



2022-2023 FINAL REPORT

KINGS COUNTY GRAND JURY

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**County of Kings
Grand Jury**

**P. O. Box 1562 Hanford, CA 93232
449 C Street Lemoore, CA 93245
grand.jury@co.kings.ca.us
559-852-2892**

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Robert Shane Burns
Advising Judge, Superior Court of the State of California
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, California 93230

Judge Burns,

The 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury hereby submits the final report to the Kings County Superior Court and the citizens of Kings County. Without the sound council of the advising judge, the Office of County Council, the Office of the District Attorney and the Office of the Jury Commissioner, this report would not have been possible. We also thank the court staff for the many instances where they aided in administrative matters.

Being given the opportunity to serve as a grand jury member is both rewarding and educational. Grand juries are given the responsibility to protect the interests of the county citizens. Countless hours go into interviews and research necessary to complete each project. I also extend my sincere thanks to the members of the 2022-2023 King County Grand Jury. The many hours spent by these dedicated people are reflected in this final report book. The work done shows the commitment to serve the needs of the people of Kings County. It is a great responsibility, but also a great honor to serve as a member of the Kings County Grand Jury.

All work done by the Grand Jury is dependent on the individual members both in committee and in full body. It is important to work together for the good of all citizens of Kings County. My congratulations to the committee chairs who coordinated the work in each committee and to the general membership for supporting the work being done.

It was truly my honor to serve as Foreperson of the 2022-2023 Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bare
Kathy Bare, Foreperson



Superior Court of the State of California
County of Kings

Robert Shane Burns
Superior Court Judge

May 30, 2023

To: Kings County Grand Jury and Affected Governmental
Agencies and Officers

The 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury has submitted the enclosed reports to the Presiding Judge and/or his designee of the Superior Court in accordance with Section 933 of the California Penal Code. The enclosed reports were submitted and are hereby accepted as the final reports of the Grand Jury concerning these areas of inquiry.

The agencies and elected officials who are affected by the enclosed reports are each hereby notified that they are required to comment to the Presiding Judge and/or his designee concerning these findings and recommendations as they pertain to the subject agency or elected official. Comments are due on behalf of each elected county officer or agency head that has responsibility for the agencies and functions described in these reports within 60 days from this date. The governing bodies of the public agencies affected by the reports have a 90-day time limit within which to submit comments pursuant to Penal Code Section 933 (c). In addition, a copy of each response shall be placed on file with the clerk of the public agency on whose behalf the response is made.

Those having questions concerning their responsibilities to respond to the Grand Jury's recommendations should contact County Counsel or their agency's general counsel.

The Judges of the Superior Court wish to express our sincere appreciation for the long hours of service given by members of the 2022-2023 Grand Jury, with special thanks to their Foreperson, Kathy Bare. Selfless dedication to public service such as that demonstrated by this Grand Jury is crucial to the survival of the institution of the Grand Jury, which is itself an important part of the checks and balances necessary for our democracy to function.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Shane Burns".

Robert Shane Burns
Judge of the Superior Court

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| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Judge | Judge | Judge | Commissioner | Presiding Judge | Commissioner | Judge | Judge |
| Jennifer Giuliani | Randy Edwards | Melissa D'Morias | Drian N. Chase | Michael J. Reinhart | Mark Skinner | Valerie R. Chrissakis | Kendra D. Weber |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Recording Secretary | | | | | | | |
| Committee Chair | Treasurer | Committee Chair | Pro Tem | | Committee Chair | | |
| Maria Kelley | Kathleen Taylor | John Wright | Kevin Scott | Sal Pina | Alex Velasco | Rebecca Bell | |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| Social Secretary | Foreperson | | | | Correspondence | | |
| Committee Chair | Committee Chair | | Sergeant at Arms | | Secretary | Snack Master | |
| Valarie Parks | Kathy Bare | Wayne Harvey | Gary Leasure | Stephanie Gomez | Jose Macias | Fay Johnson | |

Chairperson
George Cleary
(Not appearing in photo)

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DEFICIENCY IN THE CITY OF HANFORD PARKS

April 18, 2023

SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury found that Hanford has a deficiency in the number of basketball courts in its parks system. Out of seventeen parks only four parks have basketball courts, and all are on the south side of Grangeville Boulevard. We believe that several more basketball courts are needed so that all residents have equal access to them.

While there are many basketball courts located in Hanford schools, they are unavailable for use to the public due to insurance and vandalism concerns (long before the COVID Pandemic). The Civic Center Act is codified in California Education Code 38130. The spirit of the law was to ensure that structures and facilities built with public dollars were allowed to benefit the public for other purposes beyond just schooling. Schools interpret the Civic Center Act Education Code 38130 to determine whether their school will be an open or closed campus to residents outside of regular school hours.

The lack of basketball courts would not be an issue if the City of Hanford worked with school districts to make these courts available to Hanford residents.

The Grand Jury found that many portable basketball hoops can be found in residential neighborhoods. The City of Hanford is currently issuing warnings and citations to homeowners that have the portable courts in the streets and sidewalks in front of their homes. Hanford Municipal Code 12.04 Chapter 120 deems the hoop to be a public nuisance. We believe that the number of portable hoops is due in part to the lack of available access to school courts and the lack of courts in Hanford Parks. The City of Hanford should consider making an exception to the city code so that hoops may be allowed to remain and be enjoyed by the city's youth.

BACKGROUND

Local city parks provide access to recreational opportunities. All provide different activities and amenities. City parks should offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities that reflect the community's desires. While parks encourage active lifestyles and improve health, they also improve property values, improve the environment, and in some cases, they provide a way to manage stormwater and lessen flooding.

Green spaces are seen to be the center of equitable and resilient cities. When the public is engaged in and has a say in designing city parks, it provides a sense of community and helps ensure that the park reflects the needs of the community.

Some parks in Hanford have play structures, dog areas, water activities, basketball courts, frisbee golf, work out spaces, ponds, picnic areas and jogging paths, etc. *Please see Exhibit A.* Not all residents have a desire for and a use for every amenity that is offered.

In the past, as the parks were initially being developed, Hanford schools would allow public access to their grounds for sports such as basketball and soccer. Now that the school grounds are closed to public access, due to vandalism and insurance concerns (long before the COVID Pandemic), the loss of a once widely used amenity should be accounted for in the development of future Hanford Parks. This development also left Hanford Parks with a current need for more basketball courts.

Sociologists believe that the game of basketball provides valuable skill sets, such as communication skills and encourages a sense of community and team work as well as providing key social development for children and adults alike. Residents interact with people from different backgrounds which broadens their perspective. For this reason, the Kings County Grand Jury believes it should be a priority to invest in the development of quality parks and sports facilities in each quarter section of the City of Hanford. Basketball specifically is a sport which is not offered in most of the parks around the City of Hanford. Of the eight major parks in the city of Hanford (17 parks in total) only four parks offer basketball courts, and they are all on the south side of Grangeville Boulevard (Lacey Park being the Northern most park with a basketball court). There are no parks on the north side of Grangeville Boulevard that contain basketball courts. Hidden Valley and Freedom Park, being two of the larger parks in the city, do not offer basketball courts.

METHODOLOGY

The Hanford Parks Director was interviewed on August 4, 2022. The Hanford City Parks and Community Development Department provided statistics on the number of basketball courts in Hanford Parks, the area needed for basketball courts and the cost involved for installing the courts.

Hanford City Council Meetings were attended where the Parks and Community Development Department talked about Hanford Parks.

The Superintendent of Hanford Elementary School District provided the campus policy regarding outside use of school grounds.

Grand Jury members personally toured Hanford Parks and neighborhoods to view basketball courts and residential hoops.

The Grand Jury was given a tour of five Hanford parks on December 22, 2022. The parks visited were Freedom Park, Hidden Valley Park, Centennial Park, Coe Park and Longfield Center.

Hanford's City Manager provided the Grand Jury with information regarding the encroachment into the City's Right of Way specifically, Hanford Municipal Code Section 12.04 Chapter 120.

