timely reports of conservatorship abuses.

If legally feasible, the Committee also believes that there needs to be more transparency with a more robust real time database in the County to help family, friends and senior social service agencies to pinpoint conservatorship complaints and abuses by conservators who have been removed for cause. The database should have strict privacy controls similar to the Megan’s Law database. This database should be implemented at the OPG, the DOA, WDACS, APS and in PALA as a shared reporting database for complaints of conservatorship abuse with a list of conservators who have been removed for cause. Having a public facing database like the Megan’s Law database would certainly be helpful in combating abusive conservatorships and conservators. The database could be administered by the OPG as the lead agency.

Apparently, California is lacking a robust database as well. On the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys website, Kenneth Heisz, Esq. writes in “Beware of the Con in Conservatorships: A Perfect Storm for Financial Elder Abuse in California” published in March, 2021 that there is a lack of reporting of elder financial abuse in the state of California: “The question: How prevalent is the problem of financial elder abuse by conservators in California? The answer: No one knows for sure. The unfortunate reality is that no one knows how widespread financial elder abuse is, let alone how much of it is due to improper conduct by conservators. The reason for this is surprisingly simple: There is no actual or current data on this issue.” Heisz goes on to cite “The prevalence of financial abuse of the elderly (like elder abuse in general) is difficult to estimate because there is no national reporting mechanism to record and analyze it, cases often are not reported, definitions vary, and it is difficult to detect. However, the consensus is that it is a significant problem.”³⁵

Heisz also refers to a 2009 academic report prepared in collaboration with the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform that states: “California does not currently aggregate extensive data on conservatorship cases. To collect data on the state’s 45,000-plus active conservatorships, one would need to visit every county courthouse to review individual case files. Such data collection is impractical, onerous and time consuming. Furthermore, as we discovered through our own data-gathering effort, deciphering a case file is a highly subjective process. Forms are sometimes

³³ <https://ahea.assembly.ca.gov/sites/ahea.assembly.ca.gov/files/LPS%20Background%20with%20Appendices.pdf>, p. 33

³⁴ Ibid, Appendix B

³⁵ Beware of the Con in Conservatorships: A Perfect Storm for Financial Elder Abuse in Californ (naela.org)

incorrectly completed, and occasionally missing from the file altogether. Such patchwork data is an obvious impediment to ongoing oversight and reform efforts.”

In addition, Heisz states that “Financial elder abuse is universally recognized as a significant problem that is only going to get worse.” Heisz refers to the National Adult Protective Services Association, who cites that financial elder abuse is “vastly under-reported; only one in 44 cases of financial abuse is ever reported.”³⁶

COUNTY SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND CONSERVATORSHIP ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION:

There also needs to be more conservatorship advocacy and educational programs for the general public from the OPG and other County and City social service organizations such as APS, WDACS, PALA and DOA to track conservatorship complaints and abuse. Also, these social services agencies need to liaise more closely with the OPG.

A. LA COUNTY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS): ELDER ABUSE AND CONSERVATORSHIPS

APS should liaise more directly with other County and City departments such as OPG, WDACS, PALA, and to track conservatorship cases and possible abuses of conservators. In addition, APS should also track conservatorship abuses through an extensive database of those conservators who may be taking advantage of their conservatees. Also, APS should offer more education and advocacy to the general public about how to spot conservatorship abuse.

According to the Collins Law Elder Law website: “The term “elder abuse” is a very broad term that brings to mind a number of different potential methods of abuse. The California Elder Abuse Act covers physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction, or other treatment resulting in physical harm or pain or mental suffering.”³⁷

The APS website describes APS as a “social services program provided by state and/or local governments nationwide serving older adults who are 60 years and older...APS workers investigate cases of abuse, neglect or exploitation, working closely with a wide variety of allied professionals such as physicians, nurses, paramedics, firefighters and law enforcement officers.”³⁸

Currently, when elder abuse for is reported to APS, it sends that information on to the specific agency that the complaint is made about, which may take a lot of time. For instance, APS will report conservatorship abuse for LPS and Probate conservatorships created by the OPG to the OPG office. In addition to referring the case on, APS should also offer more robust advocacy and educational services to concerned family, friends or senior social service agencies with an immediate solution when they make initial contact.³⁹

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ <https://collinslawgroup.com/2017/04/18/elder-abuse-2/#:~:text=The%20California%20Elder%20Abuse%20Act,further%20defined%20in%20the%20EADACPA.>

³⁸ <https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/services/older-dependent-adult-services/adult-protective-services-aps/>

³⁹ Phone interview with APS employee.

There is no mention of conservatorship abuse on the APS website. APS does liaise with the OPG to report elder abuse, but there is no direct mechanism for APS to directly assist conservatees, family, friends and social service agencies and advocacy agencies who may need immediate help with a conservator who is not doing their job or is taking advantage of a conservatee.⁴⁰

B. LOS ANGELES CITY DEPARTMENT OF AGING (DOA)

Though not a direct County Department, the DOA is a senior social service organization within the County that advocates and offers services for the senior population in the City. DOA should offer more education and advocacy to seniors and the general public regarding conservatorships. DOA should also track senior conservatorship complaints and abuse through a Megan’s Law type extensive database that is connected to all senior social service agencies and that can track conservatorship abuses and abusive conservators who may be taking advantage of their conservatees.

According to the DOA website, the department advocates “for the interests and welfare of older adults by administering programs and services focused on the needs of older adults and caregivers in the City of Los Angeles.”⁴¹ The DOA’s mission is to “improve the quality of life, independence, health, and dignity of the City’s older adult population by managing community based programs that are comprehensive, coordinated, accessible, and to advocate for the needs of older citizens and their caregivers.” They also provide services through senior centers services in partnership with community-based agencies.⁴²

However, there is no dedicated department in the DOA that deals with conservatorship advocacy and abuse. In addition, they have no reporting mechanism or database for the general public that would alert family, friends or social service agencies to possible conservatorship abuses.⁴³

C. PURPOSEFUL AGING LOS ANGELES (PALA):

PALA is a “groundbreaking initiative” between the City and the County, the AARP, the private sector and universities. PALA was formed to help “...prepare for a dramatic demographic shift in the older adult population that will occur by 2030” with the “ultimate goal” to “make the Los Angeles region the most age-friendly in the world.”⁴⁴

Currently PALA advocates for housing, transportation and emergency preparedness and resilience. PALA also helps supply seniors with community resources that include mental health and wellness resources. Between eighty-five percent (85%) and eighty-nine percent (89%) of PALA’s budget is obtained from grants available through the Older Americans Act and the California Older Americans Act. Neither the City nor County directly fund the program at all.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ <https://aging.lacity.org/about>

⁴² <https://aging.lacity.org/about>

⁴³ Interview with official from the DOA.

⁴⁴ <https://www.purposefulagingla.com>

⁴⁵ Interview with official from the DOA.

PALA should liaise more directly with other County departments such as the OPG, APS and WDACS and offer more education and advocacy to seniors and the general public regarding conservatorships. PALA should also track conservatorship complaints and abuses through a Megan’s Law type of extensive database that is connected to all senior social service agencies and that can track conservatorship abuses and abusive conservators who may be taking advantage of their conservatees.

D. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND AGING COMMUNITY SERVICES (WDACS):

With the newly created Aging and Community Services Department (ACS) under WDACS, the new executive director, and the County have a perfect opportunity to help the community with education and advocacy for those who may be victims of conservatorship abuse. In addition, the ACS should also work on a real time database to monitor all conservatorship abuses in LAC.

WDAC's press release, “LA County Announces New Executive Director of Aging and Community Services,” announced the appointment of Laura Trejo as the executive director of a newly created ACS under WDACS.⁴⁶ This department was created to be responsible for the administration of older adult services.⁴⁷ According to the release, Laura Trejo “will play a central leadership role in the County’s proactive efforts to establish a coordinated strategy and service delivery system for older adults and adults with disabilities.”⁴⁸ The new department will address “the economic mobility and security of its residents while meeting the needs of rapidly growing populations of older adults and adults with disabilities.”⁴⁹

According to then-BOS Chair Hilda Solis, Ms. Trejo’s years of experience at the DOA “will be instrumental in the County’s efforts to streamline programs and enact meaningful initiatives towards the quality of life advancement for this population which is often forgotten.” In addition, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl stated that “between 2000 and 2030, LA County will see its older adult population double.”⁵⁰ She goes on to say that “In just 8 years, one in every five County residents will be 65 or older. The County’s new Department of Aging and Community Services is tasked with anticipating and meeting the needs of these County residents.”⁵¹

According to Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the new Executive Director will prepare the County “for a growth in older adults in the decades to come.”⁵² With this new department and leadership, the Committee advises that the new ACS consider implementing a conservatorship arm of the department to not only educate County citizens about how a conservatorship works, but to act as an advocacy agency to help friends, family and other County and City agencies who may be witness to conservatorship abuse of their loved ones.⁵³

⁴⁶ LA County Announces New Executive Director of Aging and Community Services – LA County WDACS

⁴⁷ Interview with official from ACS.

⁴⁸ <https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/la-county-announces-new-executive-director-of-aging-and-community-services/>

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ <https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/la-county-announces-new-executive-director-of-aging-and-community-services/>

BUDGET: FUNDING OF THE COUNTY OPG:

Currently, the state does not dedicate funding to any county OPG.⁵⁴ The Committee believes that additional funding of OPG is needed so it can better advocate for and service more of the needs of the County's senior conservatees. The BOS should actively advocate and support the efforts by the California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators (CAPAGPC) and California Association of Counties (CAC) to advocate for dedicated state funding for the OPG.

The CAPAGPC Legislative Platform dated 1/13/2021⁵⁵ states that “In order to provide conservatorship services effectively, the continuum (of care) must be sufficiently resourced to provide health, wellness, [and] protection from elder abuse.”⁵⁶ In addition, the Platform further states that “Successful continuums of care must provide multiple levels of care and services that ensure impaired elders and disabled adults receive adequate protection, support and dignity.”⁵⁷ According to the Platform: “Unfortunately, counties are operating Public Guardianship programs within an environment of increasingly scarce resources. Local programs do not receive any targeted state funding to support their operations, and this significantly hinders the ability of Public Guardian programs to provide adequate staffing levels. Similarly, available local funding to pay for placements in secure perimeter or residential care facilities is highly limited and prevents individuals with cognitive disorders from accessing needed care.”⁵⁸ Furthermore, the Platform advises that “The CAPAGPC Association is committed to enhancing and expanding our role within this continuum to the extent that resources are simultaneously enhanced, to adequately provide for the wellness of our most vulnerable citizens.”⁵⁹

According to an official at the OPG, all other OPG offices within the state do not receive dedicated state funding. The official recommended that the County support the efforts of the CAPAGPC and the CAC to obtain “dedicated funding” for the OPG.

In a report titled "Expanding Conservatorship Capacity and provided to the BOS on July 10, 2018, Dr. Jonathan Sherin wrote that: “The Probate conservatorship program is unique in that most Probate conservatorships are established by family members or Professional Fiduciaries. Only a small portion of Probate conservatorships are established with OPG ... Unless State funding can be located for the Probate conservatorship program, the funding necessary to contract with facilities for difficult or indigent conservatees will require an investment.”⁶⁰ That investment has not yet come to fruition because the OPG still is in need of more funding to adequately run their program.⁶¹

⁵⁴ <https://www.counties.org/csac-bulletin-article/counties-ask-public-guardian-funding>

⁵⁵ https://www.calbhbc.org/uploads/5/8/5/3/58536227/papggpc_platform_1.13.2021.pdf, p. 2

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ https://www.calbhbc.org/uploads/5/8/5/3/58536227/papggpc_platform_1.13.2021.pdf

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/116143.pdf>, p. 15-16

⁶¹ In person interview with official from the OPG.

FINDINGS

F 10.1 BACKGROUND OF THE DMH'S OPG: DMH

Finding: The Committee learned that the rich history of the OPG's office has had an excellent effect on the current services offered by the OPG.

F10.2 BACKGROUND ON CLIMATE FOR CONSERVATORSHIP REFORM

Finding: There are conservatorship reforms afoot in the County and California. The County needs to continue working on these reforms through the OPG and other County and City social service organizations such as WDACS, APS, PALA, as well as the DOA.

F10.3 DATABASE: REPORTING CONSERVATORSHIP ABUSE PROBLEMS

Finding: The Committee could find no comprehensive database in Los Angeles County that can be used to track conservatorships abuses and complaints across all senior services departments.

F10.4 SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

Finding: There are not enough conservatorship advocacy and educational programs for the general public on how to spot conservatorship abuse from the OPG and other County and City social service organizations such as APS, WDACS, PALA, and DOA, to track conservatorship complaints and abuses.

F10.5 LOS ANGELES COUNTY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS): ELDER ABUSE AND CONSERVATORSHIPS

Finding: APS should initiate an outreach campaign to educate the public about conservatorship abuse. In addition, APS should also offer advocacy services to those who are conservatees and friends and family members of conservatees.

F10.6 LOS ANGELES CITY DEPARTMENT OF AGING (DOA)

Finding: DOA should initiate an outreach campaign to educate the public about conservatorship abuse. DOA should also offer advocacy services to those who are conservatees and friends and family members of conservatees.

F 10.7 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND AGING COMMUNITY SERVICES (WDACS):

Finding: With the newly created Aging and Community Services (ACS) under WDACS, the new executive director and the County have a perfect opportunity to help the community with education and advocacy for those who may be victims of conservatorship abuse.

F10.8 BUDGET: FUNDING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN (OPG):

Finding: Currently, the OPG’s budget needs additional funding by the County to continue to provide services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R10.1 BACKGROUND OF THE MH’S OPG: DMH

Recommendation: Continue to offer excellent service to clients through the Office of Public Guardian and review their procedures twice each year with the Board of Supervisors.

R10.2 BACKGROUND ON CLIMATE FOR CONSERVATORSHIP REFORM

Recommendation: Continue to report to the Board of Supervisors on conservatorships twice a year on any new reforms and procedures that will create a better communication between all County, social service agencies, and the OPG.

R10.3 REPORTING CONSERVATORSHIP ABUSE PROBLEMS

Recommendation: If legally feasible, create a more robust real time database in the County similar to the California Megan’s Law database to help family, friends and senior advocacy social service agencies to pinpoint conservatorship complaints and abuses by conservators who have been removed for cause. This database should be shared by the OPG and senior social service agencies such as APS, WDACS, PALA and DOA. These social service agencies should be able to input any complaints using the database so that the County can easily track conservatorship abuses.

R10.4 SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

Recommendation: There needs to be more conservatorship advocacy and educational programs for the general public from the OPG and other County and City social service organizations such as APS, WDACS, PALA, and DOA to help report constituent conservatorship complaints and abuses.

R10.5 LOS ANGELES COUNTY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS): ELDER ABUSE AND CONSERVATORSHIPS

Recommendation: APS should do outreach to promote public awareness and education about conservatorship abuses. APS should also offer more advocacy services to the general community about how to spot conservatorship abuse and what to do about it.

R10.6 LOS ANGELES CITY DEPARTMENT OF AGING (DOA)

Recommendation: DOA should be offering more conservatorship education and advocacy services to the general public regarding conservatorship abuse and how to combat it. The committee also found that there should be better communication between the department and other senior social services organizations, such as APS, WDACS, and PALA to track conservatorship complaints and abuses.

R10.7 PURPOSEFUL AGING (PALA):

Recommendation: PALA should be offering more conservatorship education and advocacy services to its constituent general public regarding conservatorship abuse and how to combat it. The Committee also found that there should be better communication between the department and other senior social services organizations, such as APS, WDACS and DOA to track conservatorship complaints and abuses.

R10.8 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND AGING COMMUNITY SERVICES (WDACS):

Recommendation: With the new newly created Aging and Community Services Department (DACS) under WDACS, the new executive director and the County have a perfect opportunity to provide outreach to assist individuals to help them understand what Conservatorship abuse is and how to report it.

R10.9 BUDGET: FUNDING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN (OPG):

Recommendation: The Committee believes that the County should dedicate funding for the OPG so they can better advocate for and service more of the needs of those senior conservatees. The BOS should actively advocate and support the efforts by the CAPAPGPC and California Association of Counties (CSAC) to advocate for dedicated state funding for all OPG offices within the state.

