

Slide 1

**Grand Jury Continuity**  
*Presented by the  
California Grand Jurors' Association*



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Slide 2

**What is Continuity?**

- An uninterrupted succession or flow
- For grand juries, a collaboration of jurors – past, present, and future – to maintain and improve grand jury functions from year to year

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Slide 3

**This Session Will Cover**

- Monitoring final report responses
- Other elements of continuity
  - Developing and passing on institutional knowledge
  - Acquiring needed resources (funding, facilities, and equipment)

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Slide 4

**Monitoring Final Report Responses**

- The grand jury may review responses for:
  - Compliance
  - Content
  - Implementation
- A CGJA chapter (or other group of former grand jurors) may help

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Slide 5

**Compliance**

To be compliant, response must:

- Be timely (PC §933)
  - 90 days for governing boards
  - 60 days for elected officials
- Include mandated content (PC §933.05)

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Slide 6

**Allowable Responses to Findings**

- A response to each finding must state:
  - Agrees
  - Disagrees, wholly or partially, with an explanation for any disagreement

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Slide 7

**Allowable Responses to Recommendations**

- A response to each recommendation must state:
  - Has been implemented, with summary
  - Will be implemented, with schedule
  - Requires further analysis (described), and a time frame for a response (up to six months)
  - Will not be implemented, with explanation

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Slide 8

**Monitoring Compliance**

- For non-compliant responses:
  - Can request advisor or court to assist
  - Some judges authorize jury to send letter
  - Grand jury can initiate new investigation and issue report
- Grand jury may also issue report summarizing all responses
  - Can be issued early in the term

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Slide 9

**Content**

- Situation: Response is compliant but doesn't really address the issues
  - Evasive or unclear
- What can you do?
  - Ask for another response?
    - No
  - Ask the court to intervene?
    - Yes, but court unlikely to get involved
  - Open another investigation?
    - Yes – the only thing you can do

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Slide 10

### Verifying Implementation

- Did the entity follow through on its promised actions?
  - Grand jury can initiate new investigation to verify
  - May issue new report if warranted
- CGJA chapters (or other former jurors) can follow up, but have no investigative power

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Slide 11

### Monitoring Final Report Responses

Monitor for:	Look for:	Action to take:
Compliance	Conformity to PC §933.05	1. Ask court or advisor to assist 2. Issue report
Content	Failure to address real issues	May conduct new investigation and issue report
Implementation	Whether the entity did what it promised	May conduct new investigation and issue report

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Slide 12

### Other Elements of Grand Jury Continuity

- Prior reports
- Continual service
- Procedures manual
- Training and local orientation
- Library and facilities
- Budget

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Slide 13

**Prior Reports and Responses**

- Must be retained for five years (PC §933(c))
- Provide information about local agencies and may identify recurring problems
- Review may suggest why recommendations were accepted or rejected

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Slide 14

**Continual Service**

- State Constitution requires that there always be a sitting grand jury in each county
- Up to 10 jurors may be carried over (PC §901)
- Repeat jurors bring experience and knowledge to new grand jury

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Slide 15

**Procedures**

- Local procedures manual is an important learning tool
  - Each jury must adopt own rules of procedure (PC §916)
  - Should be reviewed and revised as needed
- Manuals from other counties can be useful for updating yours

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Slide 16

**Training and Local Orientation**

- Court must ensure training
  - Must include authority, interviews, and report writing (PC §914(b))
  - CGJA training fulfills all requirements
- Jury should recommend that next budget has adequate funds for training
- Jury should evaluate and help improve its local orientation program

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Slide 17

**Library and Facilities**

- Library (physical and/or electronic) should include documents that will help the next grand jury
- Need access to on-line resources
  - Many resources at [www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org) and in the CGJA Training Manual at Tab 8
- Jury should advocate for adequate facilities, equipment, and IT services

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Slide 18

**Grand Jury Budget  
(determined by the county)**

- Monitor expenditures
- Jury should advocate for adequate budget for next year's grand jury
  - Meet with county budget rep if budget needs to be augmented

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Slide 19

For more information, refer to  
the CGJA Training Manual,  
or contact us at:  
  
[cgjatraining@cgja.org](mailto:cgjatraining@cgja.org)

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