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury was made aware that the City of Hanford has seventeen parks in its system. *Please see Exhibit A.* Eight of these are large enough to be considered major parks. They include Centennial, Coe, Freedom, Hidden Valley, Earl F. Johnson, Lacey, and Longfield Center. Three of the major parks have no basketball courts, one park has indoor courts, and three parks have outdoor courts. *Please see Exhibit B for amenities.*

Parks with basketball courts are as follows:

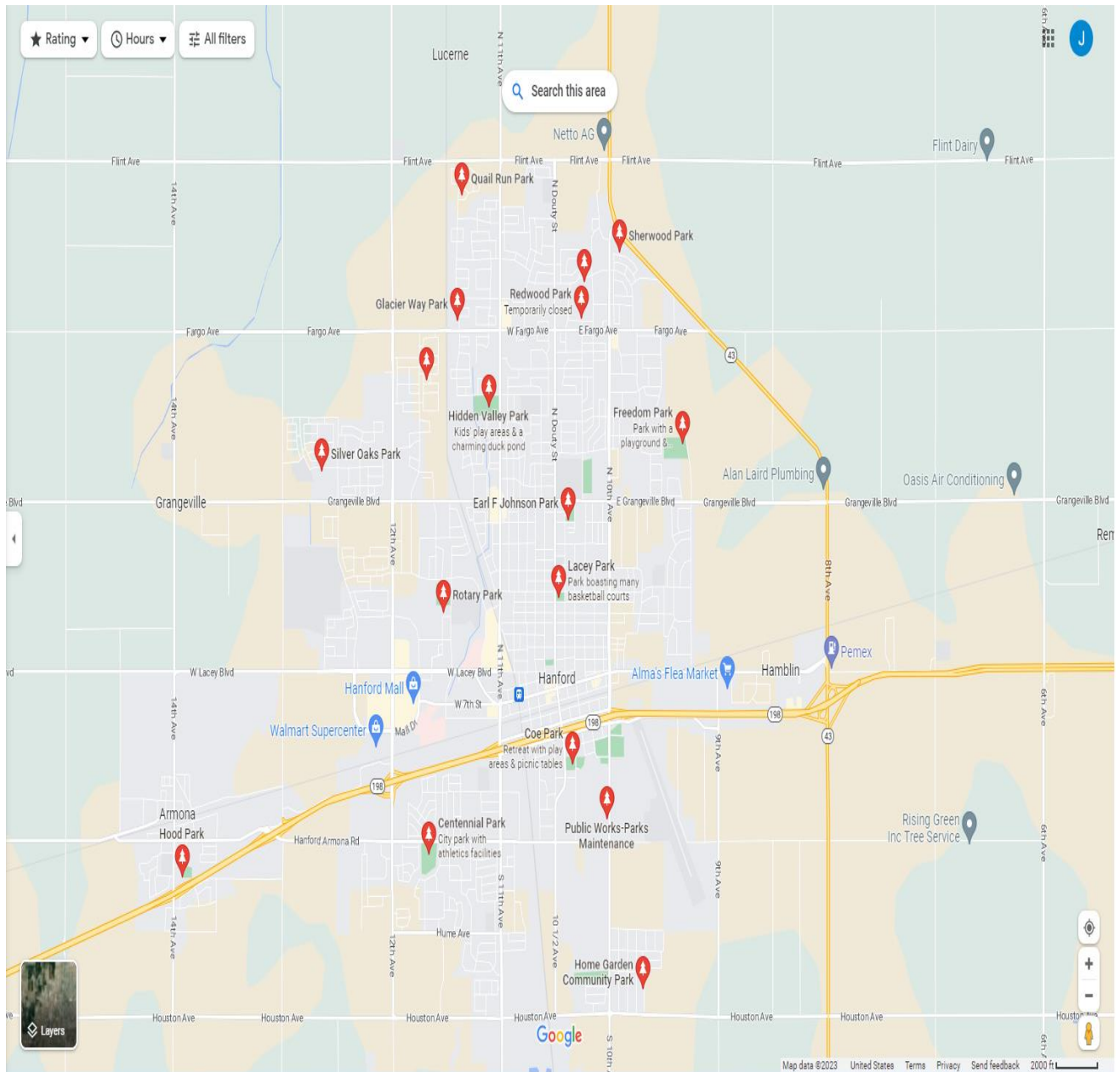
- 1) Centennial Park has 2 outdoor courts.
- 2) Coe Park has 2 outdoor courts.
- 3) Lacey Park has 4 outdoor courts (one court was just added).
- 4) Longfield Center has 2 indoor courts.

Parks without basketball courts are:

- 1) Freedom Park
- 2) Hidden Valley Park
- 3) Earl F. Johnson Park

When built, the new Hero's Park is slated to have several outdoor basketball courts.

Exhibit A: Google Maps "Hanford Parks"



| Exhibit B Hanford City Parks-Amenities | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------|-------|------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Basketball | Ball | Dog | Frisbee | Jogging | Covered | Play | | | | Splash | |
| | | Courts | Field | Park | Golf | Path | Picnic | Ground | Pond | Restroom | Soccer | Pad | Tennis |
| 1 | Centennial Park 11731 Hanford Armona Rd | x | x | x | x | x | | x | | x | | | |
| 2 | Coe Park 543 S Douty St | x | | | | | x | x | | x | | x | |
| 3 | Earl F. Johnson Park 1321 – 1325 N Brown St | | | | | | | x | | N | | | |
| 4 | Encore Park 465 E Encore #391 | | | | | | | x | | | | | |
| 5 | Freedom Park 2009 91/4 Ave | | x | | x | x | x | x | | x | x | x | |
| 6 | Glacier Way Park 2406 N Glacier Way | | | | | | | x | | | | | |
| 8 | Hidden Valley Park 2150 N 11 th Ave | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | | x | |
| 9 | Hood Park 13922 Hood Ave | | | | | | x | x | | | | | |
| 10 | Home Garden Comm Park 11899 Show Place | | | | | | x | x | | x | | x | |
| 11 | Lacey Park 112 Florinda St | x | | | | | | x | | x | | x | |
| 12 | Longfield Center 560 S Douty | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Quail Run Park 3199 N Glacier Way | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Redwood Park 410 E Redwood St (temporarily closed) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Rotary Park Campus Dr & North Dr | | x | | | | | | | | x | | |
| 15 | Sherwood Park 700 Sherwood Dr | | | | | | | x | | | | | |
| 16 | Silver Oaks Park 2106 Bryman St | | | | | | | x | | N | | | |
| 17 | Vineyards Peoples Park 1415 Vineyard Pl | | | | | x | | x | | | | | |

The following figures were provided by the City of Hanford Parks and Community Services Department.

The total area needed for a full basketball court including any regulated needs like surrounding landscaping, sidewalks, safety needs, etc. is 7,200 square feet. The court itself is 100 feet by 50 feet equaling 5,000 square feet leaving 2,200 square feet for ancillary surfacing. The area around the court should be free from trees or other obstructions.

The total cost for one full basketball court is as follows:

1. Building costs \$100,000 or more
 - i. Depending on the location, irrigation modifications can cost \$0 – \$1,500
 - ii. Cement is \$15-\$25 per square foot
 - iii. Lighting is \$2,000 – \$7,500 per pole with a minimum of two poles.
2. Ongoing maintenance \$1,750
 - i. Staff time \$1,500
 - ii. Material and supplies \$250
Annualized cost per court, not including original construction, \$2,500-\$5,000
3. Repainting of lines happens every 5-7 years, \$8,000-\$10,000
Annualized cost \$2,000

While there are many basketball courts located in Hanford schools, they are fenced off and locked up, thus making them unavailable for use by the public. Liability and vandalism have been big concerns. Schools rely on their interpretation of the Civic Center Act- Education Code Section 38130 to determine if their school will be an open or closed campus.

The Civic Center Act-Education Code Section 38130 reads as follows:

“Every public-school facility is considered a civic center where citizens, school-community councils, and clubs as well as senior, recreation, education, political, artistic, and other organizations may meet. The school district may grant the use of school facilities and grounds upon certain terms and conditions deemed proper by the governing board and subject to specified limitation, requirement, and restrictions set forth within the law.”

The City of Hanford should consider working with school districts to lessen insurance costs and make these courts available to Hanford residents. Fences may be moved around to isolate the school buildings, leaving the courts available to be used by residents.

The Grand Jury found that many portable basketball hoops can be found in residential neighborhoods. While The City of Hanford is currently issuing warnings and citations to homeowners that have the portable courts in the street and sidewalks in front of their homes, there is currently not a city ordinance that specifically prohibits basketball hoops. The prohibition applies to any items that would be deemed an encroachment into the City’s Right of Way. Those provisions are included in Title 12 of the City’s Municipal Code, Chapter 12.04.

https://library.qcode.us/lib/hanford_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/title_12

FINDINGS

F1. The Grand Jury has found a need for more basketball courts in Hanford. Three of Hanford's major parks, Freedom Park, Hidden Valley Park, and Earl F. Johnson Park do not contain basketball courts. The four major parks that do offer basketball courts are all on the south side of Grangeville Boulevard leaving the north side of Hanford in a deficit.

F2. While there are many basketball courts located in Hanford schools, they are unavailable for use to the public due to insurance and vandalism concerns. The lack of access to school basketball courts has contributed to the need for additional courts in the City of Hanford Parks.