COMMENDATION:

The OPG has offered robust services to conservatee clients in the County for years. Our Committee commends the excellent work of the DMH's OPG for putting in the work to protect the County's conservatees. The OPG has had a long history of serving the County and have the data to prove its involvement. In addition, the OPG has been dedicated to put forth reforms and implement changes to the department that protect its conservatees.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

California Penal Code section 933 (c), 933.05(a) and 933.05(b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022:

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz, Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Responses are required from:

R10.1, R10.2, R10.3, R10.4, R10.5, R10.8, R10.9	Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
R10.1, R10.2, R10.3, R10.4, R10.5, R10.8, R10.9	Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
R10.2, R10.3, R10.4, R10.6	Los Angeles City Department of Aging
R10.2, R10.3, R10.4, R10.5	Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services
R10.1, R10.2, R10.3, R10.9	Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
R10.1, R10.2, R10.3, R10.4, R10.5, R10.9	Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Office of the Public Guardian
R10.2, R10.3, R10.4, R10.8	Los Angeles Workforce Development, Aging and Community Service
R10.6	Office of the Mayor-Los Angeles
R10.2, R10.3, R10.4, R10.7	Purposeful Aging

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Maureen Smith (Chair)

Hassan Ferasati

Tiglath Gaete

Elaine Killings-Jankins

Thomas Rasmussen

Bernadette Trigo

WHO'S WATCHING THE FIRE HOUSE?



2021 – 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY

ACRONYMS	DEFINITIONS
LAFD	Los Angeles Fire Department
CGJ	Civil Grand Jury
OT	Overtime
FCA	Firefighters Candidate Assessment
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
CAP	Candidate Assessment Program

WHO'S WATCHING THE FIRE HOUSE?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Los Angeles (City) Fire Department (LAFD) has undergone a litany of criticisms from the media as well as the City auditors.¹ The 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) focused on nepotism and overtime (OT) practices.

California Penal Code section 925a grants the CGJ the ability to investigate and report upon the operations of any incorporated city located in the County.²

The CGJ sought to ascertain if evidence of widespread nepotism exists in LAFD's hiring process for new recruits. In addition, the CGJ reviewed LAFD's OT policy and practices to determine if abuse is prevalent. This is an attempt to follow up on previous allegations and what has been done to help close the gap between past nepotism and OT abuse as compared to the current practices.

Nepotism refers to a form of unfair workplace procedures, when family members or friends of the boss or manager are hired not purely for their skills, experience or knowledge.³

The recruitment process for new hires is a long and lengthy process starting with the City Personnel Department and continuing through the Drill Tower training regimen. The CGJ will explore at which point during the hiring process nepotism is most likely to occur.

OT has been an area where the LAFD has been cited by an audit for not properly managing their OT process. Many employees are being paid for significant OT hours beyond their base pay hours.⁴ The CGJ will discuss the process to determine if OT is properly managed and all personnel have equal and fair access to OT.

After delving into LAFD's OT process, we found a definite and critical need for OT oversight. The multitude of sources that we came into contact with provided conflicting facts. Therefore, it is reasonable to suggest that there is a dire need for oversight.

The ultimate goal of the CGJ is to make recommendations to help reduce unwarranted OT hours, avoid nepotism wherever possible, and create a more favorable public perception of the LAFD.

¹ See LAFD gets new anti-nepotism rules in wake of hiring controversy - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com); The L.A. Fire Department Rolls Out New Nepotism Protocols - Bloomberg; LAFD Employees Earned More Than \$190 Million in Overtime Last Fiscal Year – NBC Los Angeles

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=925a&lawCode=PEN

³ <https://roubler.com/au/resources/blog/nepotism-in-the-workplace/#:~:text=Nepotism%20refers%20to%20a%20form%20of%20unfair%20workplace,is%20unable%20to%20successfully%20perform%20in%20the%20role.>

⁴ <http://lacontroller.org/press-releases/lafd-overtime>

BACKGROUND

The City Controller conducted an audit in 2021 focusing on allegations of OT abuse by LAFD.⁵ The Los Angeles Times did a much earlier investigation that focused on conflict of interest and nepotism in the hiring process.⁶

The CGJ conducted interviews with approximately nine different sections within the LAFD and gathered a number of reports to aid in this investigation. During these interviews, the CGJ heard firsthand from some personnel that nepotism and OT abuse still exist and that measures put in place have not gone far enough to help eradicate these practices.

The LAFD has made some strides in an effort to curtail nepotism and OT abuse. According to information obtained by the CGJ through an interview with an LAFD employee, we learned that an on-line system was implemented to manage and document the OT hours of staff. However, we were also informed that the system does not address the oversight and monitoring of OT hours logged. Another effort underway to reduce OT abuse was to reduce the number of recalls done in a year. A recall is a mandatory request of the rank and file who are ready to leave work from their regular shift to remain on the job due to understaffing at a fire station. This occurs due to vacancies caused by illnesses, vacations, and unforeseen absence by members in the next shift. In an interview conducted by the CGJ, we were informed, there were only 39 days in 2021 that required recalls, which is a substantial reduction from previous years.

LAFD personnel informed the CGJ that staffing shortages exist on a regular basis and they are working diligently to reduce the shortage to an acceptable level. An acceptable level of shortages at any one time is 150 to 250 firefighter positions. In an interview with LAFD officials, despite the fact that the Drill Tower is currently budgeted for three (3) training sessions comprising a fourteen (14) week, ten (10) hour workday, the LAFD would ideally like five (5) sessions to enhance the workforce. Each session at the Drill Tower trains approximately sixty (60) candidates per class with an 80% graduation rate. Even with this schedule of training sessions, shortages still exist.

The CGJ has no intentions of discrediting LAFD for what has already been done, rather it conducted this investigation to see if our efforts can add value to LAFD's operation.

⁵ Overtime-Oversight-LAFD-Report.pdf (lacontroller.org)

⁶ <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-lafd-nepotism-firefighter-hiring-rules-20140805-story.html>

METHODOLOGY

The CGJ's primary sources of information for this investigation were interviews, reports and internet research. The goal was to identify issues and concerns specifically related to nepotism and OT abuse and make recommendations wherever the CGJ deemed necessary.

Interviews were conducted with members of the City Personnel Department and LAFD, as well as other entities and employee organizations, which included:

- LAFD Recruit Services Section
- City Controller's Office
- LAFD Los Bomberos Organization
- LAFD Stentorians Organization
- LAFD Women in the Fire Services Organization
- LAFD Administration Operations Division
- United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 IAFF
- LAFD Planning Section
- Drill Tower (Panorama City site visit)

The following reports were reviewed and analyzed to assist in the investigation:

- City Controller's Office report dated August 25, 2021, titled "Overtime Oversight: LAFD's COVID-19 Labor Costs"⁷
- LAFD Data reports queried by employee name by division (FY 2018 and FY 2019)
- LAFD Data reports queried by employee last name that included employee ID, employee name, salary hours, regular salary, OT hours, OT amount, other hours, other amounts, total paid hours (regular plus OT) total paid amounts (regular plus OT) for FY 2021
- LAFD Data reports queried by last name that included salary, overtime, other pay and benefits (FY 2018 and FY 2019)
- The 2014 Rand Corporation report titled "Recommendations for Improving the Recruiting and Hiring of Los Angeles Firefighters"⁸
- City Controller's Office RE: On the Clock: Review of City Employee Overtime report dated November 6, 2019⁹

⁷ Overtime-Oversight-LAFD-Report.pdf (lacontroller.org)

⁸ https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR687.html

⁹ <https://lacontroller.org/audits-and-reports/overtime/>

DISCUSSION

The LAFD has been around for over a century and is one of the largest fire departments in the country. Approximately 106 fire stations exist (exhibit 1) in the City manned by 3,831 staff members as indicated on page 167 of the City's Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21.¹⁰ Management of such a large operation has proven to be quite challenging.

Through numerous interviews with LAFD and City personnel, the hiring process and overtime practices were explained to the CGJ in detail. The CGJ investigated areas where nepotism and OT abuse could exist. Below we provide a detailed discussion of our investigation on each of these topics.

1. Overtime

Overtime was the first area of concern and based on our interviews, we learned that OT is managed through an online system. Firefighters can sign up online to work OT. OT is assigned based on a numbering system. Staff with low numbers receive priority over staff with high numbers. Low numbers represent less OT worked as compared to high numbers indicating more OT hours worked. The CGJ found no indication that hours logged for OT were being reviewed for accuracy and to make sure OT hours were not being logged until the staff had completed their regular shift. There is no limit on the number of hours a staff can work OT.

Despite the numbering system for assigning OT hours described above, the CGJ's review of the data reports showed that some employees worked much more OT hours than others. The chart below illustrates that significant OT hours are paid to about 50% of the LAFD rank and file:

¹⁰ <https://lacontroller.org/budgets/2020-2021/>

FY 2021 BASE REGULAR SALARY HOURS	FY 2021 PAID OVERTIME HOURS	FY 2021 BASE REGULAR + PAID OVERTIME HOURS	FY 2021 TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES PAID OT
2912	1500-2499	4412-5411	894
2912	2500-3499	5412-6411	448
2912	3500-4499	6412-7411	169
2912	4500-5847	7412-8759	60
2912	5848+	8760+*	30
			1601

***8760 hours equal 24 hours per day x 365 days per year**

The table depicts an excessive use of OT hours by many members of the rank and file. Reducing OT hours may help eliminate the staff vacancies that directly affect the use of OT, as explained more fully below. Some employees not only doubled their existing regular salary, but in many instances, their salaries were tripled and quadrupled. These staggering numbers seem to reflect a deficiency in the oversight and control of the logged OT hours and the need to further evaluate LAFD's OT policy. It is important to question whether the OT earnings directly affect the LAFD pension fund and the pocketbooks of the citizens of City to the benefit of the rank and file. The CGJ is not aware whether the City Controller's Office has conducted such analysis.

The reduction of OT will create the opportunity to hire additional staff that will positively impact the annual LAFD budget and operations. Although the LAFD will likely never be 100% fully staffed, it is possible to increase staffing levels by eliminating the bulk of OT being paid to this group of employees. According to the CGJ's data query of the LAFD database for FY2021, \$243,550,112 was spent in OT. Assuming the OT was reduced by 50% (\$121,775,056), and the average salary with fringe benefits (\$124,026)¹¹ is taken into consideration from the published application for 2022,¹² then LAFD could indeed hire an additional 981 new members into the rank and file (981 x \$124,026 = \$121,669,506). These additional full-time employees would

¹¹ <https://www.lacity.org/jobs/find-job-city/current-openings/firefighter-2112-application-period-begins-february-2-2022>; the average salary with fringe benefits was calculate by taking the median of the published salary range and adding 35% for fringe benefits.

¹² *ibid*

definitely help to reduce OT, lighten the existing workload on the members who may not have sufficient time in the day to accomplish their tasks,¹³ reduce job related injury for those working extended hours, satisfy their work-life balance, and improve their mental health.

The City's fiscal year budget over the past three (3) years shows that OT pay amounted to 32% of LAFD's total payroll costs.¹⁴ We analyzed the last three (3) years due to the expected anomaly in the year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic because OT was needed for various purposes, including to staff testing sites throughout the City.

During our investigation, it was brought to our attention that constant staffing is a requirement at all fire stations. One LAFD personnel we interviewed informed us that abuse of OT is definitely attributable to the practice of constant staffing. According to this individual, "constant staffing" is defined as the necessity to staff the fire apparatus 24 hours per day for emergency situations such as earthquakes and wildfires that may occur at any time. Out of the 106 fire stations, LAFD personnel estimated that constant staffing occurs 97-98% of the time.

The LAFD staff work a rotating 24 hour shift pattern and rotate throughout a calendar month for a total 10 day work schedule. The scheduling framework was designed to provide coverage flexibility through the use of OT during periods of planned and unplanned absences. These working hours will inevitably create vacancies in some of the stations resulting in the need for OT. Overtime pay has become excessive as illustrated in the above table even though the Fire Chief is under pressure to reduce OT hours.

When comparing this occupation to other 24 hour emergency response operations such as police departments, hospitals and ambulances, their staffing can be tiered to cover shifts with a 10 or 12 hour work day. Why not the LAFD? The labor union's response to this question is absolutely not; a 24 hour shift has always been the norm and changing the status quo would never fly with the rank and file. Additionally, to institute this change, we were informed that the labor agreement would have to be modified by a vote of its members as this is a meet and confer issue.

We learned through an interview with LAFD staff that while the LAFD is responsible to respond to not only structural fires and disastrous events such as earthquakes and wildfires, the main workload is responding to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls. It is time to take a look at the LAFD operation and its mission. As of September 30, 2020, firefighters logged 8,283 fires of all types within City limits, a 45% increase over the 5,695 fires recorded in the same nine month period in 2019, according to data obtained from the National Fire Incident Reporting System.¹⁵ While we would have liked to have the complete picture of the LAFD workload, we were unable to collect the data we requested in order to substantiate the amount of fires and EMS calls. This information would allow for a more comprehensive analysis of LAFD's operations, including the use of constant staffing, which appears to contribute to the excessive use of OT hours.

¹³ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-11-12/fire-department-report-los-angeles-culture>

¹⁴ <https://lacontroller.org/data-stories-and-maps/lafd-overtime-covid-dashboard/>

¹⁵ LAFD Reports a Staggering Rise in the Number of Fires, Outpacing Any Year in Recent Memory – NBC Los Angeles

2. Nepotism

The second issue investigated by the CGJ was nepotism. We learned that nepotism is more likely to occur in the hiring process. LAFA's hiring practices has been a subject of previous concern. In 2014, City Mayor Eric Garcetti hired an outside consultant, The Rand Corporation, to conduct a study to review the hiring process for LAFD applicants. At that time, all hiring was halted.¹⁶ The Rand Report¹⁷ divulged recommendations which have since been implemented by the City. Even though many measures have been put in place since the publication of the 2014 Rand Report, some staff members of the LAFD still believe areas exist that favor relatives of existing LAFD employees.

The hiring process for new recruits starts with the City Personnel Department, which is an independent body from the LAFD and is responsible for screening new candidates. A pool of eligible candidates ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 recruits are entered into the personnel system for screening. New applicants must pass the Firefighters Candidate Assessment (FCA) exam before even being considered for an oral interview.¹⁸

The hiring application does not ask the applicant if they are related to any existing LAFD personnel.¹⁹ Why? If applicants provided that information at the beginning of the application process, then LAFD panelists who are related to the applicant may be required to recuse themselves from the process, which may interfere with the hiring of these individuals. The answer is simple, Personnel should require outside agencies to sit on the initial oral interview to eliminate the perceived preferential treatment.

Oral interviews for new recruits are conducted by an interview panel made up of a currently employed City Fire Captain and one City Personnel Department proctor. One of the LAFD staff we interviewed revealed that this process is flawed because the panel is not an independent entity and is not anonymous leaving open the possibility of favoritism toward applicants who have family members related to or have a close relationship with LAFD staff. The City Personnel Department informed the CGJ that due to staff shortages, a review of recorded interviews for future reference were rarely used except under protest. A periodic review of these interviews can be useful to determine if questions being asked are the same for all recruits and not a selective few.

The behavior based oral interview is weighted 100% of the examination with a minimum passing score of 70. This score will determine the candidate's rank on the eligible list, which is valid for one year from the date of the interview.²⁰ Based on a candidate's ranking in the eligible list and the hiring needs of the LAFD, candidates with the highest score will be selected for a pre-background appointment and the Candidate Advancement Program (CAP) fitness assessment.

¹⁶ Mayor Halts 'Fatally Flawed' LAFD Hiring Process, Vows Reform - CBS Los Angeles (cbsnews.com)

¹⁷ https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR687.html

¹⁸ https://lacityfirefighter.psiexams.com/pdf/City_of_Los_Angeles_CIB_2022.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.lacity.org/jobs/find-job-city/current-openings/firefighter-2112-application-period-begins-february-2-2022>

²⁰ <https://joinlafd.org/index.cfm?section=hiringprocess>

The LAFD Command Staff that we interviewed told us that candidates scoring 95% or above on the oral interview are moved through the process. The CGJ was told that anyone scoring less than 95% was not LAFD material and are rejected, although this was disputed by other interviewees. The rationale behind this logic was based on the fact that some recruits do not take advantage of the many resources made available to aid in obtaining higher test scores.

There was no indication that scores from the FCA and oral interview examinations were being blended. Blending scores could possibly eliminate the perception of nepotism and would allow those who do well on the written exams but not as well on the oral interview to stand a better chance of moving through the hiring process. It would also make the selection process less subjective and even out the advantages between candidates who potentially have been coached by family members and are privileged enough to have a working knowledge of the LAFD's operations.

The City's Personnel Department sends all applicants who scored 90-95% or above on the oral interview to the LAFD Recruitment Section, whereupon applicants considered qualified to move on to the next stage by LAFD will receive a pre-background interview and fitness assessment. Candidates must possess a valid Emergency Medical Technician certificate to be considered as a prospective hire.

