

EL DORADO COUNTY
GRAND JURY 2020-2021
REPORT



**GRAND JURY CONTINUITY AND
COMPLIANCE**

CASE 20-03

Public Release

JUNE 30, 2021

EL DORADO COUNTY 2020-2021 GRAND JURY

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The El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury may appear to be an institution that exists continuously. However, it is actually a series of individual grand juries which each exist for exactly one year, as mandated in the California Constitution and statutes. No jury is a continuance of any other. Each grand jury exists independently and separately from all others.

BACKGROUND

Each El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury investigates County government during its one-year term. It can also investigate city governments, agencies and districts within the County. Each investigation can generate a report containing evidence, findings of fact derived from that evidence and recommended actions based on those findings. Each report can require responses to report findings and recommendations from those officials responsible for the subject of the report.

Grand jury reports may be published and released at any time during the grand jury term. The time involved in conducting investigations, evaluating information gathered and writing reports dictates that they are most frequently published near the end of the term.

Responses to grand jury reports are typically received after the issuing grand jury's term has ended. The new grand jury receives the responses instead of the issuing grand jury. It is then incumbent upon the succeeding grand jury to evaluate those responses for statutory compliance and completion, providing, if all goes well, a semblance of grand jury continuity.

METHODOLOGY

- Reviewed the California Penal Code sections relevant to report responses, findings and recommendations
- Reviewed the 2018-19 and 2019-20 El Dorado County Grand Juries' reports and responses
- Communicated with several responding agencies after reviewing their replies

DISCUSSION

The current Grand Jury reviewed responses to the 2018-19 and 2019-20 Grand Jury reports. This review is intended to ensure that the work of prior grand juries is not disregarded or ignored. In most cases, responses were timely and complied with provisions of the California Penal Code. Further, most follow-up actions specified in the responses had either been accomplished or were in the process of being done. Any delays noted were directly related to the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the programs and services provided by local agencies and districts, and supporting personnel and processes.

The Grand Jury commends those local agencies and districts that provided timely and compliant responses to the reports of the prior Grand Juries, as well as their evident commitment to implementing recommendations for improving programs and service.

FINDINGS

F1. In most cases, responses to the 2018-19 and 2019-20 Grand Juries' reports were timely and complied with the provisions of the California Penal Code.

F2. Most follow-up actions specified in the responses have either been accomplished or are in process of being done.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This report has no recommendations.

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

Responses to this report are not required or requested.