F3. The Grand Jury found that there are many portable basketball hoops in residential neighborhoods of Hanford. The City of Hanford is currently issuing warnings and citations to homeowners that have the portable courts on the street and sidewalks in front of their homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Grand Jury believes that the City of Hanford should make it a priority to invest in the development of quality parks and sports facilities in each quarter section of the City of Hanford. The Grand Jury concludes that there is a need for more basketball courts in the north side of Hanford. A full court is needed in Freedom Park, and Hidden Valley Park. The Grand Jury recommends that in the future, plans be made to add a basketball court to other parks that do not currently have one, such as Earl F. Johnson Park.

R2. The Grand Jury believes that a discussion should take place between the City of Hanford and its schools. An analysis should be done by the City of Hanford to see if it might be more cost effective to cover some of the insurance costs in lieu of adding basketball courts in multiple City parks. The City of Hanford should consider working with school districts to make the basketball courts that have been fenced off available to Hanford residents.

R3. The Grand Jury recommends that the City of Hanford consider relaxing its enforcement of its encroachment code dealing with the City's Right of Way, specifically Title 12 of the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 12.04. The residents that have basketball hoops should move them on garbage days/street sweeping days but be allowed to keep them by their curb the rest of the week.

One member of the Local Government Committee recused themselves from this report due to possible conflict of interest.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

City of Hanford Parks and Recreation Department
321 N Douty Street, #B
Hanford, Ca 93230

Hanford City Council
319 N. Douty Street
Hanford, Ca 93230

Hanford City Manager
319 N Douty Street
Hanford, Ca 93230

INVITED RESPONSES

Hanford Joint Union High School District
823 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, Ca 93230

Hanford Elementary School District
P. O. Box 1067
714 North White Street
Hanford, Ca 93232

Pioneer Union Elementary School District
1888 Mustang Drive
Hanford, Ca 93230

SEND FINAL REPORT RESPONSES TO:

Original to:
Shane Burns, Presiding Judge
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings Court Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Copy to:
Kings County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 1562
Hanford, Ca 93232

Appendix A

The following figures were provided by the City of Hanford Parks and Community Services Department.

Classifications of Parks are as follows:

1) Mini/Pocket Parks

The Mini/Pocket Park is a small outdoor space, usually from .25 acres to three acres usually located in an urban area surrounded by houses or commercial buildings.

They usually function as a small event space, play area for children, or a space for relaxing/socializing, etc.

Pocket Parks offer minimal amenities on site and are not designed to support programmed activities. They are for users within a close walking distance.

2) Neighborhood/School Park

The Neighborhood/School Park is usually between three and ten acres but may be larger or smaller depending on the use and facilities offered.

A neighborhood park is usually within one mile of those that it is intended to serve and should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents. Parking is typically not provided.

Neighborhood parks serve the recreational and social need of the adjoining neighborhood.

- a. Situated on a local street near an arterial street and where possible, next to a school.
- b. Length of stay is usually one hour or less.
- c. Contains one signature amenity such as a playground, spray park, sport court, or gazebo. No restrooms are provided unless deemed necessary by the signature amenity. May include one non-programmed sports field, playgrounds for ages 2-5, one type of sports field or sports court, benches, and a small picnic shelter next to the play area.
- d. Non-revenue facilities and usage is 85 percent active, 15 percent passive.
- e. Maintenance standards: to provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.
- f. Signage would be directional and include amenity regulations.
- g. Parking would include on-street parking area adjacent to park, usually 5-10 spaces including ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible spaces.
- h. Lighting would be for security purposes only.

3) Community Park

A Community Park is intended to be accessible to multiple neighborhoods and should focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally larger than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks and are designed for residents who live within a three-mile radius.

When possible, they are located next to a school.

Community parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family and often include specific recreational purposes such as athletic fields, tennis courts, loop trails, picnic areas, reservable picnic shelters, sports courts, restrooms, drinking fountains, large turf/landscaped areas and a playground or spray ground. Passive activities include meditation and wildlife watching.

Community parks are usually 10 to 75 acres and are within the radius of one to three miles of typical users.

- a. Situated on two collector streets with the preference of being surrounded by four streets or three streets with the fourth being a school.
- b. The length of stay is usually two to three hours.
- c. Amenities include four signature amenities at a minimum. Trails, sports fields, large shelters/pavilions, community playground for ages 2-5, and 5-12, with shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, sports courts, water feature, public restrooms, drinking fountains, ample parking and security lighting.
- d. These contain revenue facilities such as a pool, sports complex, or pavilion.
- e. Land usage is 65 percent active and 35 percent passive.
- f. These parks are provided with the highest-level of maintenance with the funding that is available.
- g. Parking provided is sufficient to support the amenities but occupies no more than 10 percent of the park.
- h. Lighting includes sport field light standards.
- i. Signage is direction signage and facility/amenity regulation and may include kiosks.
- j. The landscape is designed to enhance the park theme/use/experience.
- k. Strong appeal to surrounding neighborhoods, loop trail connectivity, linked to regional park, trail or recreation facility.

4) Regional Park

A Regional parks function is as a destination location that serves a large area of several communities, residents within a city, county, or across multiple counties. They include recreational opportunities such as soccer, softball, golf, boating, camping, conservation-wildlife viewing and fishing. While sometimes including active facilities, they are predominantly natural resource-based parks.

Regional parks are usually 75 to 1,000 acres in size but can be 2,000 to 5,000 acres.

Facilities could include those of a community park and include specialized amenities such as an art center, amphitheater, boating facility, golf course, or natural area with trails. Regional parks should promote tourism and economic development of a region.

- a. Preferred location is one which has wetlands, streams and other geographic features or sites with significant cultural or historic features.
- b. Length of stay is assumed to be all day or multiple day experience.
- c. Amenities usually include 10 to 12 preferred amenities to create a signature facility – golf course, tennis complex, sports complex, lake, regional playground, 3 plus reservable picnic shelters, camping, outdoor recreation/extreme sports, recreation center, pool, gardens, trails, zoo, specialty facilities, restrooms, drinking fountains, concessions, restaurant, ample parking, and special event sites.
- d. Typically, this park is designed to produce revenue to offset operation costs.
- e. Land usage is typically 50 percent active/50 percent passive.
- f. These parks provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.
- g. Parking is sufficient for all amenities.
- h. Lightning includes sports field light standards.
- i. Signage includes directional signage and facility/amenity regulations.

- j. Landscape design is appropriate to enhance the park theme/use/experience.
- k. These parks are linked to major trail systems, public transportation, concessions, food and retail sales are available, Wi-Fi/telephone/cable TV conduit and have dedicated site managers on duty.

Sports Complex

Sports complexes at community parks, regional parks, and stand-alone sports complexes are developed to provide 4 to 16 plus fields/courts in one setting. They may also support extreme sports facilities, such as BMX or skateboarding. They may be single focused or multi-focused and can include indoor or outdoor facilities to serve both youth and adults. Outdoor fields should be lighted to maximize value and productivity of the complex. They focus on meeting the needs of residents while also attracting sport tournaments for economic purposes.

Sports fields have appropriate field distances for each sport's governing body and support amenities designed to produce revenue to offset operation costs.

Signature sports complexes include enhanced amenities such as artificial turf, multipurpose field benches/bleachers, scoreboards, amplified sound, scorer's booth, etc.

- a. The service radius is determined by community demand.
- b. The site is usually located on or near arterial streets (on all four sides).
- c. The length of stay is usually two to three hours for single activities or all day for tournaments or special events.
- d. Amenities would include four to sixteen or more fields or sports courts, restrooms, ample parking, turf types appropriate for the facility and anticipated usage, and field lighting.
- e. Revenue facilities would be four or more fields, concession stand, picnic pavilion etc.
- f. The land usage would be 95 percent active and 5 percent passive.
- g. The focus is on active programming of all amenities.
- h. Parking would be sufficient to support all the amenities.
- i. Lighting would include amenity lighting sport field light standards.
- j. Signage would be direction signage and facility/amenity regulations and may include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.
- k. Landscape design would be appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience.
- l. The site is usually 20 or more acres.

Recreation/Special use areas

Recreation/special use areas are those that do not fall within the typical park classification. A major difference is that they usually serve a single purpose not multiple recreation opportunities like a typical park does.

It is possible for a special use facility to be located inside another park.

They fall into five categories.

1) Cemeteries.

Burial-ground that is generally seen as a large public park or ground laid out expressly for the interment of the dead. May be viewed as a historic site.