We were informed by an LAFD official that once the applicant moves to the background investigation phase of the selection process, he/she will complete a questionnaire with one hundred (100) questions and here is when they are asked if they are related to anyone in the LAFD. From here, candidates who are free and clear of any kind of convictions and demonstrates good moral character will be moved through the hiring process. Applicants who fail to meet the screened background test will be dropped from the process. After the field investigation, candidates are sent to the LAFD Recruitment Officer. The recruitment officer will review candidate's qualifications which may include a department interview. Approximately 10 to 20 candidates per week are sent to the Fire Chief for further evaluation where approximately 95% of those applicants are actually given a conditional job offer. The identity of these candidates is not redacted. According to an interview with LAFD personnel, the total annual number of new hires is approximately 200 to 240.

The final step in the firefighter hiring process, which can take months to complete, is participation in the Drill Tower Training Center. At least 60 candidates from each of the three Drill Tower Training Center sessions successfully complete the training.²¹ All candidates are guaranteed a position within the LAFD as long as they graduate through the Drill Tower Training Center. We were told that about 80% of the candidates graduate the academy during their first stint at the Drill Tower Training Center. The others may be allowed to defer to another training course, otherwise the candidate fails and decides to resign from their position. If this is the case, this opens the opportunity for the Personnel Department to draw more names from the stratified random sampling.

²¹ <https://www.lacity.org/jobs/find-job-city/current-openings/firefighter-2112-application-period-begins-february-2-2022>

During our interviews with LAFD members, we learned that recruits who come from a firefighter family may be considered much better candidates and preferred over other recruits by some individuals involved in the hiring process. This process may cause fully qualified candidates to be potentially excluded in order to favor individuals with family ties.

We are aware that hiring family members of current LAFD employees is not illegal nor considered a conflict of interest. However, concerns arise if qualified candidates are overlooked or rejected to accommodate a candidate that has family or personal ties to someone working at LAFD. It becomes a practice of bias to maintain the culture of the LAFD. According to recent data reviewed by the CGJ, 44% of the LAFD workforce share the same last name with at least one other LAFD employee.

The City Department of Personnel was looking into expanding their background check to include the use of a polygraph test, a review of the candidate's social media like Facebook, and the creation of a candidate self-evaluation test. Expansion of background checks will better evaluate the candidates' suitability.

FINDINGS

LAFD has made attempts to address nepotism in the hiring process. One attempt was the implementation by an internal LAFD Conflict of Interest Protocol Policy.

Other findings based on interviews were:

- F 11.1 - Further review into the initial application process by the City Personnel Department can better determine suitability of candidates.
- F 11.2 – The fire personnel work schedule, consisting of a 24 hour shift, 9-10 days on in a calendar month, creates staff shortages in all of the fire stations, which necessitates the need for OT.
- F 11.3 - Candidates with test scores of 90% or below on the oral interview are automatically rejected from the hiring process.
- F 11.4 - Due to City Personnel Department staff shortages, recorded interviews are heard only when an applicant files a protest.
- F 11.5 - The Oral Interview panel is made up of a current City Fire Captain and one Personnel Department proctor who are not anonymous. This could open the door for inappropriate communication between fire personnel and the interview panelist. This creates the opportunity for cronyism and/or nepotism.
- F 11.6 - There is not a valid approval process that monitors the logging of OT hours.
- F 11.7 - Applicants reveal their relationship with existing LAFD personnel early in the hiring process but after the initial application.

- F 11.8 - Applications are being submitted to the Fire Chief for final potential job offers without redacting the identity of candidates who are related to current rank and file employees.
- F 11.9 – There exists excessive OT expenditures in the LAFD sworn rank and file workforce.
- F 11.10 – Current background checks conducted by LAFD can be improved by including a review of the candidate's social media, self-evaluation or polygraph tests.
- F.11.11 – It is unknown whether the City Controller has conducted any analysis regarding the impact of OT hours on the LAFD pension fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R11.1 - Strengthen background checks by adding steps such as social media, self-evaluation and polygraph test.
- R 11.2 - Adjust working hours to a ten or twelve hour workday shifts to create more support to reduce the use of OT.
- R 11.3 - Blend FCA and oral examination scores.
- R11.4 - Review recorded interviews periodically to make sure interview questions are consistent among all candidates.
- R 11.5 - Replace a current employed LA Fire Captain with an external independent and experienced fire panelist from another jurisdiction to conduct oral interviews.
- R11.6 - Establish an oversight procedure to closely monitor the reporting of employee OT hours logged to their timesheets.
- R11.7 - Initial application should include a question asking if the applicant is related to any current LAFD personnel.
- R 11.8 - All applications referred to the Fire Chief should have the names of the candidates redacted for non-preferential treatment.
- R 11.9 – The City Controller’s Office should complete an actuarial of LAFD sworn employees to determine its affect to the LAFD pension fund.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a) and 933.05(b) require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Such responses shall be made no later than ninety (90) days after the Civil Grand Jury publishes its report to the public.

All responses to the recommendations of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury must be submitted on or before Friday, September 30, 2022 to:

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RESPONDING AGENCY	RECOMMENDATIONS
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES CITY	R 11.1, 11.6, 11.9
CITY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT	R 11.2, 11.6, 11.8, 11.9
LOS ANGELES CITY PERSONNEL	R 11.1, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.7
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT	R 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9
LOS ANGELES CITY CONTROLLER	R 11.9

Committee Members:

Vivian M. Ozuna, Chair

Elzie H. Whitlow

Los Angeles Fire Department Stations by Station Number
 Battalion and Division HQ in **BOLD**

Sta	Telephone	Address	Community	Map	Btn	Div	Remarks
	213-485-5971		Phone number for any LAFD Fire Station				
1	213-485-6201	2230 Pasadena Av	Lincoln Heights	594J7	7	1	
2	213-485-6202	1962 E Cesar Chavez Av	Boyle Heights	635A4	7	1	Btn 7 HQ
3	213-485-6203	108 N Fremont Av	Civic Center / Bunker Hill	634F3	1	1	Div 1 HQ
4	213-485-6204	450 East Temple St	China Town / Olvera Street	634G4	1	1	
5	213-485-6205	8900 S Emerson Av	Westchester / LAX Area	702F3	4	2	Btn 4 HQ
6	213-485-6206	326 N Virgil Av	Angeleno Heights	594B7	11	1	Btn 11 HQ
7	213-485-5971	14123 Nordhoff St	Arleta	502B7	12	3	
8	818-756-8668	11351 Tampa Av	Porter Ranch	500F1	15	3	
9	213-485-6209	430 E 7th St	Central City	634F5	1	1	Btn 1 HQ
10	213-485-6210	1335 S Olive St	Convention Center Area	634D6	1	1	
11	213-485-6211	1819 W 7th St	Westlake Park	634C3	11	1	
12	213-485-6212	5921 N Figueroa St	Highland Park	595D2	2	1	
13	213-485-6213	2401 W Pico	Koreatown / Pico Heights	634A4	11	1	
14	213-485-6214	3401 S Central Av	Newton	674E2	3	2	
15	213-485-6215	915 W Jefferson Bl	USC University Village	634B7	3	2	
16	213-485-6216	2011 N. Eastern Bl	South El Sereno	635E2	7	1	
17	213-485-6217	1601 S. Santa Fe Av	Industrial Eastside	634H7	1	1	
18	818-756-8618	12050 Balboa Bl	Granada Hills	481D6	15	3	
19	310-575-8519	12229 Sunset Bl	Brentwood	631G3	9	1	
20	213-485-6220	2144 Sunset Bl	Echo Park	594D7	11	1	
21	213-485-6221	1192 East 51st St	South Los Angeles	674E4	3	2	
23	310-575-8523	17281 Sunset Bl	Palisades Highlands	630G6	9	1	
24	818-756-8624	9411 Wentworth St	Shadow Hills / Sunland	503D3	12	3	
25	213-485-6225	2927 Whittier Bl	South Boyle Heights	635B6	7	1	
26	213-485-6226	2009 S. Western Av	West Adams	633H6	3	2	
27	213-485-6227	1327 N Cole Av	Hollywood	593F5	5	1	Btn 5 HQ
28	818-756-9728	11641 Corbin Av	Porter Ranch	500E1	15	3	Btn 15 HQ
29	213-485-6229	4029 W Wilshire Bl	Hancock Park	633G2	11	1	
33	213-485-6233	6406 S Main St	South Central	674C6	13	2	Div 2 HQ
34	213-485-6234	3661 7th Av	Crenshaw	673F1	3	2	
35	213-485-6235	1601 N Hillhurst Av	Los Feliz	594A4	5	1	
36	213-485-5971	1005 N Gaffey St	North San Pedro	824B5	6	6	
37	310-575-8537	1090 Veteran Av	Westwood	632A3	9	1	Btn 9 HQ
38	310-548-7538	124 E "I" St	Wilmington	794E6	6	2	
39	818-756-8639	14415 Sylvan St	Van Nuys	532A7	10	3	Btn 10 HQ
40	310-548-7540	330 Ferry St	Terminal Island	824E4	6	2	
41	213-485-6241	1439 N Gardner St	Hollywood (Hills & Northwest)	593C5	5	1	
42	213-485-6242	2021 Colorado Bl	Eagle Rock	565A6	2	1	
43	310-840-2143	3690 Motor Av	Palms	672F1	18	2	
44	213-485-6244	1410 Cypress Av	Cypress Park	594H4	2	1	
46	213-485-6246	4370 S Hoover St	Coliseum Area	674B3	3	2	Btn 3 HQ
47	213-485-6247	4575 Huntington Dr So	El Sereno	595D6	7	1	
48	310-548-7548	1601 S Grand Av	San Pedro	824B6	6	2	
49	310-548-7549	400 Yacht St, Berth 194	East Harbor Basin	824F1	6	2	Btn 6 HQ
50	213-485-6250	3036 Fletcher Dr	Glassell Park / Atwater Village	594F2	2	1	
51	213-485-6251	10435 Sepulveda Bl	LAX / Terminal Area	702G5	4	2	
52	213-485-6252	4957 Melrose Av	Hollywood (Southeast)	593H6	5	1	
55	213-485-6255	4455 York Bl	Eagle Rock	594J1	2	1	Btn 2 HQ
56	213-485-6256	2759 Rowena Av	Silver Lake	594D3	2	1	
57	213-485-6257	7800 S Vermont Av	South Central	704A1	13	2	Btn 13 HQ
58	213-485-6258	1556 S Robertson Bl	Rancho Park	632J4	18	2	
59	310-575-8559	11505 Olympic Bl	West Los Angeles	632B6	9	1	
60	818-756-8660	5320 Tujunga Av	North Hollywood	562J2	14	3	Btn 14 HQ

Los Angeles Fire Department Stations by Station Number
 Battalion and Division HQ in BOLD

Sta	Telephone	Address	Community	Map	Btn	Div	Remarks
61	213-485-6261	5821 W 3rd St	Fairfax	633D1	18	2	
62	310-575-8562	11970 Venice Ave	Mar Vista	672C3	4	2	
63	310-575-8563	1930 Shell Av	Venice	671J5	4	2	
64	213-485-6264	10811 South Main St	South Los Angeles	704C5	13	2	
65	213-485-6265	1801 E Century Bl	Watts	704G4	13	2	
66	213-485-6266	1909 W Slauson Bl	South LA / Hyde Park	673H5	13	2	
67	213-485-5971	5451 Playa Vista Dr	Playa Vista	702D1			
68	213-485-6268	5023 Washington Bl	Mid-City	633D5	18	2	Btn 18 HQ
69	310-575-8569	15045 Sunset Bl	Pacific Palisades	631B5	9	1	
70	818-756-7670	9861 Reseda Bl	Northridge	500H5	15	3	
71	310-575-8571	107 S Beverly Glen Bl	Bel Air / Holmby Hills	592C7	9	1	
72	818-988-8672	6811 De Soto Av	Canoga Park	530C6	17	3	Btn 17 HQ
73	818-756-8673	7419 Reseda Bl	Reseda	530J4	17	3	
74	818-756-8674	7777 Foothill Bl	Tujunga / Sunland	503H3	12	3	
75	818-757-8675	15345 San Fernando Mission	Mission Hills	501G2	12	3	
76	213-485-6276	3111 N Cahuenga Bl	Cahuenga Pass	593D1	5	1	
77	818-756-8677	9224 Sunland Bl	Sun Valley	503A6	12	3	
78	818-756-8678	4101 Whitsett Ave	Studio City	562F5	14	3	
79	310-548-7579	18030 S Vermont Av	Harbor Gateway	764B1	13	2	
80	213-485-6280	6911 World Way West	LAX / Crash Rescue	702E5	4	2	
81	818-756-8681	14355 Arminta St	Panorama City	532A3	12	3	
82	213-485-8682	1800 N Bronson Av	Hollywood (Hills & Northeast)	593G4	5	1	
83	818-756-8683	4960 Balboa Bl	Encino	561D3	10	3	
84	818-756-8684	21050 Burbank Bl	Woodland Hills	560A2	17	3	
85	310-548-7585	1331 W 253rd St	Harbor City	794A4	6	2	
86	818-756-8668	4305 Vineland Av	Toluca Lake	563A5	14	3	
87	818-756-8687	10241 Balboa Bl	Granada Hills	501C4	15	3	
88	818-756-8688	5101 N Sepulveda Bl	Sherman Oaks	561H3	10	3	Div 3 HQ
89	818-756-8689	7063 Laurel Canyon Bl	North Hollywood	532G5	14	3	
90	818-756-8690	7921 Woodley Av	Van Nuys Airport - East	531F3	10	3	
91	818-756-8691	14430 Polk St	Sylmar	482A4	12	3	
92	310-840-2192	10556 W Pico Bl	Century City	632D5	18	2	
93	818-756-8693	19059 Ventura Bl	Tarzana	560G2	17	3	
94	213-485-6294	4470 Coliseum St	Crenshaw District	702D2	18	2	
95	213-485-6295	10010 International Rd	LAX Area / Hotel Row	702J5	4	2	
96	818-756-8696	21800 Marilla St	Chatsworth	500A5	15	3	
97	818-756-8697	8021 Mulholland Dr	Laurel Canyon / Mulholland	592J1	14	3	
98	818-756-8698	13035 Van Nuys Bl	Pacoima	502D2	12	3	Btn 12 HQ
99	818-756-8699	14145 Mulholland Dr	Beverly Glen	562B7	10	3	
100	818-756-8600	6751 Louise Av	West Van Nuys	531C6	17	3	
101	310-548-7501	1414 25th St	San Pedro South Shores	823J7	6	2	
102	818-756-8602	13200 Burbank Bl	Valley Glen	562D2	14	3	
103	818-756-8603	18143 Parthenia St	Northridge	531A1	15	3	
104	818-756-8604	8349 Winnetka Av	Winnetka	530E2	15	3	
105	818-756-8605	6345 Fallbrook Av	Woodland Hills	529H7	17	3	
106	818-756-8606	23004 Roscoe Bl	West Hills	529G2	17	3	
107	818-756-8607	20225 Devonshire St	Chatsworth	500D4	15	3	
108	818-756-8608	12520 Mulholland Dr	Franklin Canyon	592F1	14	3	
109	818-756-8609	16500 Mulholland Dr	Encino Hills	561E7	10	3	
110	310-548-7545	2945 Miner St, Berth 44-A	Fort MacArthur Area	854D1	6	2	
111	310-548-7541	954 S Seaside Av, Berth 260	Fish Harbor	824D5	6	2	
112	310-548-7542	444 S Harbor Bl, Berth 86	Ports O' Call	824C5	6	2	
114	818-756-8635	16617 Arminta St	Air Ops / Crash Rescue	531D3	10	3	V N Airport

Chart by AC6VV Revised 10/12/2010 K6JGZ

107-

Revised September 12, 2010

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS



2021 – 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

AUDIT



2021 – 2022 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Under the authority of the State of California Penal Code Sections 925, 925a, 933.1 and 933.5, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) investigates the fiscal and operational performance of Los Angeles County Departments, Local and City government, School Districts and Special Districts. The Audit Committee is empowered to engage outside consulting firms who can assist the Civil Grand Jury investigative committees.

The audit committee's function is to find outside auditing firms that would be able to respond in a timely manner to assist the Civil Grand Jury investigations by developing the scope of work, submitting contractual agreements to the County Counsel for approval and finalizing the agreements and approving payment of the audit work with the approval of the Civil Grand Jury.

We did remain vigilant by staying in communication with the Civil Grand Jury members to determine any need for interviewing and hiring an outside auditing firm. During this term, no contracts were awarded.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Hassan Ferasati	Chair
Frank Chavez	Member
Thomas Rasmussen	Member
Maureen Smith	Member

CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS



2021 – 2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

COMPLAINTS

Objective

Each Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury establishes a Citizen's Complaint Committee (CCC). The 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (Jury) established a CCC in accordance with State law, and the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury Manual.

The mission of the CCC is to access and evaluate each Citizen's Complaint. Any citizen can submit a complaint to the Jury pertaining to any subject that applies to City and County of Los Angeles activities, agencies, employees, or officials. The Citizen Complaint submittal process is as follows:

- A person may access the form, complete it and submit via the Jury website: www.lacourt.org/forms/pdf/CitizensComplaint.pdf

Also, the form can be downloaded, printed, typed, or hand written.

- Reference Appendix 1, "Confidential Citizen Complaint Form"
- Mail the completed "Confidential Citizen Complaint Form" to:

Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury
222 South Hill Street, 6th Floor, Suite 670
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210
www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us

NOTE: If assistance is needed in completing the Citizen Complaint form: Los Angeles County residents can dial 211 and Los Angeles City residents can dial 311 for additional help.

- Each complaint is received by the Jury Administrative Staff. It is logged into the system and assigned a unique file number. An acknowledgement letter is sent to the complainant and the complaint is given to the CCC Chair.

The complaint review process is as follows:

- The CCC reviews each complaint
- Each complaint is assigned to a specific CCC Member and evaluated in accordance with the "Review, Analysis, and Recommendations Worksheet," (see Page 2)
- The CCC Member presents their findings to the Committee
- When a complaint is determined by the CCC as requiring additional information, an investigation by the CCC is conducted to complete the assessment. If the CCC determines that the complaint requires an investigation by the Jury, the CCC presents the complaint investigations to the Jury for consideration.
- A response form letter is completed and signed by the CCC Chair and Jury Foreperson. All files are sealed and placed in storage for five years. A court order is required to obtain release of information on a complaint.

2021—2022 CIVIL GRAND JURY CITIZENS COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

Review, Analysis, and Recommendations Worksheet

One hundred and six complaints were processed and divided into the following categories:

1	Civil Grand Jury does not have jurisdiction over the subject matter	31
2	Complaint reviewed. No further action to be taken	19
3	Issues described in the Complaint require legal advice which the Civil Grand Jury is not empowered to provide	11
4	Complaint failed to contain sufficient facts, or enough relevant information, in order for the Civil Grand Jury to adequately consider the Complaint	23
5	This Complaint matter appears to be pending before, or to be under, the jurisdiction of the Court or other judicial body	6
6	Facts stated in the Complaint are significantly deficient—Civil Grand Jury is unable to determine the exact nature of the Complaint	15
7	Complaint requires a Personalized Response	0
8	Complaint forwarded to the District Attorney's Office	0
9	Complaint Folder issued in Error	1
	TOTAL	106

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Wilridge, Chair
London Jones, Co-Chair
James R. Lamb
Scott Larson
Gertie Moncrief
Thomas Rasmussen
Judy Alvarez-Rendon

APPENDIX	
Appendix 1	"Confidential Citizen Complaint Form"
Appendix 2	"Complaint Guidelines"

Complaint Guidelines

Communications from the public can provide valuable information to the Civil Grand Jury. Any private citizen, government employee, or officer may submit a completed complaint form to request that the Civil Grand Jury conduct an investigation. This complaint must be in writing and is treated as confidential. Prior to submitting the Complaint Form to the Grand Jury office, please retain a copy for your records if needed. Receipt of all complaints will be acknowledged. Exhibits or supporting documents attached to the complaint become property of the Grand Jury and will not be returned.

If the Civil Grand Jury determines that a matter is within the legally permissible scope of its investigative powers and would warrant further inquiry, additional information may be requested. If a matter does not fall within the Civil Grand Jury's investigative authority, or the jury determines not to investigate a complaint, no action will be taken and there will be no further contact from the Civil Grand Jury.

The findings of any investigation conducted by the Civil Grand Jury can be communicated only in a formal final report published at the conclusion of the Grand Jury's term, June 30th.

Some complaints are not suitable for civil grand jury action. For example, the Civil Grand Jury has no jurisdiction over judicial performance, actions of the court, or cases that are pending in the courts. Grievances of this nature must be resolved through the established judicial appeal system. The Civil Grand Jury has no jurisdiction or authority to investigate federal or state agencies. Only causes of action occurring within the County of Los Angeles are eligible for review.

The jurisdiction of the Civil Grand Jury includes the following:

- Consideration of evidence of misconduct against public officials within Los Angeles County.
- Inquiry into the condition and management of the jails within the county.
- Investigation and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments or functions of the county including those operations, accounts, and records of any special legislative district or other district in the county created pursuant to state law for which the officers of the county are serving in their ex officio capacity as officers of the districts.
- Investigation of the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county.

If you need assistance completing this form: Los Angeles County residents dial 211, Los Angeles City residents dial 311. You will be directed to a local legal help center.

Mail complaint form to: Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury
222 South Hill Street, Suite 670
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CONTINUITY



LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY 2021-2022

Acronym	Definition
BOS	Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CGJC	Civil Grand Jury Committee
CPT -1 and -2	Certified Professional Training
CSO	Chief Sustainability Officer
DCFS	Department of Children and Family Services
DHS	Department of Health Services
DES	Department of Environmental Services
DKC	Dorothy Kirby Center
DMH	Department of Mental Health
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPH	Department of Public Health
DPO	Deputy Probation Officer
DPW	Department of Public Works
EMS	Environmental Medical Services
HFID	Health Facilities Inspection Division
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
INVEST	Innovative Employment Service Training
L.A.C.E.R.	Literacy, Arts, Culture, Education and Recreation
LAC / COUNTY	Los Angeles County
LACOE	Los Angeles County of Education
LAFD	Los Angeles City Fire Department
LAHSA	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
LA-HOP	Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal
LAHTTF	Los Angeles Human Trafficking Task Force
LAPD	Los Angeles Police Department

Acronym	Definition
LASD	Los Angeles Sheriff Department
MTA	Metropolitan Transit Authority
OC	Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray)
PC	Penal Code
PD	Police Department
PPD	Pomona Police Department
PROBATION	Los Angeles County Probation Department
ROC	Reentry and Opportunity Center
RR/CR	Registrar-Recorder/County Recorder
SCAG	Southern California Association of Government
SD	School District
SPC	Structural Performance Category
S.T.A.R.	Students Taking an Active Role
TOC	Transit Oriented Corridor
USD	Unified or United School District
VSAP	Voting Solutions for All People

CONTINUITY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Continuity Committee: The Bridge between prior and future Civil Grand Juries

The Continuity Committee serves as a statutory function of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ). The CGJ is required to review, organize and publish responses to the previous CGJ's recommendations in the prior year's CGJ Final Report.

The California Penal Code, section 933, subdivision (c) mandates responses to the Final Report, within 60 or 90 days, by the elected county officers and the public agencies, respectively, to whom recommendations were documented in that Final Report.

The 2019-2020 CGJ sent letters of request to the corresponding investigative city and county departments, city mayors, superintendent of schools in the county and respective California and County legislators related to their investigations. The 2021-2022 CGJ Continuity Committee then researched the responses, which are mandated by California Penal Code, section 933.05, and documented all responses and non-responses. All responses must include one of the following: the respondent agrees, or disagrees with the recommendation, or the recommendation has been implemented, has not been implemented, further analysis is needed or the recommendation will not be implemented.

Any contacted agency that did not respond to the 2019-2020 CGJ within the 60 or 90 day demand period was then sent a letter of inquiry and requested to respond within 14 days. Those agencies, that did not respond, before the 14 day period allowed are noted on the Continuity matrix as a **"No Response"**.

California Penal Code, section 933 subdivision (c) mandates each new Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) maintain at least a five-year record of previous CGJ final reports and a five-year record of responses from public agencies to the recommendations of prior reports, letters, correspondence and hard copies.

For future CGJ, the Continuity Committee recommends the following:

- Allow individual E-mail accounts for committee chairs to aid in investigations
- No more than one co-chair per committee
- Allow for reasonable consideration for jurors to take necessary time off for personal matters during jury hours without penalty
- Review jury stipend for possible increase to minimum wage or above
- Provide reasonable parking accommodations
- Jury Administration staff should abide by the CGJ training manual to conduct training during the **first** month of jury service. Jury attendance should be mandatory for this training. In addition, CGJ Alternates, that are added to the jury at a later date, should be thoroughly trained
- Foreperson and Foreperson Pro-Tem duties should be made clear to everyone on the jury
- One staff member of the CGJ should be here full-time, not part time, while training is being conducted. This will result in a complete and timely training session
- All volunteer jurors should be vaccinated for COVID-19 or tested frequently
- Purpose of jury service is to help improve county and city government operations. **Compensation should not be a primary reason to volunteer.** Active participation should be mandatory for all jurors
- Update Civil Grand Jury Manual section 890 from \$15 to \$60 per diem
- The CGJ should consider conducting jail inspections on one agreed day per week. This enables all members to be out of the office simultaneously. Additional days can be added if necessary
- Adopt IRS mileage reimbursement rate every January 1
- Potential jurors should be tested for computer competence, ability to do research and proficiency in conducting interviews by staff before final jurors are selected
- Current facility areas provided for jurors do not accommodate the need for adequate isolated and quiet meeting areas, phone conversations, or virtual meetings
- The temperature in the jury rooms should be kept at a comfortable level
- Add 'pop-up' blocker to computers
- Working virtually, due to Covid-19 (or emergencies) should be an option
- Consider conducting only a few very impactful investigations rather than multiple random investigations
- Consider waiting to make investigation choices until speakers and/or tours are underway; ideas for investigations may be inspired based on the speakers/tours
- Review “**Index to CGI Final Reports**” binder to view a list of past CGJ investigations covering the past 20+years
- Update Windows 2013 to current MS Office Suite

(Continued) Continuity Committee recommends the following:

- Keep general information binders to be shared with next year’s jury
- Purchase more recent California Penal Code books (latest one is 2017)
- Technical equipment (speakers, microphone, etc.) should be in working order and updated
- Jurors should wear ‘business’ attire for speakers visits, jail inspections and offsite tours
- Construct a second ‘emergency’ door in the Juror room (Code violation)
- The jury should consider doing more investigations about cities in Los Angeles County as well as special districts. (Most investigations have focused on county departments and unincorporated areas)
- The jury room has a sectioned off area in the main jury room which could be re-configured for Zoom or Conference calls
- When applying, CGJ applicants should be informed that the Jury term is for 1 year, however, there may be days when Jurors do not need to come into the office and they will not receive a stipend for that day
- Chairs and Co-chairs should offer positive feedback to each committee member on a regular basis
- Access to juror computers, which is vital to daily production, should be tailored to the needs of the jurors; not dictated by a punitive schedule
- The jury room seating should be configured so that all jurors are included as a group creating a more cohesive environment

Tables included in this Committee’s action include:

Special Note: In the “A DIET FOR LANDFILLS, Cutting Down on Food Waste” (Recommendation 1), the CGJ sent letters to 88 cities, 80 Superintendents, and various agencies. Included were 11 suggestions for Cities to respond to from the March 2018 Countywide Organics Waste Management Plan. The CGJ received a response of approximately 85% of those letters of inquiry sent to those agencies.

Table 1: Number of Recommendations and Responses sent for the last 5 years.

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021*
Number of Investigative Reports	17	19	8	14	13	*0
Number of Recommendations	137	347	77	141	152	*0
Number of Agencies Required to Respond	311	96	64	35	249	*0
Number of Non-Respondents	104	2	2	2	36	*0

***The 2020-2021 Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury was limited in their investigations with the advent of Covid-19.**

INVESTIGATION NUMBER	# OF AGENCIES CONTACTED	# OF RECOMMENDATIONS	TITLE OF REPORT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
1.0	A Diet for Landfills:											
1.0	88	4	Cities	9	8	74	4	58	11	73	48	42
1.0	80	2	Schools	1	-	6	2	14	17	28	9	15
1.0	13	14	County Departments	-	-	10	-	16	4	36	5	-

2.0	3	1	Bail Reform	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
3.0	5	10	Can Tech Eliminate Police Pursuits	-	-	2	-	3	-	4	12	4
14.0	10	8	Children Not for Sale	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	6	-
5.0	2	3	DNA for Those Forgotten	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
6.0	3	8	Free at Last	-	-	13	-	4	-	3	3	-
7.0	4	14	Hashtag: Our Kids Matter	-	-	11	1	2	1	5	3	-
8.0	7	13	Home Sweet Home	-	1	8	3	-	-	13	3	6
9.0	4	7	Hospitals on Ventilators	1	2	5	-	-	2	11	-	-
11.0	3	2	In Remembrance	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-
10.0	10	3	LA-HOP (Homeless Outreach)	-	-	2	-	4	2	3	1	-
12.0	6	12	Maybe I Voted	1	-	13	2	13	-	3	6	-
13.0	3	2	Nursing Homes	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-

CONTINUITY COMMITTEE

Michael D. Cieplik, Chair

Linda Cantley

Scott Larson

Elzie Whitlow

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
1.1	Each of the 88 cities, and the County's unincorporated areas, should establish a weekly food waste drop-off center. City and County officials can arrange for the food waste collected to be taken to a nearby facility for recycling, or can establish contracts with organizations such as the Los Angeles Community Garden council or landscaping companies for composting.	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		DPW								X	
		CSO								X	
		LA MAYOR					X				
1.2	County officials should initiate programs using composting technology (such as Compostology or Earth Cube) that can compact food waste and can be easily installed in offices and schools.	BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
		DPW					X				
		CSO					X				

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
1.3	County and city officials should create an incentive program for residents and businesses to separate food waste. This could be in the form of a gift card to a local grocery store/farmer's market, or a discount on a solid waste fee.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		DPW								X	
		CSO								X	
		LA MAYOR								X	
		88 CITIES	SEE WORKSHEET FOR 88 CITIES								
1.4	County offices should work with community colleges and workforce training programs, to increase classes about food waste recycling and careers in waste management that focus on diversion and conversion technologies.	BOS							X		
		CEO								X	
		DPW								X	
		CSO								X	

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
1.5	County officials should create a garden/compost program at Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic and investigate the option of a garden at some or all of the juvenile detention facilities.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		PROBATION								X	
		CSO								X	
		DPW								X	
1.6	The County Department of Public Health should develop a program to train its 300 food inspectors as 'ambassadors' when they are in the field. The inspectors need to be armed with the Food DROP brochure, as well as information about how that establishment can safely separate and recycle food waste. (This recommendation is also for Long Beach and Pasadena, which have their own Public Health departments.)	BOS			X						
		CEO			X						
		CSO			X						
		COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH			X						
		DEPT ENV SVCS			X						
		LONG BEACH DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH			X						
		PASADENA PUBLIC HEALTH			X						

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
1.7	The County Department of Public Health should take the lead in creating a food waste education component as part of its permit process required for all outdoor public events that will be serving food.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		CSO							X		
		PUBLIC HEALTH							X		
		LONG BEACH DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH			X						
		PASADENA PUBLIC HEALTH			X						
		DEPT ENV SVCS					X				
		DPW					X				

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE	
1.8	County officials should modify contracts with food vendor companies that are inside County facilities, such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Arboretum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and cafeterias located at County hospitals, to include food waste separation and recycling.	BOS							X			
		CEO							X			
		DPW							X			
		CSO							X			
		COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH							X			
		DEPT ENV SVCS							X			
		PARKS AND REC									X	
		LA MAYOR							X			
		88 CITIES	SEE WORKSHEET FOR 88 CITIES									
		1.9	The County Board of Supervisors should require that the vendor operating the Hall of Administration cafeteria institute procedures to separate food waste, both in the food prep area, and in the dining room.	BOS					X			
CEO							X					
DPW							X					
PUBLIC HEALTH									X			
DEPT ENV SVCS									X			
CSO								X				

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE	
1.10	The City of Los Angeles should partner with LA Compost to expand that organization's footprint in the city to increase its capacity to collect and compost food waste.	LA MAYOR					X					
		CSO					X					
1.11	The City of Los Angeles should work with its 99 Neighborhood Councils to increase public education around food waste separation/recycling programs.	LA MAYOR					X					
		CSO							X			
1.12	All 80 school districts located in the County should work with local public works and health department officials to create a garden and compost program in every school, and monitor edible food recovery efforts.	DPW							X			
		CSO							X			
		COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH								X		
		DEPT ENV SVCS								X		
		SCHOOL DISTRICTS	SEE WORKSHEET FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS									
		LACOE									X	

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE	
1.13	All 80 school districts should develop a garden/compost program that can be available for students in the myriad after-school daycare options available on campus.	CSO							X			
		PUBLIC HEALTH							X			
		DEPT ENV SVCS								X		
		LACOE								X		
		SCHOOL DISTRICTS	SEE WORKSHEET FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS									
1.14	Elected officials in the County and Cities should adopt the 11 suggestions in the March 2018 Countywide Organics Waste Management Plan and express support for the need to increase capacity and site and build new facilities to handle organic waste.	BOS					X					
		CEO					X					
		DPW							X			
		CSO							X			
		ISD								X		
		LA MAYOR			X							
		88 CITIES	SEE WORKSHEET FOR 88 CITIES									

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITIES ONLY TO RESPOND:

1.1 Each of the 88 cities, and the County’s unincorporated areas, should establish a weekly food waste drop-off center. The center can be at a farmer’s market, such as the one held each Thursday near Los Angeles City Hall, or at another appropriate site. City and County officials can arrange for the food waste collected to be taken to a nearby facility for recycling, or can establish contracts with organizations such as the Los Angeles Community Garden Council or landscaping companies for composting.