- 2) **Historic/Cultural/Social Site.**
Unique local site offering historical education, and cultural opportunities. Including historic downtown areas, plaza parks, performing arts parks, arboretums, display gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, and amphitheaters. Usually located in a community or regional park.
- 3) **Golf Course.**
Nine and 18-hole complexes with ancillary facilities such as club houses driving ranges, program space and learning centers. The facilities are highly maintained and support a wide age level of males and females. The programs are for daily use, tournaments, leagues, clinics, and special events. Operational costs are covered by revenue from daily play, season pass holders, concession stands, driving range fees, and sale of pro shop items.
- 4) **Indoor Recreation Facilities**
These are single purpose or specialized facilities such as community centers, senior centers and community theaters usually located in a community or regional Park.
- 5) **Outdoor Recreation Facilities**
These include baseball stadiums, aquatic parks, disc golf, skateboard, BMX or dog parks. These are usually located in a park. Amenities, revenue, land size, parking, maintenance, and programming varies.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

April 28, 2023

SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) was made aware of three issues pertaining to the Kings County Finance Department (Finance Department).

Issue #1

The Finance Department was the victim of an internet scam.

An electronic funds transfer (EFT) change request received through the internet was processed by the Finance Department. The EFT form appeared to have been filled out correctly by the vendor (the internet scammer) however, the email used was off by one digit/letter.

Issue #2

The Grand Jury was made aware of concerns about the process of paying for purchases and travel by all of Kings County departments. Changes have since been made to the procedures of paying for purchases and travel.

Issue #3

The Grand Jury's initial 1099s were incorrect and received late per Internal Revenue Service Title 26 CFR 1.6041-6.

BACKGROUND

Issue #1

An EFT form change request was honored by the Finance Department. The Finance Department was made aware that they were a victim of a scam when the legitimate vendor asked for payment of an invoice that the department had already paid thru an EFT. The Finance Department began an internal investigation into the loss of funds and asked the Kings County Sheriff's Office to investigate. The United States Secret Service was asked to assist in the investigation by the Kings County Sheriff's Office. Before this incident, staff was allowed to make changes to EFT forms without having a

second set of eyes on the EFT form. According to the Kings County Sheriff's Office, other counties and private entities were also victims of this scammer.

Issue #2

The Finance Department should have strict processes to follow when processing payments for purchases and travel by all Kings County departments. At the time of this report there were no sufficient procedures in place to review receipts and vendors.

Issue #3

Title 26 of the IRS Code directs that 1099s are to be disbursed annually by January 31. If sent digitally, they should be received by January 31. If received by mail, they may arrive shortly after that, but companies must postmark them by January 31.

All three of these issues dealing with the Finance Department are of great concern, which prompted the Grand Jury to investigate.

METHODOLOGY

Issue #1

The Kings County Assistant Director of Finance was interviewed on September 7, 2022, and again on February 15, 2023.

Issue #2

The Kings County Sheriff's Department was interviewed on December 9, 2022, and on March 29, 2023.

Issue #3

Grand Jury members shared that their 1099's were incorrect and were received after the recommended date per the IRS code.

DISCUSSION

Issue #1

The Finance Department paid by EFT the amount of \$894,000 (in 2021) to an entity (scammer) claiming to be the legitimate vendor working on the new Juvenile Hall building.

Through an investigation it was discovered that the scammer obtained the EFT form from the Finance Department's website. General line staff received an EFT form requesting to change the payment process to direct deposit. The clerk proceeded to make the change without further review. No contact was made with the original vendor for verification of the form prior to payment based on there being no verification procedures in place.

The Kings County Sheriff's Office said that "this type of fraud is a common occurrence, and the perpetrator was experienced and had stolen from other counties. These individuals that we were able to find through this process were able to target seven different entities, three of which were other municipalities."

The Kings County Sheriff's Office stated that the United States Secret Service recovered about 90 percent of the funds, (which are being held in a trust account), but the County had to make up the remaining \$84,998. The Kings County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved to cover the amount from contingencies within the County's budget.

The Kings County Assistant Director of Finance stated that the County has implemented procedures to prevent fraud since the incident, resulting in the prevention of a handful of attacks since. Changes have since been made to the procedure that is required to change EFTs and process receipts and travel request payments.

The following was provided by the Finance Department. These steps are written as follows:

- a. The EFT forms are no longer available on the intranet, and the county departments are not allowed to issue the form. The vendors must directly email the Kings County Auditor inbox requesting the form. The Senior Accountant-Auditor reviews each request. Prior to sending the form, the Senior Accountant-Auditor looks up the business in Finance Enterprise to ensure they are an existing vendor. The business is then searched on the internet. Once the business website is located the contact information listed on the website is compared to the information in the email. Items compared are the physical address, phone numbers, and email address. If all the information is verified, a form is emailed to the requestor. The Senior Accountant-Auditor then logs that a form was sent to the vendor, the date, and the name of the person who sent the requesting email. If any forms are submitted and the business is not listed on the issued Forms log, the form will not be processed.*

- b. *When completed forms are received, the Accounting Assistant will log the vendors information on a tracking sheet. The tracking sheet is called the EFT Verification log. It tracks the vendor number, business name, business contact, contact's title, date vendor signed EFT form, phone number, contact email, and the ACH (Automated Clearing House) email. In addition, the Accounting Assistant also calls the business and speaks to the business contact and has the contact verify all the information submitted on the EFT form. It is then recorded on the EFT Verification log what steps were taken to verify the information, who the information was verified with, and the date. If any information is unable to be verified, the form is not processed. Any forms submitted that are not fully completed are not processed. The Accounting Assistant is instructed to never read off information on the submitted form to the person on the phone.*

- c. *Once the vendor and the submitted form has been verified, it is then reviewed by the Accounting Technician. If all the submitted information and verification notes are thorough, they will enter the requested changes to the vendor's profile on Finance Enterprise. A pre-note association is added to the vendor's profile. This allows the department to check the banking information with the institution to ensure the account number and routing number are correct and valid. If the information is valid, the Senior Accountant-Auditor will remove the pre-note association. The vendor will start receiving EFT payments once the pre-note association is removed. If the banking information comes back from the bank as incorrect, the vendor is placed back on check payments by the Senior Accountant-Auditor. They will then reach out to the vendor and attempt to resolve the issue or be flagged as a possible fraudulent attempt. Anything flagged as potential fraud is reported to the Sheriff's Office by the Assistant Director of Finance.*

- d. *In addition to this process, the Senior Accountant-Auditor is in the process of issuing a formal Accounts Payable Policy for all county departments. In the policy, EFT Payment Request forms are addressed. The Finance department is also in the process of formalizing the internal process describe in the prior steps. The EFT Payment Request Form will also be updated annually as an added security measure.*

Issue #2

All Kings County Department Heads approve the expenditures of their departments. The Finance Department does not question a departments expenditure unless a complaint is filed within the original department. An investigation would then follow and may include the Kings County Sheriff's Office or Kings County District Attorney's office. The Grand Jury was told that each department of the County has an employee considered to be an auditor of their department's expenses.

The Kings County Director of Finance sent us the new Trip/Travel Policy Updates. They are written as follows:

Trip (No lodging Required)

- a. *All meals will be reimbursed at the Federal per diem rate for the location of the trip. (Actual rate is no longer allowable)*
- b. *Claims for reimbursements must be sent to the Finance Department within 45 days after the trip or expenses was incurred. (120 days is no longer considered reasonable time.*
- c. *Printouts from reliable mapping sites such as MapQuest or Google Maps can be provided as verification of mileage traveled. (Printouts are no longer required but is recommended for mileage reimbursements)*
- d. *Trips that extend over the lunch hour for H.S.A. staff who pick up/drop off clients to different locations in the County or outside the County to comply with court ordered visits involving juveniles can be authorized, by the H.S.A Director, for reimbursement for one meal for the employee. (Meal reimbursement is allowed in County for specific circumstance and does not need to be accompanied by another County employee)*

Travel (Lodging Required)

- a. *Claims for reimbursements must be sent to the Finance Department within 45 days after the trip or expenses was incurred or 10 days if the employee received a cash advance. (120 days is no longer considered reasonable time)*
- b. *All meals will be reimbursed at the Federal per diem rate for the location of the trip. (Actual rate is no longer allowable”*
- c. *Out of State travels must have prior approval by Department Head, (no longer need BOS approval)*
- d. *Out of State travels by 3 plus employees to the same event must have prior approval by the Chief Administrative Officer. (No longer need Admin approval for all travels that contain 3 plus employees attending the same event)*
- e. *Approved Travel Request form is required if employee is receiving a cash advance or required to obtain Admin approval. (Travel requests are not required for all travel expense reimbursements)*
- f. *Printouts from reliable mapping sites such as Map Quest or Google Maps can be provided as verification of mileage traveled. (printouts are no longer required but is recommended for mileage reimbursement)*
- g. *If an employee owes any money back to the County Department of Finance will contact the employee by e-mail and by phone with the amount to be refunded. If the refund has not been made within 2 weeks or 10 business days from the last contact the Department of Finance will schedule a one-time reimbursement from the employee’s next paycheck. (Refunds to the County could be made by cash/check deposit and were only forcible by withholding Travel Advancements)*
- h. *The Director of Finance may authorize exceptions to the lodging reimbursement limits set in this policy of up to 50% when requested by the Department Head in advance of any travel related to County business. (With prior approval from the Finance Director employees could be approved up to 250% of the Federal GSA rate for a particular location)*

Issue #3

The Grand Jury received their 1099's in the middle of February. The 1099s were late and incorrect in violation of IRS Title 26 CFR 1.6041-6. The members were sent corrected 1099s in late February. This occurred after some members had already filed their taxes which caused them to have to file an amended tax return.