1.3 County and city officials should create an incentive program for residents and businesses to separate food waste. This could be in the form of a gift card to a local grocery store/farmer’s market, or a discount on a solid waste fee. For example, in the city of Santa Barbara, 150 businesses (restaurants, grocery stores, coffee shops, etc.) have signed up for the city’s Foodscraps program, and can save several hundred dollars a month off their trash collection fee.

1.8 County Official should modify contracts with food vendor companies that are Inside County facilities, such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Arboretum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and cafeterias located at County hospitals, to include food waste separation and recycling. Especially at the Hollywood Bowl, which draws more than 17,000 people for most of its summer concert events, has several food options onsite, and traditionally draws large pre-concert picnicking crowds, implementing a food waste recycling program can be part of a public education campaign.

1.14 - See separate worksheet for the responses

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
AGOURA HILLS	1.8			1.3			1.1		
ALHAMBRA	1.8	1.1,1.3							
ARCADIA			1.8		1.1		1.3		
ARTESIA			1.1					1.3, 1.8	
AVALON					1.1	1.3	1.8		
AZUSA									X
BALDWIN PARK									X
BELL			1.3		1.8			1.1	
BELL GARDENS				1.1, 1.3 1.8					

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITIES ONLY TO RESPOND:

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
BELLFLOWER		1.1,1.3					1.8		
BEVERLY HILLS									X
BRADBURY									X
BURBANK							1.1,1.3 1.8		
CALABASAS							1.1,1.3 1.8		
CARSON									X
CERRITOS									X
CLAREMONT			1.3				1.1, 1.8		
CITY OF COMMERCE	1.1,1.3 1.8								
CITY OF INDUSTRY							1.1,1.3, 1.8		
COMPTON									X
COVINA			1.1,1.3				1.8		
CUDAHY									X
CULVER CITY			1.1,1.8				1.3		
DIAMOND BAR						1.3	1.8	1.1	
DOWNEY									X
DUARTE							1.1,1.8	1.3	

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITIES ONLY TO RESPOND:

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
EL SEGUNDO					1.1,1.3		1.8		
GARDENA							1.1,1.3 1.8		
GLENDALE		1.1,1.3					1.8		
GLENDORA			1.1				1.8	1.3	
HAWTHORNE					1.3			1.1,1.8	
HAWAIIAN GARDENS					1.3		1.1	1.8	
HERMOSA BEACH			1.1,1.3, 1.8						
HIDDEN HILLS							1.1,1.3 1.8		
HUNTINGTON PARK									X
INGLEWOOD									X
IRWINDALE	1.3	1.1,1.8							
LA CANADA			1.1,1.3		1.8				
LA HABRA HEIGHTS									X
LAKESWOOD							1.1,1.3 1.8		
LA MIRADA			1.8		1.1		1.3		

2019-2020 "A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITIES ONLY TO RESPOND:

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
LANCASTER							1.1	1.3,1.8	
LA PUENTE									X
LA VERNE							1.1,1.3		1.8
LAWNDALE				1.3			1.8	1.1	
LOMITA					1.3		1.1,1.8		
LONG BEACH					1.1,1.3 1.8				
LOS ANGELES					1.1	1.8	1.3		
LYNWOOD					1.3		1.1,1.8		
MALIBU					1.8		1.1,1.3		
MANHATTAN BEACH	1.8		1.1,1.3						
MAYWOOD									X
MONROVIA			1.3				1.8	1.1	
MONTEBELLO									X
MONTEREY PARK							1.8	1.1, 1.3	
NORWALK			1.1,1.3				1.8		
PALMDALE			1.8				1.1,1.3		

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITIES ONLY TO RESPOND:

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
PALOS VERDES					1.1, 1.8			1.3	
PARAMOUNT		1.1,1.3 1.8							
PASADENA			1.3		1.1		1.8		
PICO RIVERA									X
POMONA									X
RANCHO PALOS VERDES			1.1,1.3				1.8		
REDONDO BEACH	1.8		1.1,1.3						
ROLLING HILLS							1.1,1.8	1.3	
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES			1.3				1.8	1.1	
ROSEMEAD			1.3					1.1,1.8	
SAN DIMAS			1.1				1.3		1.8
SAN FERNANDO					1.1		1.8	1.3	
SAN GABRIEL			1.1,1.3				1.8		
SAN MARINO		1.8						1.1,1.3	
SANTA CLARITA			1.3,1.8				1.1		
SANTA FE SPRINGS									X
SANTA MONICA			1.3			1.1	1.8		

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITIES ONLY TO RESPOND:

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
SIERRA MADRE					1.1		1.8	1.3	
SIGNAL HILL			1.1				1.3		1.8
SOUTH EL MONTE			1.3					1.1,1.8	
SOUTH PASADENA							1.8	1.1,1.3	
SOUTHGATE									X
TEMPLE CITY			1.1,1.3, 1.8						
TORRANCE							1.3, 1.8	1.1	
VERNON			1.1,1.8				1.3		
WALNUT					1.1,1.3		1.8		
WEST COVINA							1.8	1.1,1.3	
WEST HOLLYWOOD			1.8					1.1,1.3	
WESLAKE VILLAGE									X
WHITTIER			1.3		1.1		1.8		

2019-2020 DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down on Food Waste

1.14 Elected officials in the County and cities should adopt the 11 suggestions (see report titled "11 Suggestions" following the cities responses) from the March 2018 Countywide Organics Waste Management Plan and express support for the need to increase capacity and site and build new facilities to handle organic waste.

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
AGOURA HILLS				1-11					
ALHAMBRA	1-11								
ARCADIA	1-11								
ARTESIA			1-7, 10, 11				8	9	
AVALON			1,4,8		2, 5-7,10		3,9,11		
AZUSA									X
BALDWIN PARK									X
BELL			3-11		1,2				
BELL GARDENS					2-8, 10,11			1,9	
BELLFLOWER			1-11						
BEVERLY HILLS									X
BRADBURY									X
BURBANK					1-8, 10,11		9		
CALABASAS			2,4,6,7		1,5,10		3,8, 9,11		

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down on Food Waste**

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
CARSON									X
CERRITOS									X
CLAREMONT					1-11				
CITY OF COMMERCE	1-11								
CITY OF INDUSTRY			3-5,10		1,2,7,8,11		6,9		
COMPTON									X
COVINA			1-11						
CUDAHY									X
CULVER CITY			4-8, 10, 11		1-3		9		
DIAMOND BAR			5,6,8, 10,11			1,7		2-4,9	
DOWNEY									X
DUARTE			4-7, 10, 11		1,2		3,8	9	
EL SEGUNDO			1,2, 5-8,10,11		3		4,9		
GARDENA			2-7, 10,11		8			1,9	

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down on Food Waste**

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
GLENDALE			8,9,11		1,2,5-7,10	3		4	
GLENDORA								1-11	
HAWTHORNE		8	1,3,6,7,10 11		2,4,5,9				
HAWAIIAN GARDENS			11		1-10				
HERMOSA BEACH			7-11		1-6				
HIDDEN HILLS			2-5, 7				1,6,8-11		
HUNTINGTON PARK									X
INGLEWOOD									X
IRWINDALE		3,8	4-6,10,11		1,2,7,9				
LA CAÑADA			1-4,6-8, 10, 11		5		9		
LA HABRA HEIGHTS									X
LAKESWOOD			6		1-5, 7-11				
LA MIRADA			1-4,6,8		5,7,10 11		9		

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down on Food Waste**

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
LANCASTER			10,11				2,4-9	1,3	
LA PUENTE									X
LA VERNE					1-11				
LAWNDALE			5-7,10 11		4		8,9	1-3	
LOMITA			1,2, 4-7,10,11			3		8,9	
LONG BEACH								1-11	
LOS ANGELES			1-11						
LYNWOOD			1,2, 4-11				3		
MALIBU			1,2,9		5,7,10		3,4,6, 8,11		
MANHATTAN BEACH			1-11						
MAYWOOD			1-8,10, 11		9				
MONROVIA			1,3-11		2				
MONTEBELLO									X
MONTEREY PARK					1-11				

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down on Food Waste**

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
NORWALK			1-11						
PALMDALE			1,3,5,6, 10,11		7		2,4,8,9		
PALOS VERDES			1,4-7, 10,11		2		3,8	9	
PARAMOUNT								1-11	
PASADENA			1-11						
PICO RIVERA									X
POMONA									X
RANCHO PALOS VERDES			1-11						
REDONDO BEACH			4-7,10, 11		1-3		8	9	
ROLLING HILLS								1-11	
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES						1-11			
ROSEMEAD			1-4,6,7, 9-11			5	8		
SAN DIMAS								1-11	
SAN FERNANDO					1-11				

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NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
SAN GABRIEL								1-11	
SAN MARINO								1-11	
SANTA CLARITA					1-11				
SANTA FE SPRINGS									X
SANTA MONICA			4, 8-11		1,2		5,7	3,6	
SIERRA MADRE			4,10, 11		1,2,5,7	6	3,8	9	
SIGNAL HILL			4,6, 10,11		1-3,7,8		9	5	
SOUTH EL MONTE			1-7,10		9,11		8		
SOUTH PASADENA			4,6,8,10			1-3,5,7		9,11	
SOUTHGATE									X
TEMPLE CITY					1-11				
TORRANCE					1-8, 10,11		9		
VERNON			1-11						
WALNUT					1-11				

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down on Food Waste**

NAME OF CITY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
WEST COVINA								1-11	
WEST HOLLYWOOD			1,4,6,10 11		2		3	5,7-9	
WESTLAKE VILLAGE									X
WHITTIER			3-7,10, 11		1,2			8,9	

11 SUGGESTIONS FROM THE MARCH 2018 ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS REPORT

#1 COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE

Adopt an ordinance with requirements for businesses and haulers to achieve specified recycling requirements (if not already in place). Includes system to quantify recovery, monitor compliance with requirements and methods for enforcement action as necessary.

#2 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE (SFR) RECYCLING ORDINANCE

Adopt an ordinance establishing organic collection requirements on properties not subject to AB 1826 including but not limited to SFR dwellings and multi-family residential dwellings with 2-4 units. Includes system to quantify recovery, monitor compliance with requirements and methods for enforcement action as necessary.

#3 SELF-HAUL STANDARDS

Establish standards or requirements for self-haul (landscapers and other qualified providers) to meet recycling requirements. Includes reporting requirements and audit procedures to ensure minimum standards are being met as well as licensing requirements.

#4 FLOW CONTROL

Flow control to direct material collected to qualified processing or composting facilities.

#5 CONTRACT MODIFICATION

Modify existing contract or establish a new trash collection contract or franchise to include specified recycling requirements. Such action may include contract language modifications, separation of commercial/multi-family collection into separate contract(s), extension of existing contracts or franchises or qualified licensing. Should include provisions for quantifying recovery, reporting compliance and enforcement actions.

#6 EXCLUSIVE COMMERCIAL HAULING

Establish new trash collection contracts or franchises with commercial or other exclusivity clauses and specified recycling requirements. Should include provisions for quantifying recovery, reporting compliance and enforcement actions.

#7 SOURCE SEPARATED ORGANICS COLLECTION

Modify existing contract or establish a new trash collection contract or franchise to require the hauler to provide separate collection of organic waste to entities (i.e., residential and commercial) that generate organic waste and deliver the material to a qualified organics recycling or composting facility. Should include provisions for quantifying recovery, reporting compliance and enforcement actions.

#8 WET/DRY COLLECTION

Require the hauler to provide 2 or more separate bins for wet/dry commercial collection system in which the contents of certain bins are delivered to a materials recovery facility with organics extraction technology. Should include provisions for quantifying recovery, reporting compliance and enforcement actions.

#9 INCENTIVES

Provides incentives for participation in organics collection by implementing subsidies to offset the incremental costs of collection, separation and processing of organics to the degree necessary to change behavior and establish a successful base program. Should include provisions for quantifying recovery and reporting compliance to maintain eligibility for incentives.

#10 EDUCATION ONLY

No change to contracts but educate businesses to comply with the law. Includes business compliance monitoring and identification of resources that would be made available to businesses to ensure compliance and build program support.

#11 ON-SITE MANAGEMENT

Provide businesses with guidance/assistance in the implementation of scalable on-site organics management aggregation methods and available technologies. See following link:

[ShowDoc.aspx \(lacounty.gov\)](#) [suggestion appear on page 27]

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSES TO 1.12 AND 1.13

The Committee investigated how Los Angeles County disposes of its waste, also include green yard waste, nonhazardous wood waste and food-soiled paper.

1.12 All 80 school districts located in the County should work with local public works and health department officials to create a garden and compost program in every school, and monitor edible food recovery efforts.

1.13 All 80 school districts should develop a garden/compost program that can be available for students in the myriad of after-school daycare options available on campus (L.A.C.E.R), After the Bell, S.T.A.R. etc.).

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
ABC USD					1.12 1.13				
ACTON-AGUA DULCE USD									X
ALHAMBRA USD				1.12			1.13		
ANTELOPE VALLEY UNION HIGHSCHOOL DISTRICT							1.12 1.13		
ARCADIA USD					1.12			1.13	
AZUSA USD							1.12 1.13		
BALDWIN PARK USD									X
BASSETT USD							1.12 1.13		

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
BELLFLOWER USD									X
BEVERLY HILLS USD							1.12 1.13		
BONITA USD						1.12 1.13			
BURBANK USD						1.12	1.13		
CASTAIC UNION SD								1.12 1.13	
CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HSD							1.12 1.13		
CHARTER OAK USD					1.12 1.13				
CLAREMONT USD					1.12 1.13				
COMPTON USD			1.12				1.13		
COVINA-VALLEY USD					1.12		1.13		
CULVER CITY USD					1.12 1.13				
DOWNEY USD							1.12 1.13		

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
DUARTE USD	1.12							1.13	
EAST WHITTIER CITY SD									X
EASTIDE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT									X
EL MONTE UNION HSD								1.12 1.13	
EL MONTE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT						1.12 1.13			
EL RANCHO USD									X
EL SEGUNDO USD							1.12 1.13		
GARVEY ELEMENTARY SD							1.12 1.13		
GLENDALE USD							1.12 1.13		
GLENDORA USD			1.12 1.13						
HACIENDA LA PUENTE USD					1.12 1.13				
HAWTHORNE SD							1.12 1.13		

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
HERMOSA BEACH CITY USD					1.12 1.13				
HUGHES-ELIZABETH LAKES UNION ELEMENTARY SD					1.12 1.13				
INGLEWOOD USD						1.12 1.13			
KEPPEL UNION SD							1.12 1.13		
LA CANADA USD							1.12 1.13		
LANCASTER SD							1.12 1.13		
LAS VIRGENES USD							1.12 1.13		
LAWNDALE ELEMENTARY SD						1.12 1.13			
LENNOX SD									X
LITTLE LAKE CITY SD							1.12 1.13		
LONG BEACH USD					1.12 1.13				

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down On Food Waste**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
LOS ANGELES USD									X
LOS NIETOS SD							1.12 1.13		
LOWELL JOINT SD			1.13	1.12					
LYNWOOD SD						1.12 1.13			
MANHATTAN BEACH USD						1.12 1.13			
MONROVIA USD			1.12 1.13						
MONTEBELLO USD							1.12 1.13		
MOUNTAIN VIEW SD			1.12 1.13						
NEWHALL SD								1.12 1.13	
NORWALK-LA MIRADA USD									X

2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS: Cutting Down On Food Waste

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
PALOS VERDES PENINSULA USD						1.12 1.13			
PALMDALE SD			1.12 1.13						
PARAMOUNT USD									X
PASADENA USD									X
POMONA USD						1.12 1.13			
REDONDO BEACH USD						1.12 1.13			
ROSEMEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT					1.12			1.13	
ROWLAND USD							1.12 1.13		
SAN GABRIEL USD						1.12	1.13		
SAN MARINO USD							1.12 1.13		
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD						1.12	1.13		

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down On Food Waste**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
SAUGUS UNION SD									X
SOUTH PASADENA USD						1.12	1.13		
SOUTH WHITTIER SD									X
SULPHUR SPRINGS USD					1.12 1.13				
TEMPLE CITY USD					1.12			1.13	
TORRANCE USD					1.12 1.13				
VALLE LINDO SD									X
WALNUT VALLEY USD						1.12		1.13	
WEST COVINA USD						1.12 1.13			
WESTSIDE USD								1.12 1.13	
WHITTIER CITY ELEMENTARY SD						1.12 1.13			

**2019-2020 A DIET FOR LANDFILLS:
Cutting Down On Food Waste**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
WHITTIER UNION HSD									X
WILLIAM S. HART UNION HSD							1.12 1.13		
WISEBURN USD						1.12 1.13			
WILSONA SD							1.12 1.13		

2019-2020 Bail Reform in the County of Los Angeles

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
2.1	The Los Angeles District Attorney's office, City Attorney's office and Probation Department to consider supporting the elimination of the bail system, and to investigate alternatives to the bail system.	COUNTY DISTRICT ATTY					X				
		PROBATION							X		
		CITY ATTY	X								

2019-2020 Can Technology Eliminate Police Pursuits?

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
3.1	LASD will not pursue vehicles reported stolen that are equipped with vehicle recovery systems.	CEO					X				
		BOS					X				
		LASD			X						
3.2	LAPD will not pursue vehicle reported stolen that are equipped with recovery systems.	LAPD								X	
		LA CITY COUNCIL									X
3.3	LASD shall update current "Spike Strip" used and logistically equip patrol cars with "Nighthawk Remote Tire Deflation Device©".	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		LASD								X	
3.4	LAPD shall update currently used "Spike Strip" and logistically equip some patrol vehicles with safer "Nighthawk Remote Tire Deflation Device©"	LAPD							X		
		LA CITY COUNCIL									X

2019-2020 Can Technology Eliminate Police Pursuits?

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
3.5	LASD should hire an additional air crew in the Lancaster/Palmdale area.	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		LASD								X	
3.6	LASD replace helicopters as needed as the Eurocopters A350 has reached its life expectancy.	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		LASD								X	
3.7	LAPD confirm that all law enforcement officers have maintained the mandated CPT1 and CPT2 courses*. *(Courses: Complete Professional Training)	LAPD			X						
		LA CITY COUNCIL									X

2019-2020 Can Technology Eliminate Police Pursuits?

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
3.8	LASD confirm that all law enforcement officers have maintained the mandated CPT1 and CPT2 courses.* *(Courses; Complete Professional Training)	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		LASD		X							
3.9	LAPD install Wi-Fi at the LAPD Ahmanson Training Center for assistance with cadet training.	LAPD					X				
		LA CITY COUNCIL									X
3.10	LASD follow the lead of the LAPD and implement the use of the BolaWrap 100 restrain technology.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		LASD							X		

2019-2020 DNA 4 Those Forgotten

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
5.1	BOS to provide funds to DCFS to facilitate DNA testing of children in foster care at the time of detainment into custody.	BOS							X		
		DCFS							X		
5.2	BOS to explore the terms of a contract with Ancestry.com in locating blood relatives.	BOS							X		
		DCFS							X		
5.3	The BOS to work with DCFS to include DNA availability for children who are transitioning from protective care to independent living.	BOS							X		
		DCFS							X		

2019-2020 FREE AT LAST

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
6.1	The ROC should be replicated in the remaining Four Supervisorial Districts of the County.	CEO								X	
		PROBATION					X				
6.2	Provide information inside the lobby about rehabilitative classes and training through signage regarding the services provided at the ROC.	BOS			X						
		CEO			X						
		PROBATION			X						
6.3	County should include post-release education opportunities and incentives to encourage continuation of education.	BOS			X						
		CEO			X						
		PROBATION			X						
6.4	Ensure supportive services are provided to meet the needs of the participants, e.g. in areas of housing, transportation, clothing, employment, and education.	BOS			X						
		CEO			X						
		PROBATION			X						

2019-2020 FREE AT LAST

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
6.5	INVEST has been funded for a two-year period, and recommend funding continue beyond the completion of the initial pilot program.	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		PROBATION			X						
6.6	INVEST clients need additional access to community college training programs.	BOS			X						
		CEO			X						
		PROBATION			X						
6.7	In-depth training was requested by senior staff regarding the availability of job training and employment programs, and we concur that it should be provided.	PROBATION					X				
		BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
6.8	Provide Five Key programs to inmates with an emphasis on continuing their education upon release.	PROBATION							X		
		BOS							X		
		CEO							X		

2019-2020 HASHTAG: OUR KIDS MATTER

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
7.1	Since OC spray is being phased out, Probation should investigate the use of Bola Wrap 75 which enable officers to restrain subjects without using bodily force.	PROBATION								X	
7.2	Contract outside professional cleaning service to regularly clean the lavatories and shower areas at all camp facilities.	PROBATION			X						
7.3	Development and implementation of a cognitive behavioral program at all juvenile facilities.	PROBATION			X						
		DMH			X						
7.4	Vocational training and technical programs should be offered at the camps.	PROBATION			X						
		LACOE			X						
7.5	Group sessions to learn communication skills should be implemented on an on-going basis.	PROBATION			X						
		DMH			X						

2019-2020 HASHTAG: OUR KIDS MATTER

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
7.6	Provide professional counseling to the juveniles during their time while confined in the Hope and Mind Centers.	PROBATION			X						
		DMH			X						
		CEO			X						
7.7	Microwave ovens should be made available at DKC inside the cottages.	PROBATION			X						
7.8	The air-exchange system at DKC is not adequate for the facility; therefore it needs to be replaced.	PROBATION								X	
7.9	A security checkpoint at entry and a carded gate-entry system needs to be installed at DKC.	PROBATION								X	
7.10	The treatment model at DKC should be implemented at other juvenile detention facilities to create a culture of care rather than a culture of control.	PROBATION					X				
		DMH					X				

2019-2020 HASHTAG: OUR KIDS MATTER

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
7.11	Assign DPOs inside every classroom to ensure the safety of educators and juveniles alike.	PROBATION						X			
		LACOE							X		
7.12	Ensure juvenile records are available to LACOE teaching staff for review.	PROBATION							X		
		LACOE				X					
		CEO							X		
7.13	Create an avenue for high school graduates to participate in the Court to College program.	PROBATION							X		
7.14	Expand the Court to College program to include all community colleges.	PROBATION							X		

2019-2020 Home Sweet Home

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
8.1	Streamline and standardize zoning laws and municipal codes across all municipalities in the County.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
8.2	Put a measure on the ballot to repeal City Prop U.	LA CITY COUNCIL									X
8.3	Reduce, standarize, and clearly document (make transparent) developer fees across all municipalities within the County.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
8.4	Remove the non-TOC related provision from Los Angeles Measure JJJ.	CEO									X
		LA CITY COUNCIL									X
8.5	Support the replacing of current State Housing Element law with a model that states that 10% of housing stock in all municipalities must be income-restricted(low-income).	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		

2019-2020 Home Sweet Home

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	*NOT REQUIRED
	8.5 CONTINUED	STATE ASSEMBLY									*
		Brian W. Jones									*
		Toni G. Atkins									*
		Chris Holden									*
		Laura Friedman									*
		Jessie Gabriel									*
		Richard Bloom									*
		Wendy Carrillo									*
		Miguel Santiago									*
		Isaac G. Bryan									*
		Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.									*
		Autumn R. Burke				X					
		Mike A. Gipson									*
		Al Muratsuchi									*
		Patrick O'Donnell									*
		Adrin Nazarian									*
		STATE SENATORS									
		Robert Hertzberg			X						
		Maria Elena Durazo									*
		Ben Allen									*
		Anthony J. Portantino									*
		Henry I. Stern									*
		Sydney Kamlager									*
		Lena Gonzalez									*
		Steve Bradford									*

2019-2020 Home Sweet Home

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	*NOT REQUIRED	
8.6	Support CEQA reform: Disallow serial, duplicative lawsuits that challenge projects that have successfully completed the CEQA process; Require all entities that file CEQA lawsuits to fully disclose their identities and their environmental interest: outlaw proceedings from extending beyond 9 months; prevent judges from tossing out an entire project with deficiencies; and ensure those who bring CEQA actions and lose, pay court fees etc., of the prevailing party.	BOS									X	
		CEO									X	
		STATE ASSEMBLY										*
		Brian W. Jones										*
		Toni G. Atkins										*
		Chris Holden										*
		Laura Friedman										*
		Jessie Gabriel										*
		Richard Bloom										*
		Wendy Carrillo										*
		Miguel Santiago										*
		Isaac G. Bryan										*
		Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.										*
		Autumn R. Burke					X					
		Mike A. Gipson										*
		Al Muratsuchi										*
		Patrick O'Donnell										*
		Adrin Nazarian										*
		STATE SENATORS										
		Robert Hertzberg				X						
Maria Elena Durazo										*		
Ben Allen										*		
Portantino										*		
Henry I. Stern										*		
Sydney Kamlager										*		
Lena Gonzalez										*		
Steve Bradford										*		

2019-2020 Home Sweet Home

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	*NOT REQUIRED	
8.7	Support Senate Bill 1079, up for vote in the California Legislature in November 2020.	BOS									*	
		CEO									*	
		STATE ASSEMBLY										
		Brian W. Jones										*
		Toni G. Atkins										*
		Chris Holden										*
		Laura Friedman										*
		Jessie Gabriel										*
		Richard Bloom										*
		Wendy Carrillo										*
		Miguel Santiago										*
		Isaac G. Bryan										*
		Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.										*
		Autumn R. Burke					X					
		Mike A. Gipson										*
		Al Muratsuchi										*
		Patrick O'Donnell										*
		Adrin Nazarian										*
		STATE SENATORS										
		Robert Hertzberg				X						
		Maria Elena Durazo										*
Ben Allen										*		
Anthony J.										*		
Henry I. Stern										*		
Sydney Kamlager										*		
Lena Gonzalez										*		
Steve Bradford										*		

2019-2020 Home Sweet Home

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE	
8.8	Increase the percentage of Measure H funds for housing vouchers to those who are severely rent burdened and to adequately subsidize Board and Care homes.	BOS							X			
		CEO							X			
		LAHSA								X		
8.9	Employ additional resources to create greater access for unsheltered individuals in the City and County of Los Angeles to showers and hygiene provisions.	BOS			X							
		CEO			X							
		LAHSA			X							
8.10	Provide additional public toilets in the City and County of Los Angeles.	BOS								X		
		CEO								X		
		LAHSA									X	
		Los Angeles City Council										X
8.11	Build USC Pods in vacant lots owned by the County and City of Los Angeles.	BOS			X							
		CEO			X							
		LAHSA								X		
		Los Angeles City Council										X

2019-2020 Home Sweet Home

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
8.12	Build tiny homes in vacant lots owned by the County and City of Los Angeles.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		LAHSA								X	
		Los Angeles City Council									X
8.13	Make all vacant Caltrans housing low-income.	CAL TRANS District #7		X							

2019-2020 Hospitals on Ventilators

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
9.1	BOS, DPH and DHS should undertake review of current hospitals ability to meet SCAG's County growth projections for the upcoming 20 years.	BOS							X		
		DHS							X		
		DPH							X		
		EMS		X							
9.2	BOS and DHS should assess how Measure B funds are being distributed, and look into if Measure B funds can be used to upgrade hospital infrastructure standards for seismic standards.	BOS						X			
		DHS						X			
9.3	BOS, EMS and DHS should consider the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure sufficient funding such that all medical facilities within the County have adequate supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, ICU ventilators, etc.).	BOS	X								
		DHS			X						
		DPH			X						
		EMS			X						
9.4	BOS, EMS, DHS and DPH provide a rpt outlining how Measure B funds are used to update the Bioterrorism Preparedness Plan, to ensure adequate supply of medical equipment in the County.	BOS							X		
		DHS							X		
		DPH							X		
		EMS							X		

2019-2020 Hospitals on Ventilators

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	PARTIALLY AGREED IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
9.5	County Measure B Advisory Board add a member position in order to have a representative from one of the 13 non-County hospitals, preferably the CFO from one of the hospitals.	BOS							X		
		DHS			X						
		EMS		X							
9.6	BOS should disclose hospital risk to the public; appropriate disclosure should be displayed at primary entrances of SPC-1 building to inform the public and hospital staff about earthquake risks posed by each building.	BOS							X		
		DHS							X		
9.7	The Board of Supervisors should develop a 10-year business plan for replacing hospital buildings closed due to the 2020 SPC-1 seismic retrofit mandate.	BOS			X						
		DHS							X		

**2019-2020 LA-HOP
(Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal)**

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
10.1	Update all listed departments for procedures to use LA-HOP to report homelessness.	LAPD					X				
		LASD						X			
		EMS			X						
		DHS							X		
		LAFD					X				
		BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
		LAHSA									X
10.2	Increase exposure of LA-HOP to the general public by having LAHSA advertise via media and other means.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		LAHSA							X		
10.3	LAHSA outreach workers should have a distinctive uniform or vest.	LAHSA			X						

2019-2020 In Remembrance of Those Who Walked Amongst Us

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
11.1	The Coroner to explore providing the additional option of a comfort animal for those waiting to interface with staff.	BOS								X	
		CORONER								X	
		CEO								X	
11.2	DHS and CORONER to hold the Ceremony for the Unclaimed Dead on a day where street parking is available by ensuring the ceremony is not scheduled at a day or time when street cleaning will be occurring to park on the street.	BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
		CORONER						X			
		DHS						X			

2019-2020 "Maybe I Voted?"

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY								NO RESPONSE	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY AGREE	IMPLEMENTED	DISAGREE	AGREE	
12.1	All schools that are designated as a Vote Center must have a separate secure area with a separate entrance so that the voters/public do not come in contact with the children.	BOS			X														
		CEO			X														
		RR/CR			X														
		LACOE	X																
12.2	The RR/CR submit to the BOS a written document outlying the specifics of the security and chain-of-custody protocols of the ballots and the entire VSAP system at each Vote Center.	BOS									X								
		CEO									X								
		RR/CR									X								
12.3	The RR/CR submit a specific written plan that guarantees the resolution of all 51 conditions issued by the State. Plan to be submitted to BOS and CGJC for review within 90 days of receipt of this report.	BOS			X														
		CEO			X														
		RR/CR					X												
12.4	At the end of an election period, each poll worker complete a survey about their experience with the processes that are in place for staffing, training, equipment, supplies, security, and voter interaction. Surveys shall be sent to the Board within two weeks.	BOS			X														
		CEO			X														
		RR/CR			X														

2019-2020 "Maybe I Voted?"

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	Response Options								
			AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
12.5	The RR increase County lead staff at Large Vote Centers from one employee to two.	BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
		RR/CR					X				
12.6	The RR require one IT Tech stationed at each Vote Center location on election day and in November General Election day at large vote centers.	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		RR/CR								X	
12.7	In addition to the mail-in option, the RR have an alternate means of voting throughout the County for the next three general elections. VSAP must be deemed secure and operating properly for continued County use.	BOS			X						
		CEO			X						
		RR/CR			X						
12.8	The RR identify where the drop-off locations are for mail-in ballots.	BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
		RR/CR					X				
12.9	Curbside voting and a reserved handicap parking space be clearly identified at each Vote Center with a sign indicating the phone number to call. Curbside voting must be clearly explained in election materials.	BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
		RR/CR					X				

2019-2020 "Maybe I Voted?"