FINDINGS

F1. Issue #1 Just because "this type of fraud is a common occurrence, and the perpetrator was experienced and had stolen from seven other counties, three of which were other municipalities" it should not be acceptable or occurring in the Finance Department.

F2. Issue #2 Kings County Department Heads approve the expenditures of their departments without independent review from the Finance Department.

F3. Issue #3 The Finance Department sent out incorrect 1099's that were received later than the January 31st postmark deadline required by IRS Title 26 CFR 1.6041-6.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. Issue #1 Ongoing training and auditing of processing payments and identifying scams should be made a priority in the Finance Department.

R2. Issue #2 The Finance Department should have an employee or system in place to review expenditures which were previously approved by all Department Heads.

R3. Issue #3 The Finance Department should continue training on the process of issuing form 1099 in the proper time frame as stated in IRS Title 26 CFR 1.6041-6.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.5, the Grand Jury requests responses from the following bodies within 90 days of receipt.

Kings County Board of Supervisors
Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard Bldg. #1
Hanford, Ca 93230

INVITED RESPONSES

Kings County Director of Finance
Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, Ca 93230

Kings County Administrative Officer
Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard Bldg. #1
Hanford, Ca 93230

SEND FINAL REPORT RESPONSES TO:

Original to:

Michael Reinhart, Presiding Judge
c/o Shane Burns, Advising Judge
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings Court Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Copy to:

Kings County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 1562
Hanford, Ca 93232

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Follow Up to Corcoran Cemetery District Report 2021-2022

March 17, 2023

SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Grand Jury conducted a follow up review of the Corcoran Cemetery District located at 4170 Waukena Avenue in Corcoran California. The original report was written during the 2021-2022 term. The purpose of this year's visit was to observe if any of the recommendations that had been proposed were being implemented.

BACKGROUND

Following are the complaints that the 2021-2022 Grand Jury received regarding the Cemetery:

- 1) The grass is dry.
- 2) The grounds are unkept. i.e., flags and flowers strewn about.
- 3) Headstones were underwater due to uneven ground.

The Cemetery operates under a *special district* authorized by California statutes. Special Districts are formed as a subdivision of local governments to provide specialized services to a community. They are subject to state regulations governing special districts and must conform to the requirements of the Brown Act and Public Records Act. The Corcoran Cemetery is required to submit an annual financial report to the Office of the State Controller and is subject to audits of finances.

The Cemetery operates with revenues from local property taxes, sales of grave sites and cremation niches. The Cemetery is administered by the Corcoran Cemetery Board of Directors. They meet once per month.

The findings of the 2021-2022 Grand Jury were as follows:

Findings:

- 1) Most of the areas of the Corcoran Cemetery were green and contained very few brown spots. The trees were satisfactorily groomed.
- 2) The interim supervisor was knowledgeable and seemed proud of the good things that were happening at the cemetery.
- 3) The written policy and procedures would benefit from an update and more professional presentation.
- 4) The sunken headstones in areas of the Cemetery should be addressed as to how to raise them, and how many at a time. This effects the safety of guests who walk around.

- 5) The lack of uniform headstones in some spots should be addressed.
- 6) There is not a regular schedule for cleaning out faded silk flowers and fresh flowers that have been placed on gravesites.
- 7) No website could be found.

Recommendations of the 2021-2022 Grand Jury were:

Continue a routine watering and tree trimming schedule.

Promote the interim supervisor to a permanent position. (This has been done).

Provide a professional brochure that contains pricing information, rules, and regulations.

Come up with a plan, budget, and schedule to raise the sunken gravestones so that water will no longer collect covering the existing headstones.

Come up with a budget and schedule to replace the simple concrete stones with simple professional headstones with more complete information.

Continue and schedule maintenance of the grass, trees, gopher holes and flower removal as stated in the policy and procedures manual.

Create and post a regular schedule for cleaning out faded silk flowers and fresh flowers that have been placed on gravesites.

Continue the creation of the new raised cremation area.

Create a professional website.

METHODOLOGY

The 2022-2023 Grand Jury gathered information from the 2021-2022 Grand Jury's prior report and conducted a follow-up study of the District through a site tour of the Corcoran Cemetery on Thursday July 14, 2022. During the site tour, the Grand Jury spoke with the Director of Operations and several District employees.

The Grand Jury spoke with the Director of Operations again on January 5, 2023.

The Grand Jury additionally searched the internet to discover whether the District had published a public facing website with informational material such as pricing information, rules, and procedures.

DISCUSSION

When the Grand Jury arrived on July 14, 2022, for the unscheduled visit, the District employees were busy working on a watermain break. The grass was browning even though the cemetery is allowed to water every day, and usually does so. A few gopher holes were observed.

The Grand Jury observed that one section of the cemetery – East side of the main driveway, had freshly disturbed dirt surrounding quite a few of the grave sites. There are still several small, plain, and broken grave markers throughout the cemetery. During the visit, the District employees informed the Grand Jury that sixty-nine (69) headstones in that area alone had been raised so as not to collect water. The groundskeepers are raising as many headstones as possible each week depending on the number of burials they must prepare for, regular maintenance such as mowing and tree trimming, and other emergency repairs that come about which must be addressed.

The Grand Jury observed a few small, plain, and broken grave markers. The District employees stated that it is the responsibility of family members to replace those grave markers.

It was noted that there were no obvious flags or silk flowers strewn about however there were fresh flowers in grave cups that had turned brown. The District employees told the Grand Jury that the removal of spent flowers and other items is the responsibility of the families. Other items such as silk flowers, nick knacks, banners, etc., were seen to be extending over the gravestones and intruded into the grass area. These items do interfere with the regular mowing that takes place. The employees must take extra time to stop and move these items out of the way when mowing.

The Grand Jury observed no postings as to when clean ups are to take place. The Director of Operations informed the Grand Jury on January 5, 2023, that it does post the clean up schedule on the office door and on the three entrances to the cemetery as well as posting it in the local newspaper. The clean up takes place twice a year.

The District does not have a professional brochure available to the public as observed during our visit on July 14, 2022, and confirmed in conversation with the District employees on January 5, 2023.

During our discussion with the District employees on January 5, 2023, we were told that the cemetery does now have a website. This was subsequently confirmed by the Grand Jury as it was, able to locate the website on the internet at. www.corcorancemetery.com

FINDINGS of the 2022-2023 Grand Jury are as follows:

- 1) The Cemetery's large grass areas showing brown, is expected as local temperatures have been quite hot, and the area is experiencing a drought.
- 2) The District employees have raised approximately 69 headstones in Block B of the Cemetery, to the east of the main entrance, to avoid collecting water. The groundskeepers are raising as many as possible each week.
- 3) Several small, plain, and broken grave markers were observed.
- 4) The Grand Jury observed no flags or flowers being strewn about. However, the Grand Jury observed some dried-up flowers and items hanging over the grass area. The District employees are maintaining the cemetery grounds free of unsightly debris and on a regular basis clears the area of spent flowers.
- 5) The District does not produce a publicly available professional brochure.
- 6) A website is now online that explains pricing, policies, Rules/Regulations, and volunteer opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Continue to monitor the watering schedule so as not to let the grass areas totally die off.
- 2) Continue to monitor the number of gopher holes that appear and tend to them as soon as possible.
- 3) Continue to prioritize raising as many headstones as quickly as possible.
- 4) Conduct fundraising events or obtain grants to provide needy families with proper headstones.
- 5) Try and remove spent flowers more frequently, as in once per month. Post the clean-up dates at all three entrances and at the office.
- 6) Continue efforts to create a professional brochure that makes it clear that it is the responsibility of the families to keep all decorations within the scope of the headstone so that proper mowing may be done.
- 7) Monitor the District's website and local newspapers for useful updates or complaints that need to be addressed.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 33.5, the Grand Jury requests responses from the following bodies within 90 days.