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
12.10	The weekend before Election Day, and on Election Day, transportation throughout the County be free to the voting public.	BOS				X					
		CEO			X						
		RR/CR			X						
		MTA					X				
12.11	Each Large Vote Center there be adequate and sufficient e-Polls in order to prevent bottleneck/congestion/chaos at check in.	BOS								X	
		CEO								X	
		RR/CR								X	
12.12	All workers assigned to use the e-Poll have basic electronic skills which will enable the worker to quickly and effectively locate the name of the voter.	BOS					X				
		CEO					X				
		RR/CR						X			

2019-2020 Nursing Homes: Only the Strong Survive

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
13.1	County to contract with an independent auditor to conduct a review of the contract agreement between HFID and the CDPH.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		DPH							X		
		HFID							X		
13.2	The HFID should create and maintain a user-friendly database that includes all staffing and inspections information on each facility in LA County.	BOS							X		
		CEO							X		
		DPH							X		
		HFID							X		

2019-2020 Children: Not for Sale

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
14.1	Pomona USD Create a volunteer crossing guard program to safeguard school children when cross Holt Avenue.	POMONA USD					X				
14.2	City of Pomona prune trees and install brighter light close to Holt Avenue to increase visibility and decrease opportunity for trafficking.	CITY OF POMONA					X				
14.3	BOS to hire 2 more attorneys. Gives continuity to trafficking victims when going to court.	BOS								X	
		DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE	X								

2019-2020 Children: Not for Sale

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE	
14.4	Approve funding for additional recruitment of vice officers specifically assign to trafficking in the LASD, LAPD, PPD AND LAHTTF.	LASD								X		
		LAPD								X		
		LOS ANGELES HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE									X	
		POMONA POLICE									X	
14.5	DCFS to look into increasing utilization of Child Advocacy Centers for support with trafficked children.	DCFS								X		
14.6	LACOE encourage all school parents to have the 'Stop App' app installed on their children's phone.	LACOE					X					

2019-2020 Children: Not for Sale

RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
14.7	LACOE encourage school districts to have age appropriate sex trafficking sex education in classes as early as 4th and 5th grade.	LACOE					X				
14.8	LACOE create videos that are age appropriate for 5th, 7th and 9th graders. Videos would include stories of victims/survivors with and expert on social media platforms. Videos must be age appropriate and updated yearly.	LACOE					X				

2019-2020 Detention

STATION/FACILITY	RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
Hollywood Community Station	1	Higher wattage bulbs should be installed in cells, walls should be cleaned and painted.	LAPD		X							
North Hollywood Station	2	Keys to defibrillator should be readily available.	LAPD						X			
West LA Community Station	3	Snacks, water and toilets should be available to detainees. Paperwork filing and all protocols for inspections must be met.	LAPD						X			
Beverly Hills Police	4	Work orders need to be submitted for all repairs.	Beverly Hills PD		X							

2019-2020 Detention

STATION/FACILITY	RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
Glendale Police	5	Outside contractors should be hired to do the laundry.	Glendale PD							X		
San Gabriel Police	6	Cameras need to be repaired. Trash needs to be picked up 2x day, or as needed.	San Gabriel PD					X				
San Marino PD	7	LA County should allocate budget for regional training center.	San Marino PD									X
Santa Monica Police	8	Work orders need to be completed within 30 days.	Santa Monica PD			X						
Cerritos Sheriff Station	9	Need secured parking for officers.	LASD							X		
Pico Rivera Sheriff Station	10	Meals to be prepared at Men's Central Jail for Pico Rivera station.	LASD			X						

2019-2020 Detention

STATION/FACILITY	RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
Whittier Sub Station	11	Train staff with knowledge of station and personnel at the Whittier Sub-station.	LASD			X						
Alhambra Courthouse	12	Paint Alhambra Courthouse.	LASD						X			
Bellflower Courthouse	13	Repair Bellflower gun lockers and keep them maintained.	LASD							X		
Burbank Courthouse	14	Repair leak in Burbank Courthouse pipe room.	LASD			X						
Compton Courthouse	15	Compton Courthouse suggest biodegradable wrappings for lunches to keep detainees from plugging toilets.	LASD								X	
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Center	16	Repair cameras and remove trash daily or as needed.	LASD							X		

2019-2020 Detention

STATION/FACILITY	RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
Glendale Courthouse	17	Lot should be secured to protect officers.	LASD							X		
Inglewood Courthouse	18	Complete work orders within 30 days.	LASD							X		
Metropolitan Courthouse	19	Repair 3 elevators at Metropolitan Courthouse.	LASD							X		
Norwalk Courthouse	20	Upgrade ceiling lights, paint cells, upgrade CCTV circuit and TV monitors in Norwalk Courthouse.	LASD							X		
Pasadena Courthouse	21	Install cameras in holding cells in Pasadena Courthouse.	LASD								X	

2019-2020 Detention

STATION/FACILITY	RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
Santa Clarita Courthouse	22	Improve safety in the hallways where Deputies are moving detainees in Santa Clarita Courthouse.	LASD							X		
Torrance Courthouse	23	Install phones in all cells in Torrance Courthouse.	LASD								X	
Van Nuys Courthouse	24	Clean and repair leaking pipes and leak in #5 tank area in Van Nuys Courthouse.	LASD							X		
LAC+USC Jail Ward	25	More vans to transport detainee patients at LAC+USC jail wards.	LASD								X	

2019-2020 Detention

STATION/FACILITY	RECOMMENDATION #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	AGREE	DISAGREE	IMPLEMENTED	PARTIALLY AGREE	WILL IMPLEMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	NOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED	FURTHER ANALYSIS	NO RESPONSE
North County Correctional Facility	26	Clean vents regularly and reduce loaning out officers at North County Correctional Facility.	LASD			X						
Twin Towers	27	Fix non-operational elevators for safety of officers	LASD		X							
Barry Nidorf Juvenile Center	28	Supervisors should screen all videos to ensure non-violent content. Dayroom should be constantly supervised. Submit work order for broken window.	PROBATION			X						
Camp Clinton Afferbugh`	29	Swimming lessons should be offered.	PROBATION					X				

DETENTION COMMITTEE



2021 – 2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

Detention Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to California Penal Code (CPC) section 939.9:¹ *“A grand jury shall make no report, declaration, or recommendation on any matter except on the basis of its own investigation of the matter made by such grand jury. A grand jury shall not adopt as its own the recommendation of another grand jury unless the grand jury adopting such recommendation does so after its own investigation of the matter as to which the recommendation is made, as required by this section.”*

Pursuant to CPC section 919(b):² *“The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the prisons within the County.”*

The 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) was briefed and trained on the process of conducting jail inspections during the early part of its term in July 2021. This included a review of how prior Civil Grand Juries conducted jail inspections going back several decades, and the current process of how to conduct this vital public function. After following precautionary protocols due to the COVID-19 pandemic, collaborative tasks were assigned and completed regarding jail and custody facility inspections.

Although previous CGJs in Los Angeles County have submitted reports that included statements regarding conditions of the facilities, and recommendations based on their jail inspections, this CGJ will not be providing such a report based on an interpretation of CPC section 939.9, which prohibits the CGJ from making such statements and recommendations without first conducting a full investigation. Nonetheless, this recent interpretation of the CPC doesn't prohibit the CGJ from having access to jails and custody facilities, or launching a formal investigation if the circumstances call for one, but does stop CGJ's from making statements or "findings," which make up the vast majority of what a CGJ normally reports on after inspecting these facilities.

Although the observations of the CGJ and information obtained through the jail inspections may not rise to the level of triggering a formal investigation, the CGJ believes that this information is vital to the public's right to know about the conditions of the jail and custody facilities that serve the public.

The CGJ understands the “letter of the law” with respect to CPC section 939.9, but believes the “spirit of the law” regarding the public's right to inspect custody facilities in Los Angeles County is not being met because of this statute. The CGJ encourages the California State Legislature to amend the CPC to authorize CGJs across the State of California to make reports that include

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN§ionNum=939.9.

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN§ionNum=919.

statements of the condition of detention and jail facilities and recommendations based on the inspections done by the CGJ without requiring a full investigation as to each facility.

Conducting a full investigation of every facility in order to present its findings and recommendations is not tenable, particularly in a County like Los Angeles County, where the CGJ inspects 157 facilities. Allowing the CGJ to submit a report with statements and/or findings regarding the condition of the facilities and recommendations based on its inspections will allow for proper oversight of jail and custodial facilities within Los Angeles County, and by extension the entire State of California.

BACKGROUND

Teams of three (3) to four (4) CGJ members were divided into six (6) groups. One hundred fifty seven (157) detention facilities were separated into a list according to the zonal areas and distributed among the teams. These teams conducted visits to the following detention facilities over a two (2) month period. We have listed all 157 detention facilities that were visited by the CGJ. All of the findings and recommendations concerning these 157 visits have been removed from the CGJ Report.

- Jails and Holding Facilities
- Juvenile Camps
- Women's Jails
- Courthouses
- Stadiums and Event Holding Facilities

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Alvarez-Rendon
Linda Cantley
Frank Chavez
Michael Cieplik
Ruth Cordero
Hassan Fersasati
Tiglath Gaete
London Jones
Elaine Killings-Jankins
James R. Lamb

Scott Larson
John Miller
Gertie Moncrief
Thomas O' Shaughnessy
Vivian Ozuna
Thomas Rasmussen
Maureen Smith
Bernadette Trigo
Elzie Whitlow
John Wilridge

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DETENTION
AND
PROBATION FACILITIES**

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY	FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY
77th St. Community Station 7600 S Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90003 323-786-5077	LAPD	Bell Police Station 6326 Pine Ave. Bell Gardens, CA 90201 323-585-1245	CITY PD
Alfred J McCourtney Juv. Justice Center 1040 W Avenue J Lancaster, CA 93534 661-483-5924	LASD	Bell Gardens Police Station 7100 Garfield Ave. Bell Gardens, CA 90201 562-206-7600	CITY PD
Alhambra Courthouse 150 S Commonwealth Ave Alhambra, CA 91801 626-293-2100	LASD	Bellflower Courthouse 10025 Flower Street Bellflower, CA 90706 562-345-3300	LASD
Alhambra Police Station 211 S 1st Street Alhambra, CA 91801 626-570-5151	CITY PD	Bellflower Sheriff Sub Station 16615 Bellflower Blvd. Bellflower, CA 90706 562-925-0124	LASD
Altadena Station 780 E Altadena Drive Altadena, CA 91001 626-789-1131	LASD	Beverly Hills Courthouse 9355 Burton Way Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-282499	LASD
Arcadia Police Station 250 W Huntington Drive Arcadia, CA 91723 626-574-5150	CITY PD	Beverly Hills Police Department 464 N Rexford Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-550-4951	City PD
Avalon Sheriff Station 215 Summer Ave. Avalon, CA 90704 310-510-0174	LASD	Burbank Airport Police Station 2627 N Hollywood Way Burbank, CA 91505 818-840-8840	CITY PD
Azusa Police Station 725 N Alameda Ave. Azusa, CA 91702 626-812-3200	CITY PD	Burbank Courthouse 300 Olive Avenue Burbank, CA 91502 818-260-8498	LASD
Baldwin Park Police Station 14403 E Pacific Ave. Baldwin Park, CA 90201 626-960-1955	CITY PD	Burbank Police Station 200 N 3rd Street Burbank, CA 91502 818-238-3000	CITY PD
Barry Nidorf Juvenile Center 16350 Filbert Street Sylmar, CA 91342 818-364-2011	LACPD	Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh 6631 N Stephens Ranch Rd. La Verne, CA 91750 909-593-4937	LACPD

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY	FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY
Camp Glen Rockey 1900 Sycamore Canyon San Dimas, CA 91773 909-599-2391	LACPD	Challenger-Camp Onizuka 5300 West Avenue I Lancaster, CA 93536 661-940-4144	LACPD
Camp Joseph Paige 6601 N Stephens Ranch Rd. La Verne, CA 90750 909-593-4921	LACPD	Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center 210 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-628-7900	LASD
Camp Scott 28700 Bouquet Canyon Rd. Santa Clarita, CA 91390 661-296-8500	LACPD	Claremont Police Station 570 W Bonita Ave. Claremont, CA 91711 909-399-5411	CITY PD
Campus Kilpatrick 427 S Encinal Canyon Rd. Malibu, CA 90265 818-879-6111	LACPD	Compton Courthouse 200 W Compton Blvd. Compton, CA 90220 320-761-4300	LASD
Carson Sheriff Station 21356 S Avalon Blvd. Carson, CA 90745 319-830-1123	LASD	Compton Sheriff Station 301 S Willow Brook Ave. Compton, CA 90220 310-605-6500	LASD
Central Area Community 251 E 6th Street Los Angeles, CA 90014 213-486-6606	LAPD	Correctional Treatment Center 450 Bauchet Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-473-6100	LASD
Central Arraignment Courthouse 429 Bauchet Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-974-6068	LAPD	Covina Police 444 N Citrus Ave. Covina, CA 91723 626-384-5595	CITY PD
Century Regional Correction Facility 11705 S Alameda Street Los Angeles, CA 90059 213-473-6100	LASD	Crescenta Valley Station 4554 N Briggs Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214 818-248-3464	LASD
Century Sheriff Station 11703 S Alameda St. Lynwood, CA 323-568-4800	LASD	Culver City Police 4040 Duquesne Ave. Culver City, CA 90232 310-837-1221	CITY PD
Cerritos Station 18135 Bloomfield Ave. Cerritos, CA 90703 662-860-0044	LASD	Devonshire Community Station 10250 Etiwanda Avenue Northridge, CA 91324 818-832-0633	LAPD
Challenger-Camp McNair 5300 West Avenue I Lancaster, CA 93536 661-940-4146	LADPD	Dodger Stadium Security Office 1000 Elysian Park Los Angeles, CA 90012 866-363-4377 x4258	PRIVATE

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY	FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY
Dorothy Kirby Center 1500 S McDonnell Ave. Commerce, CA 90040 323-981-4301	LACPD	Foothill Community Station 12760 Osborne Street Pacoima, CA 91331 818-756-8861	LAPD
Downey Courthouse 7500 Imperial Hwy. Downey, CA 90242 562-803-7044	LASD	Gardena Police Station 1718 W 162nd Street Gardena, CA 90247 310-217-9600	CITY PD
Downey Police Station 10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 90241 562-861-0771	CITY PD	Glendale Courthouse 600 E Broadway Avenue Glendale, CA 91206 818-500-3524	LASD
East Los Angeles Courthouse 4848 E Civic Center Way Los Angeles, CA 90022 323-780-2025	LASD	Glendale Police Station 131 N Isabel Street Glendale, CA 91206 818-548-4840	CITY PD
East Los Angeles Station 5019 E Third Street Los Angeles, CA 90022 323-264-4151	LASD	Glendora Police Station 150 A. Glendora Ave Glendora, CA 91741 626-914-8250	CITY PD
Eastlake Juvenile Courthouse 1601 Eastlake Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90033 323-227-4399	LASD	Harbor Community Station 2175 S. John Gibson Blvd San Pedro CA 90731 310-726-7700	LAPD
Eastlake L.A. Juvenile Hall 1605 Eastlake Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90033 323-226-8611	LACPD	Hawthorne Police Station 12501 Hawthorne Blvd. Hawthorne, CA 90250 310-349-2700	CITY PD
Edmund Edelman Children's Court 210 Centre Plaza Drive #27 Monterey Park, CA 91754 323-307-8098	LASD	Hermosa Beach Police Station 540 Pier Avenue Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 323-318-0360	CITY PD
El Monte Courthouse 11234 E Valley Blvd. El Monte, CA 91731 626-575-5101	LASD	Hollenbeck Community Station 2111 E 1st St. Los Angeles, CA 90033 323-342-4100	LAPD
El Monte Police Station 11333 Valley Blvd. El Monte, CA 91731 626-580-2100	CITY PD	Hollywood Community Station 1358 N Wilcox Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90028 213-972-2971	LAPD
El Segundo Police Station 348 Main Street El Segundo, CA 90245 310-524-2200	CITY PD	Huntington Park Police Station 6542 Miles Avenue Huntington Park, CA 90255 323-584-6254	CITY PD
The Forum 3900 W Manchester Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90305 310-862-6200	PRIVATE	Industry Sheriff Station 150 N Hudson Avenue City of Industry, CA 91744 626-330-3322	LASD

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY	FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY
Inglewood Courthouse 1 E Regent Street Inglewood, CA 90301 312-419-1396	LASD	Long Beach West Police Station 1835 Santa Fe Ave. Long Beach, CA 90810 562-570-3400	CITY PD
Inglewood Juvenile Court 110 E Regent Street Inglewood, CA 90301 310-412-8343	LASD	Los Angeles Airport Courthouse 11701 S La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90045 310-725-3000	LASD
Inglewood Police Station 1 W Manchester Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90301 310-412-5211	CITY PD	Los Angeles Airport Police 6320 W 96th Street Los Angeles, CA 90045 424-646-6100	PRIVATE
Inmate Reception Center 450 Bauchet Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-893-5875	LASD	Los Angeles County Fairgrounds 1011 West McKinley Ave. Pomona, CA 91790 909-623-3111	LAPD
Irwindale Police Station 5050 N Irwindale Ave. Irwindale, CA 91706 626-430-2244	CITY PD	Los Angeles County+USC Jail Ward 2051 Marengo St. Rm. 5G113A Los Angeles, CA 90003 323-409—1000	PRIVATE
Kenyon Scudder Camp 28750 Bouquet Canyon Rd. Santa Clarita, CA 91310 661-296-8811	LACPD	Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum 3911 S Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90037 213-765-6357	PRIVATE
La Verne Police Station 2061 Third Street La Verne, CA 91750 909-596-1913	CITY PD	Los Angeles Metropolitan Division 2710 W Temple St. Los Angeles, CA 90026 213-352-4700	LAPD
Lakewood Station 530 N Clark Avenue Lakewood, CA 90712 562-623-3500	LASD	Los Angeles Police Department HQ 100 W 1st Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-486-1000	LAPD
Lancaster Station 501 W Lancaster Blvd. Lancaster, CA 93534 661-948-8466	LASD	Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall 7285 Quill Drive Downey, CA 90242 562-940-8681	LACPD
Lomita Station 26123 Narbonne Ave. Lomita, CA 90717 310-539-1661	LASD	Malibu/Lost Hills 27050 Agoura Road Calabasas, CA 91301 818-878-1808	LASD
Long Beach Courthouse 275 Magnolia Ave. Long Beach, CA 90802 562-256-2310	LASD	Manhattan Beach Police Station 420 15th Street Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 310-802-5140	CITY PD
Long Beach Police Station 400 W Broadway Long Beach, CA 90802 562-435-6711	CITY PD	Marina Del Rey Station 13851 Fiji Way Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 310-482-6000	LASD