Board of Trustees of the Corcoran Cemetery District.
P.O. Box 805
Corcoran, California 93212

INVITED RESPONSES

Corcoran Cemetery District Manager
P.O. Box 805
Corcoran, California 93212

Kings County Board of Supervisors
1400 West Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, California 93230

Corcoran City Manager
832 Whitley Avenue
Corcoran, California 93212

SEND FINAL REPORT RESPONSES TO:

Original to:

Michael Reinhart, Presiding Judge
c/o Shane Burns, Advising Judge
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings Court Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Copy to:

Kings County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 1562
Hanford, Ca 93232

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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR HOMELESS CRISIS

May 26, 2023

SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) acknowledges that the homelessness issue is overwhelming in many cities. To deal with such a vast problem, the 2022-2023 Grand Jury decided to cover just four of the major ongoing homeless projects in Hanford.

Through investigation the Grand Jury was made aware of a proposal for a navigation center submitted in 2018 (approximately) by the Hanford Police Department. The idea was to have a one-stop-shop navigation center that would provide a central location for the homeless to obtain resources and services. It was not to be a location where homeless individuals would sleep. There remains a need for a navigation center (a one-stop shop) in Hanford for the homeless.

Several agencies within Hanford, to include but not limited to police and Human Services, serve Kings County. Their efforts are inefficient due to a lack of a central location where homeless individuals and families can find needed services (navigation center).

The Hanford Police Department's Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) which was established in 2020 to assist the homeless population, is a valuable part of our community. HART researched the well thought out proposal for a navigation center. Implementing this proposal is an essential first step in addressing our ongoing homeless crisis.

The South Hanford Courtyard Community project, a partnership between the Kings County Human Services Agency (KCHSA) and the Kings Gospel Mission (KGM), is not being occupied as of the date of this report. This affordable housing complex should be made an urgent priority.

Kings County Behavioral Health (KCBH) has received two grants to provide services to the homeless by deploying a mobile unit that will visit encampments and provide services to our children in their schools.

Kings Community Action Organization (KCAO) has a plan for a new food bank and a low barrier homeless shelter to serve Kings County. The Grand Jury would like to see this as a second step for our homeless community.

BACKGROUND

Homelessness is a very large, broad, and complex issue. It will not be solved easily. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe stated, *"It is not enough to take steps which may someday lead to a goal; each step must be itself a goal and a step likewise"*. It is important that the issue of homelessness be broken down into obtainable steps. Small steps, such as a navigation center, can be put into action showing results obtained by critical analysis from government and citizens alike. The way to build a

community's trust in large projects such as a low barrier shelter (defined as: a housing-first, low-barrier, temporary, service-enriched shelter focused on helping homeless individuals and families to quickly obtain permanent housing), is by doing a small navigation center (step one) well and showing that it is nothing to be feared. Permanent housing should be made a goal only after a person is shown to be mentally capable, drug free and demonstrates the responsibility to take care of said permanent housing.

The City of Hanford is the county seat and has the majority of resources available to the homeless community. It is where Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health, etc., have their offices. Resources for the homeless such as soup kitchens and other free-to-the-public services in Kings County can also be found in the Hanford area.

The Grand Jury sees the second step as a low barrier shelter where the homeless would be able to spend the night. This would also fulfill the needs of *Martin v. Boise* (2018). This was a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in response to a 2009 lawsuit by six homeless plaintiffs against the city of Boise, Idaho regarding the city's anti-camping ordinance. The ruling held that cities cannot enforce anti-camping ordinances if they do not have enough homeless shelter beds available for their homeless population.

Navigation Center

"A navigation center is typically described as a low barrier and high service environment for adults experiencing homelessness." The Grand Jury proposes that the soon to be vacated Juvenile Hall building be used as a small navigation center (step one). It is an existing structure in the center of Hanford that is equipped with a kitchen, showers, laundry, and divided spaces (with charging ports) that could be easily converted to fit any current needs with minimal financial cost to taxpayers.

This area of the city already has many services and amenities nearby such as:

- KART transportation
- Mental Health Services (Kings View)
- Job Training – downtown Hanford
- Human Services – County Center
- Veterans Services – County Center
- Social Security – Downtown Hanford
- Library – Downtown Hanford
- Hospital – Campus Way
- Sheriff Department – County Center
- Urgent Care – Lacey and Campus Avenue
- Grocery Store – 12th and Lacey
- Fast Food – 12th and Lacey
- DMV, for Id's etc. – 11th and Hanford Armona
- Thrift Store – 11th and Railroad Tracks
- Possible Space for tents – 3rd and 11th
- Possible Space for tents – behind the old Juvenal Hall yard area

- Salvation Army – E. Ivy Street and North White
- Soup kitchen – N. Douty Street and East 11th

Starting out with and being successful with, a navigation center that handles the daily needs of local Hanford homeless, will earn the communities trust that perhaps a low barrier shelter down the road should not be feared as a second step in addressing our homeless issue. San Rafael California is an example of a successful effort completed by a similar city like Hanford in trying to combat the issues that come with homelessness.

HART

In 2020, officers of Hanford Police Department's HART which is part of the Hanford Police Department, researched the proposal to establish an accessible Homeless Resource Center (navigation center) in downtown Hanford. The proposed navigation center would have provided a central location for homeless to obtain resources and services such as Behavioral Health Services, medical care, and access to community partners, information on shelter and housing opportunities, etc., Homeless individuals could also take care of essential needs such as personal hygiene, laundry and be provided with a Wi-Fi connection to contact loved ones. This center would have the ability to collect data on the true scale of homeless persons and their needs in Kings County. This project had the support of Hanford City Council but was defeated when a group of business owners and some citizens objected. Not in my backyard (NIMBY) seems to be prevalent. HART's efforts and recommendations for a navigation center should be applauded. Currently the police are only able to ask the homeless to move on and do not have anywhere to take homeless persons who are staying in front of businesses or are on private property.

Grand Jury members took the opportunity to ride along with the two Hanford HART officers during the month of January 2023. The members learned and saw firsthand what the officers deal with each day. There are many encampments, single tents and motor homes being used by the homeless in our city streets and on private property. The HART members have great knowledge of where the homeless are staying, they have developed relationships with them and try to help them match their needs with available services.

Affordable Housing

KCHSA is working with KGM in a partnership to provide 24 small prefab two-bedroom one-bathroom houses called South Hanford Courtyard Community. This project was to be fully operational by June 30, 2021, but the actual groundbreaking took place in October of 2022 and was to be occupied starting in March of 2023. As of the date of this report, the project has not been completed nor are there any people residing there. The delays were due to unforeseen circumstances.

Mobil Crisis Units

The KCBH has recently applied for and received two grants.

- 1) (CHFFA) grant – California Health Facilities Financing Authority - which would fund a school and child welfare services mobile crisis support team.
- 2) (CCMU) grant – Crisis Care Mobil Unit Program - would fund the deployment of a mobile services unit in the community and would provide much needed services to our homeless population.

Low Barrier Shelter

KCAO has introduced a plan for a combined community food bank and a low barrier shelter in Armona or Hanford. The neighbors around the proposed Armona site have expressed concerns about the location so the Kings County Board of Supervisors has forgone that as a possible site.

KCAO would have a presence and be a valuable resource in the new navigation center with the goal of implementing their well thought out combined food bank/low barrier shelter as a second step in the near future.

METHODOLOGY

The Health and Human Services Director was interviewed on September 14, 2022, November 16, 2022, and April 12, 2023.

Members of the Behavioral Health Department were interviewed on November 7, 2022, and again on February 1, 2023.

The Grand Jury interviewed HART officers on November 9, 2022.

The Grand Jury interviewed the Superintendent of Hanford Elementary School District on December 19, 2022.

The Grand Jury interviewed the Director of Kings County Probation Department on January 18, 2023.

Members took the opportunity to ride along with Hanford's HART during the month of January 2023.

The Grand Jury interviewed the Director of KCAO on November 9, 2022, and January 25, 2023.

Homelessness Collaborative meetings were attended by members of the Grand Jury.

The soon to be old Juvenile Hall building was toured on January 10, 2023.

The Grand Jury took a tour of the soup kitchen located at The Episcopal Church of the Savior on February 2, 2023.

The Grand Jury met with a representative of the Kings-Tulare Homeless Alliance on March 17, 2023.

The Grand Jury gathered information from the 2020-2021 Grand Jury's prior report that covered a proposal by the HART officers for an accessible Homeless Resource Center.

DISCUSSION

The following are a few of the homeless projects that the Grand Jury chose to highlight and does not represent a complete list of projects that are ongoing throughout our County.

Navigation Center:

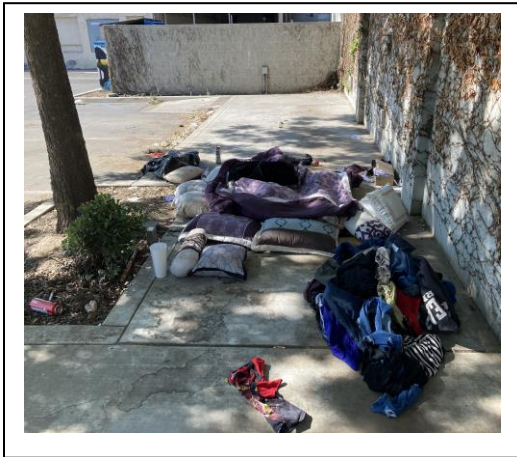
Officers from the HART team researched the proposal to establish an accessible Homeless Resource Center in downtown Hanford. Homeless persons would have access to resources and services from providers such as Behavioral Health, medical care, and community partners. The center was not proposed to be a shelter where homeless people would sleep.

Please see Exhibit A for the details of the HARTs proposed plan on page 11.

Nothing came of this idea even with the support of Hanford City Council, as some business owners and some residents had concerns about the project.

Grand Jury members went with HART officers on ride-a longs during the month of January 2023. The HART officers continue to take a proactive and problem-solving approach to working with the homeless and have a direct impact on the quality of life for Hanford's unhoused community, residents, and business owners.





Affordable Housing:

On December 21, 2021, the State of California Housing & Community Development awarded the County of Kings \$4,434,614 as part of a \$600 million program, to purchase and rehabilitate housing including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties and to convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The projects also included new developments and manufactured home construction. KCHSA is working with KGM in a partnership to provide 24 small prefab two-bedroom one-bathroom houses called South Hanford Courtyard Community. This is a permanent affordable supportive housing development on four-acres located on 10th avenue just south of the Fairgrounds. This property is owned and operated by Kings Gospel Mission under a 55-year restrictive covenant.

Kings County through the KCHSA was to purchase 24 “affordable housing units” in December of 2020. Four of the units were to be for possible disabled clients. The total units have sense been decreased to 20 units. The units were to be 50% operational no later than March 30, 2021, and fully operational no later than June 30, 2021. The community was to be setup in a courtyard configuration to encourage self-policing, peer-support activities, and create a community setting. There were to be offices and a common area clubhouse located in the center to encourage all inhabitants to participate in the community. Each structure would be fully furnished with standard appliances, beds, dressers, a table, and a couch. Each house will have a back patio with space for a small back yard. A food court

has been suggested that is meant to provide healthy food options for a low price. KGM will own and operate the premises and the referrals will come from KCHSA.



Behavioral Health:

Behavioral Health has recently filed for two mobile crisis grants. The following was provided by Kings County Behavioral Health.

- 1) *School and Child Welfare Services Mobile Crisis Support Team (CHFFA Grant):*
The contract for the Kings County Behavioral Health children's full-service Partnership (FSP) program to expand to host a Mobile Crisis Support Team (MCST) that will respond specifically to children and youth in crisis at schools and at Child Welfare Services (CWS) Monday through Friday during school and CWS hours has been drafted for fiscal year 2023/2024 and is with our legal counsel for review. Once the contract is executed on July 1, 2023, the vendor, Aspiranet, will go into a start-up period to add the team which it is anticipated will be done and services started by September 2023.

- 2) *Community-wide mobile Crisis Planning Grant (CCMU):* *the planning process began February 9, 2023, through the convening of a Stakeholder Group to advise and steer the planning efforts. From there, an assessment design was developed to include survey tools, focus groups guides, and key information interview questionnaires. The first focus group occurring on Wednesday April 19, 2023, with the Avenal Family Engagement Center and Avenal school representatives. Additional focus groups, key informant interviews, and surveys will be completed through the April 19, 2023, in Spanish and English online for all to share as broadly as possible throughout the County of Kings to try to garner the voice of the community in relation to their crisis experiences if applicable and their perspectives of mobile crisis services. Once the surveys, focus groups, and interviews are closed (May 10, 2023), the results will be used to create an Action Plan by June 30, 2023, which the Grantor requires for which Kings County Behavioral Health will then transition into the development phase of developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for community-wide mobile crisis services and a grant to deploy a community-wide mobile crisis vehicle to the homeless community.*

This mobile unit would bring much needed services to the homeless on the street and in homeless camps. The exact format is still being worked out.

KCAO Kings County Action Organization:

It was brought to the Grand Jury's attention during a Homeless Collaborative meeting that there is an idea for a low barrier shelter being discussed (step two). We interviewed the Director of the Homeless Collaborative and the Director of KCAO to find out about his proposal. KCAO owns five acres of land in Armona where they were planning to put a new, large Food Bank. This idea has expanded to include:

- 65,000 square foot warehouse for a Food Bank-cold and dry food, a centralized kitchen, office space, and general storage space.
- 15,000 square feet for a Housing Navigation Center, access to case management, primary medical care, and behavioral health care.
- Low Barrier Shelter would have between 150-200 beds, showers, restrooms, dining area, laundry, mail/phone services, and kennels.

A job training/experience program would be established to provide experience in warehousing, maintenance, kitchen support, landscaping, etc. Working would not be a requirement for staying at the shelter but would be encouraged. Security would also be on site.

The joint use of such a facility would centralize services, staff, and support operations for the homeless. The belief is that the joint use of such a facility would also attract public and private funding for construction and operation. The estimated cost of developing the site and building would be between \$13 million and \$16 million. \$1,400,000 has been secured through a grant from the State for the food bank expansion. The annual cost to operate the facility is estimated to be \$1,200,000. Current funding from state and federal agencies will contribute to the operating costs and additional funds from State grants will be sought for the shelter/housing navigation services. A joint power agreement (JPA) between local cities and Kings County will be sought to fund a portion of the operating costs on a cost allocation basis.

FINDINGS

F1. There is a great need for a navigation center in Hanford.

F2. The South Hanford Courtyard Community project is not complete or being occupied as of the date of this report.

F3. The Behavioral Health grants have been awarded but have yet to be implemented.

F4. There is a need in our community for a low barrier shelter in Kings County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Use part or all of the soon to be vacated juvenile hall building for a temporary navigation center (first step).
- R2. Make the South Hanford Courtyard Community project an imminent priority.
- R3. Behavioral Health should follow through as soon as possible with the implementation of their mobile unit programs.
- R4. Continue to look for land that is appropriate for a low barrier shelter. Institute the KCAO plan for such a low barrier shelter soon.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code § 933 (c), provides in part: “No later than 90 days after the Grand Jury Submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elected county officer or agency head for which the Grand Jury had responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court...”

Hanford City Council
319 N. Douty Street
Hanford, Ca 93230

Kings County Board of Supervisors
1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, Ca 93230

INVITED RESPONSES

David Robinson
Sheriff Coroner – Public Administrator
1570 Kings County Drive
Hanford, Ca 93230

Parker Sever
Chief of Police Hanford
425 North Irwin
Hanford, Ca 93230

Jeff Gardner
Executive Director of KCAO
1130 North 11th Avenue
Hanford, Ca 93230

Wendy Osikafo, Director
Human Services Agency of Kings County
Government Center 1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, Ca 93230

Lisa D. Lewis, Ph.D., Director
Kings County Behavioral Health
460 Kings County Drive Suite 101
Hanford, Ca 93230

SEND FINAL REPORT RESPONSES TO:

Original to:
Michael Reinhart, Presiding Judge
c/o Shane Burns, Advising Judge
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings Court Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Copy to:
Kings County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 1562
Hanford, Ca 93232

Exhibit A

Researched and provided by the Hanford Police Department

Homeless Service Center proposed by the Homeless Assistance Resource Team

Purpose: Develop a model of care that centers around a centralized location for the delivery of services for the homeless population. Services would address not only the basic needs of the clients, but also holistic treatment and employment.

Overarching Goals:

Phase I will focus on the following needs: rapport building (enhancing trust of service acceptance/compliance), providing ability for clean clothes and bathing, medical treatment, mental health and substance use treatment, mail, lockers for secure storage of personal belongings, work crew opportunities, employability training, benefit activation, and case management.

Phase II will focus on the continuation of Phase I as well as emergency temporary sheltering of those clients who require such a service.

Desired Outcomes: Kings County community residents who are clean and groomed, engaged in a purposeful routine, treated for any ailing conditions, and who are employable and able to be housed. By being presentable, stabilized behaviorally, and carrying less in carts/bags, they will have dignity restored.

The outcome will be less recidivism in the hospitals and jails, less police action required for this population, less crisis and urgent care services, and less incidents of community/business fears and destruction.

We recognize that the homeless population is not easy to define, and that each homeless person possesses unique circumstances and characteristics; however, for the purposes of developing the model of care, we have identified the following categories of homeless:

Group A

1. At-risk: this is the population that is on the cusp of homelessness.

Requires services to restore or improve their life quality and ensure that they remain housed, treated, and in compliance with their case plan.