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY	FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY
Men's Central Jail 441 Bauchet Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-974-4082	LASD	North County Correctional Facility 29340 The Old Road Castaic, CA 91384 661-295-7810	LASD
Mental Health Courthouse 1150 N San Fernando Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90065 323-226-2908	LASD	North Hollywood Community Station 11640 Burbank Blvd. North Hollywood, CA 91601 818-754-8300	LAPD
Metropolitan Courthouse 1945 S Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90007 213-742-1884	LASD	Northeast Community Station 3353 N San Fernando Road Los Angeles, CA 90065 323-561-3211	LAPD
Metropolitan Detention Center 180 N Los Angeles St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-356-3400	LASD	Norwalk Courthouse 12720 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650 562-807-7266	LASD
Metropolitan Detention Center 535 Alameda St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-485-0439	LASD	Norwalk Station 12335 Civic Center Drive Norwalk, CA 90650 562-863-8711	LASD
Michael A. Antelope Valley Courthouse 42011 4th St. West Lancaster, CA 93534 661-974-7200	LASD	Olympic Community Station 1130 S Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90006 213-382-9102	LAPD
Mission Hills Community Station 11121 N Sepulveda Blvd. Mission Hills, CA 91345 818-838-9800	LAPD	Pacific Community Station 12312 Culver Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90066 312-482-6334	LAPD
Monrovia Police Station 140 E Lime Avenue Monrovia, CA 91016 626-256-8000	CITY PD	Palmdale Station 750 E Avenue Q Palmdale, CA 93550 661-272-2400	LASD
Montebello Police Station 1600 W Beverly Blvd. Montebello, CA 90640 323-887-1212	CITY PD	Palos Verdes Police Station 340 Palos Verdes Drive Palos Verdes, CA 90274 312-378-4211	CITY PD
Monterey Park Police Station 320 W Newmark Avenue Monterrey Park, CA 91754 626-573-1311	CITY PD	Pasadena Courthouse 300 E Walnut Street Pasadena, CA 91101 626-396-3300	LASD
Newton Community Station 3400 S. Central Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90011 323-846-6547	LAPD	Pasadena Police Station 201 N Garfield Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101 626-744-4501	CITY PD

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY	FACILITY NAME/AGENCY	AGENCY
Pico Rivera Station 6631 Passons Blvd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660 562-949-2421	CITY PD	San Gabriel Police 625 Del Mar Ave. San Gabriel, CA91776 626-308-2828	CITY PD
Pitchess Detention Center East Facility 29310 The Old Road Castaic, CA 91384 213-473-6100	LASD	San Marino Police 2200 Huntington Drive San Marino, CA 91180 626-300-0729	CITY PD
Pitchess Detention Center N. Facility 29320 The Old Road Castaic, CA 91384 213-473-6100	LASD	Santa Clarita Courthouse 23747 W Valencia Blvd. Valencia, CA 91366 661-253-5699	LASD
Pitchess Detention Center S. Facility 293330 The Old Road Castaic, CA 91384 213-473-6100	LASD	Santa Clarita Station 23740 W Magic Mountain Pkwy. Valencia, CA 91335 661-255-1121	LASD
Pomona Courthouse 400 Civic Center plaza Pomona, CA 91766 909-802-1100	LASD	Santa Clarita Valley Station (New) 26201 Golden Valley Rd. Santa Clarita, CA 91350 661-260-4000	LASD
Pomona Police Station 490 W Mission Blvd. Pomona, CA 91766 909-620-2155	CITY PD	Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main Street #102 Santa Monica, CA 90401 310-255-1840	LASD
Rampart Community Station 1401 W 6th Street Los Angeles, CA 90017 213-484-3400	LAPD	Santa Monica Police 333 Olympic Drive Santa Monica, CA 90401 310-458-8495	CITY PD
Redondo Beach Police Station 401 Diamond St. Redondo Beach, CA 90277 310-379-2477	CITY PD	Signal Hill Police 2745 Walnut Ave. Signal Hill, CA 90755 562-989-7200	CITY PD
San Dimas Sheriff Station 270 S Walnut Avenue San Dimas, CA 91773 909-450-2700	LASD	SOFI Stadium 1001 S Stadium Drive Inglewood, CA 90301 424-541-9920	PRIVATE
San Fernando Courthouse 900 Third Street San Fernando, CA 91340 818-256-1800	LASD	South Gate Police 8620 California Avenue South Gate, CA 90280 323-563-5400	CITY PD
San Fernando Police 910 First Street San Fernando, CA 91340 818-898-1267	CITY PD	South Los Angeles Station 1310 W. Imperial Highway Los Angeles, CA 90044 323-820-6700	LASD

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY	FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY
South Pasadena Police 1422 Mission Street South Pasadena, CA 91030 626-403-7270	CITY PD	Van Nuys Courthouse West 14400 Erwin Street Mall Van Nuys, CA 91401 818-989-6999	LASD
Southeast Community Station 145 W 108th Street Los Angeles, CA 90061 213-972-7828	LAPD	Vernon Police 4305 S Santa Fe Ave. Vernon , CA 90058 323-587-5171	CITY PD
Southwest Community Station 1546 W Martin Luther King Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90062 213-485-2582	LAPD	Walnut/Diamond Bar Station 21695 E Valley Blvd. Walnut, CA 91789 626-913-1715	LASD
Staples Center 1111 S Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90015 213-742-7444	PRIVATE	West Covina Courthouse 1427 W Covina Park Way West Covina, CA 91790 626-430-2600	LASD
Temple City Station 8838 Las Tunas Drive Temple City, CA 91780 626-285-7171	LASD	West Covina Police 1444 W Garvey Ave. West Covina, CA 91790 626-939-8500	CITY PD
Topanga Community Station 21501 Schoenborn Street Canoga Park, CA 91304 818-756-4800	LAPD	West Hollywood Sheriff Station 780 N San Vicente Blvd. West Hollywood, CA 90069 310-855-8850	LASD
Torrance Courthouse 825 Maple Ave. Torrance, CA 90503 310-787-3700	LASD	West Los Angeles Community Station 1663 Butler Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90025 310-444-0701	LAPD
Torrance Police 3300 Civic Center Drive Torrance, CA 90503 310-328-3456	CITY PD	West Valley Community Station 19020 Vanowen Street Reseda, CA 91335 818-374-7611	LAPD
Twin Towers 450 Bauchet Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-473-6100	LASD	Whittier Courthouse 7339 Painter Ave. Whittier, CA 90602 562-968-2699	LASD
Universal City Walk Sub-Station 1000 Universal Studios Blvd. Bldg. 4505M Universal City, CA 91608 818-622-8850	LASD	Whittier Police 13200 E Penn Street Whittier, CA 90602 562-567-9200	CITY PD
Van Nuys Community Station 6240 Sylmar Avenue Van Nuys, CA 91401 818-374-9599	LAPD	Whittier Sheriff Station 13525 Telegraph Rd. Whittier, CA 90605 562-903-1874	LASD

FACILITY NAME/ADDRESS	AGENCY
Wilshire Community Station 4861 W Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90058 213-473-0476	LAPD

EDIT



2021 – 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

CIVIL GRAND JURY

EDIT

OBJECTIVES

The 2021/2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Edit Committee was created to meet the mandate in California Penal Code Section 933, subdivision (a), that the jury publish a Final Report for submission to the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Each Committee takes ownership of the content and the report guidelines as voted and approved by the Civil Grand Jury.

METHODOLOGY

The Edit Committee is responsible for checking guidelines, grammar, spelling, punctuation and syntax in all standing and investigative reports.

The Edit Committee provides writing and footnoting guidelines to the jury, suggests any flow or content clarification and tracks timelines for the Final Report. A report template based on a vote by the Civil Grand Jury was created to guide each investigative committee. It was suggested that under the *Recommendation Section* each individual recommendation should relate back to a specific finding. Each committee decides whether to accept or reject suggestion made by the Edit committee.

Reports are edited before submission to the Civil Grand Jury. After the edit, the entire Civil Grand Jury votes on each individual report to be included in the Final Report. If the report is approved by 14 members of the Civil Grand jury, it is then reviewed by County Counsel and with a signoff is placed in a binder until all reports are approved. The Final Report includes all approved investigations and activities undertaken by the Grand Jury before submitted to the judge.

The Edit committee works with the Publication Committee to compile the Final Report.

Throughout the Civil Grand Jury empanelment, the Edit Committee members assist jurors in drafting and writing necessary correspondence, forming report organizations and other necessary communications.

CONCLUSION

Documents Edited during the Civil Grand Jury empanelment:

- Numerous letters requesting responses from the prior jury recommendations
- 9 Standing Committee Reports including Continuity and Detention
- All Investigation Reports

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Elzie Whitlow, Chair
Ruth Cordero, Co-chair
Gertie Moncrief
Vivian Ozuna
Maureen Smith

HOSPITALITY



2021 – 2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021-2022 Hospitality Committee consisted of five Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) members selected in the month of July, 2021.

Hospitality Committee members serve the CGJ by providing beverages, baked goods, and supplies needed for planned events.

METHODOLOGY

Monthly contributions from each CGJ member are collected for the purchase of water, coffee, paper goods, utensils, and bakery items. Birthdays of CGJ members falling within the current month are celebrated at the end with lunch provided.

The planning and responsibilities were outlined in our Hospitality Committee meetings held twice monthly to discuss committee purchases, reimbursements, and end of month birthday luncheons.

Due to Covid-19, measures for a clean and sanitary environment were enforced by encouraging handwashing and placing disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizers throughout the break room area for use. CGJ members were encouraged to wipe the surface area where they ate and dispose or wash their dishes and utensils.

On Fridays, or holiday weekends, the refrigerator was cleaned out except for cold beverages and non-perishable foods.

ACRONYMS

CGJ-Civil Grand Jury

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ruth Cordero	Chair
Michael Cieplik	Co-Chair
Gertie Moncrief	Member
Judy Rendon	Member
Bernadette Trigo	Member

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



2021 – 2022

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members of the Information Technology Committee (Committee) of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) are tasked with assisting their fellow jurors in regard to their assigned laptops as well as the printers, projector, and any other technical inquiries that may arise.

Currently, each juror is given a laptop which connects online to the internet and the CGJ network. All juror files are shared and kept locked from all other networks. All research notes and investigative files are also kept on this network.

Laptops are stored in a secure charging cabinet. This cabinet can only be accessed by the CGJ Administrative Staff. Each morning, a designated sign-in sheet is initialed by each juror upon examination of their laptop for any damage. The same procedure is used at the end of the workday when the laptops are returned to the cabinet.

All investigative activities that require use of the internet must be done in the jury room. Therefore, the internet must be reliable and the printers must be connected at all times to the jurors' laptops. When one or both of these necessary tools are down, the productivity of the CGJ suffers and makes it difficult to get any work done for the day.

The Committee recommends the following:

- Internet for the Jury network should be the best that is available. That would help keep any internet outages to a minimum and productivity high.
- Printer network should be set up on every jurors' laptop before they are assigned at the start of the Jury term.

BACKGROUND

In the past, jurors relied on sharing desktop computers to do investigative work and to produce the Final Report. This made it difficult for the jurors to work independently and be productive. The first CGJ to be assigned individual laptops was the 2017-2018 CGJ. Currently we are the third CGJ to be assigned individual laptops. The CGJ Administrative Staff assisted us by providing a training session on how to use the Jury network. The network was confusing at first, but the CGJ was able to navigate the network within the month.

METHODOLOGY

The Committee assists jurors with the following:

- Navigating the CGJ network, including creating, finding, saving and moving files.
- Creating, updating and formatting Microsoft Word and Excel documents.
- Accessing the internet and running investigative searches.
- Troubleshooting printer and network issues.
- Setting up the projection system.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Tiglath Gaete

John Miller - **Member**

Bernadette Trigo - **Member**

PUBLICATION



**2021 – 2022
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

PUBLICATION

The Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) is mandated under Penal Code Section 933 to publish a final report (Report) by the end of its term of office on 6/30/22 for the calendar year 2021-2022. The Committee is responsible to produce said Report and ensure its delivery to the Presiding Superior Court Judge for a finding that the final report is in compliance with penal code.

The CGJ is made up of Standing Committees and Investigative Committees (as determined by the Jury members). The Committee members develop time lines and deadlines to produce their respective reports for the final report. This ensures that before production County Counsel and the Presiding Judge have time to completely review the CGJ written product. We, as a body, review and vote upon the contents included in the Report, which is ultimately presented to the Presiding Judge. Any Committee report that does not achieve a Quorum vote of the minimum 14 out of 23 Jurors is not submitted to the Judge or included with the 2021-2022 final report.

Publication worked closely with the Edit Committee to establish a format for all Committees to follow when writing their reports. Each Committee report is read and fact checked for accuracy, ambiguity, and conciseness by both the Publication and Edit Committees. Once completed, the Committee reports are sent to the Publication Committee to be included in the Final Report. The CGJ members are responsible for delivering the final report and/or relevant portions to the responsible county entities commented upon in the body of the final report. These entities can include, but are not limited to, the County Board of Supervisors, Judges of the Superior Court, the District Attorney, Los Angeles County Counsel, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Police Chiefs, and Mayors of Los Angeles County and Los Angeles County Special Districts as well as media and public interest groups. The CGJ final report is also published on line for public viewing.

Appreciation is given to the Edit and Publication Committees for the quality of the report herein.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Scott Larson, Chair
Michael Cieplik
London Jones
Thomas Patrick O'Shaughness
Bernadette Trigo

SPEAKERS AND TOURS



2021 – 2022

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

Speakers and Tours

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this committee is to enlighten the twenty-three (23) members of the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) to the operations of the County of Los Angeles and the jurisdictions within the County that consists of 88 cities, 493 special districts and 96 school districts serving the County's population of over 10 million citizens.

BACKGROUND

The Speakers and Tours Committee was formed during the first month of the 2021-2022 term. It is one (1) of nine (9) standing committees as established by the CGJ. This committee assists the members of the CGJ to fulfill its duty as an independent "watchdog" for the citizens of Los Angeles County.

The committee invited various governmental officials as well as speakers from non-profit organizations to make presentations to the CGJ. These guest speakers were able to educate and provide insight to the CGJ members about their mission, goals and objectives, struggles and accomplishments as well as issues of importance. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most presentations were virtual. The CGJ found that they were just as valuable as in person presentations done in prior years.

Many places of interest to CGJ were not open for tours due to the COVID-19 pandemic; consequently the tour aspect of this committee was limited during this term.

We would like to thank the following individuals and entities for providing their valuable time to enlighten the 2021-2022 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury. We especially want to thank the deputies of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who provided excellent customer service and a safe and efficient mode of transportation for the CGJ members when traveling to their destinations.

Listed below are the speakers who graciously made presentations in order of appearance:

- Mike Feuer, City Attorney, City of Los Angeles
- Liza Frias, Director of Environment Health, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
- Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Fifth District, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
- Heidi Marston, Executive Director, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
- Dr. Deanne Tilton Durfee, Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Sheriff Alex Villanueva, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
- Connie Draxler, Deputy Director for Public Guardian Office, County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health

- Deputy Fire Chief Anthony Marrone, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
- Anne Tremblay, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles
- Ron Galperin, City Controller, City of Los Angeles
- Vicky Arenas, Executive Director, The People Concern
- Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair, First District, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
- Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Director, County of Los Angeles
- Dr. Bobby Cagle, Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services
- Max Huntsman, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, County of Los Angeles

Listed below are the facilities who provided tours to the CGJ during this term in order of visit:

- Twin Towers Correctional Facility, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
- Inmate Reception Center, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
- Tiny Homes Village, Arroyo Seco Location, Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission
- LAFD Training Facility Drill Tower 81, City of Los Angeles Fire Department

ACRONYMS

CGJ – Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

LAFD – City of Los Angeles Fire Department

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vivian M. Ozuna, Chair

Linda Cantley

Elaine Jankins

James R. Lamb

Maureen Smith