Such services could include:

- Utilities and rental assistance – Priority is housing stabilization. The Housing Navigator would work with the client to establish stable housing.*
- Case management* - Assessment of needs to support the person and/or family. This could include benefit eligibility and activation (SSI, SSDI, CalWORKs, etc.), employability training, employment and educational assistance as well as clothing and housing necessities. If this is a family*

with children, connecting the children with age-appropriate educational support through tutoring or developmental programs (as available through First 5 Family Resource Centers).

- *• Mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment – Assessment of mental health status and medication stabilization for any mental health diagnosis and psychotropic evaluation needs. This would include ongoing counseling and medication. This could also include medication assisted treatment, withdrawal management, residential treatment, or outpatient-based services.*
- *• Medical treatment – Referring and/or providing complete physical exams including vision and dental with routine follow up. This would include medication adherence monitoring to ensure appropriate care.*
- *• Transportation – This is to support all activities listed above so as to support the person and/or family to stable housing and employment where the person/family is able to self- sustain. This would be done through vouchers or the personal vehicle of the person/family which may need a smog check, maintenance or other support measures to keep the automobile operating.*
- *• Pet support – Provide access to food, shelter, care and treatment of pets as these animals tend to be significantly important to the person and/or family.*
- *• Café work crews*

2. Newly homeless: this is the population that entered the state of homelessness within the last 6 months.

Requires services to restore and improve previous quality of life.

Such services could include:

- *• Housing – Priority is accessing housing with the goal of housing stabilization. Rapid Re-Housing program for those who qualify, shelter for those who qualify.*
- *• Case management – Assessment of needs to support the person and/or family as they transition from homelessness to stable housing and employment. This could include eligibility and benefit activation (SSI, SSDI, CalWORKs, etc.), employability training, employment and educational assistance as well as clothing and housing necessities. If this is a family with children, connecting the children with age-appropriate educational support through tutoring or developmental programs (as available through First 5 Family Resource Centers).*
- *• Mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment – Assessment of mental health status and medication stabilization for any mental health diagnosis and psychotropic evaluation needs. This would include ongoing counseling and medication. This could also include medication assisted treatment, withdrawal management, residential treatment, or outpatient-based services.*
- *• Medical treatment – Referring and/or providing complete physical exams including vision and dental with routine follow up. This would include medication adherence monitoring to ensure appropriate care and care coordination and care coordination.*
- *• Transportation – This is to support all activities listed above so as to support the person and/or family to stable housing and employment where the person/family is able to self- sustain. This would be done through vouchers or the personal vehicle of the person/family which may need a smog check, maintenance or other support measures to keep the automobile operating.*
- *• Pet support – Provide access to food, shelter, care and treatment of pets as these animals tend to be significantly important to the person and/or family.*
- *• Café work crews*

3. Homeless who are seeking/accepting: Those who are homeless longer than 6 months, who are open and willing to receive services.

Requires services to restore and improve their previous quality of life.

Such services could include:

- • Housing – Priority is getting this person to accept housing since this person is less likely to want to live in housing. The Housing Navigator would work to get this person into shelter for those who qualify, and then move toward permanent supportive housing.*
- • Case management – Assessment of needs to support this person as they transition from homeless to housing with the potential for employment and/or disability. Highest priority would be on benefit eligibility and activation (SSI, SSDI, CalWORKs, etc.), working with the Public Guardian, and stabilization of housing. This may include employability training, employment and education assistance as well as clothing and housing necessities. Rapport building is important for this population due to length of time homeless.*
- • Mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment – Assessment of mental health status and medication stabilization for any mental health diagnosis and psychotropic evaluation needs. This would include ongoing counseling and medication. This could also include medication assisted treatment, withdrawal management, residential treatment, or outpatient-based services.*
- • Medical treatment – Referring and/or providing complete physical exams including vision and dental with routine follow up. This would include medication adherence monitoring to ensure appropriate care and care coordination and care coordination.*
- Transportation – This is to support all activities listed above so as to support the person to stable housing and employment where the person is able to self-sustain.*

Pet support – provide access to food, shelter, care and treatment of pets as these animals tend to be significantly important to the person.

- Café or general work crews*

Group B

Severely mentally ill and/or substance using: those that are so ill that they require extreme interventions.

Requires services to treat severe illness, could be inclusive of Conservatorship, Board and Care placement and similar services.

- • Mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment – Priority is to get this person into care and on appropriate medications. Assessment of mental health status and medication stabilization for any mental health diagnosis and psychotropic evaluation needs. This would include ongoing counseling and medication. This could also include medication assisted treatment, withdrawal management, residential treatment, or outpatient-based services.*
- • Housing – Priority is getting this person to accept housing since this person is less likely to want to live in housing. The Housing Navigator would work to get this person into shelter for those who qualify, and then move toward permanent supportive housing.*

- *Case management – Assessment of needs to support this person as they transition from homeless to housing with the potential for employment and/or disability. Highest priority would be on benefit eligibility and activation (SSI, SSDI), working with the Public Guardian, and stabilization of housing. This may include connecting this person with relatives/friends who could also provide support as this person transitions to their optimal state of wellness.*
- *Medical treatment – Referring and/or providing complete physical exams including vision and dental with routine follow up. This would include medication adherence monitoring to ensure appropriate care and care coordination and care coordination.*
- *Transportation – This is to support all activities listed above so as to support the person to stable housing and optimal state of wellness.*
- *Pet support – Provide access to food, shelter, care and treatment of pets as these animals tend to be significantly important to the person.*

Medically fragile: those who have an impairing medical condition that requires extreme intervention.

- *Medical treatment – Referring and/or providing complete physical exams including vision and dental with routine follow up and care coordination. This would include medication adherence monitoring to ensure appropriate care and may include specialty care depending on the complex chronic illnesses.*
- *Housing – Priority is getting this person to accept housing since this person is less likely to want to live in housing. The Housing Navigator would work to get this person into shelter for those who qualify, and then move toward permanent supportive housing.*
- *Case management – Assessment of needs to support this person as they transition from homeless to housing with the potential for employment and/or disability. Highest priority would be on benefit eligibility and activation (SSI, SSDI), working with the Public Guardian, and stabilization of housing.*
- *Mental Health and/or substance use disorder treatment – Assessment of mental health status and medication stabilization for any mental health diagnosis or substance use disorder treatment.*
- *Transportation – This is to support all activities listed above so as to support the person to stable housing and optimal state of wellness.*
- *Pet support – Provide access to food, shelter, care and treatment of pets as these animals tend to be significantly important to the person.*

Group C

Homeless who are resistant to services and interventions: those who have no desire to alter their living circumstances.

Requires outreach services to improve the safety and health of their situation without forcing or requiring the need for clients to seek employment/shelter/ or treatment.

Such services could include roving case management, delivery of basic resources where the client is. Attempting to build rapport for increased likelihood of service acceptance and usage.

- *Case management – Priority is to connect with services while supporting the person in the field, inclusive of benefit eligibility and activation.*

- *Medical - Priority is to maintain optimal health status. This would include medical screening and triage, provision of immunizations, and medication management.*
- *Mental Health – Assessment of mental health status and medication stabilization for any mental health diagnosis.*
- *General work crew – This could be a viable option for the clean-up work crews, would provide rapport building, client buy-in, and stipends for necessities.*

**Case management is a comprehensive approach to identifying the needs of the client through an assessment of the medical/mental conditions; physical needs such as food and clothing; social/emotional status; housing/physical environment; familial/social support systems; training needs for community living; and education/vocational needs. This includes the development of a comprehensive individual service plan, which include the nature, frequency, and duration of services and assistance required to meet the identified needs, and specific strategies to achieve the client outcomes. Implementation of the service plan will include arranging appointments and/or transportation to the medical/mental, social, educational and other services; and crisis assistance planning for situations requiring immediate attention or resolution.*

Although the above represent the general Model of initial treatment and case plan design, each case would be evaluated on an individual basis. It is further expected that clients may move between the various categories as their conditions or circumstances may change.

Proposed Services at the Homeless Service Center

- *Syringe Exchange Program – Ongoing with supplies from Kings County Health Department (KCHD). Need storage space for supplies.*
- *Immunizations done through KCHD. One time/month. Need a room with chairs or an exam room.*
- *HIV testing – ongoing with rapid tests so immediate results and referral to CARE Program for specialty case management, and to Dr. Wong for medical care. Need a room with chairs or exam room.*
- *STI diagnosis and treatment – Ongoing if working under an MOU with KCHD. Nurse could follow standardized procedures. Supplies and medications to be provided by KCHD. This is particularly important due to the high number of STIs, in particular chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis among meth users. Need an exam room.*
- *Outpatient primary care – contracted with Adventist Health. Would need two exam rooms to maximize the efficiency of the physician while on site. The exam rooms would need to have sinks with running water, exam table, and basic equipment to take vital signs and point of care waived testing. Dental – all-in-one chair. Disposable equipment so as to not need an autoclave. The instruments could be supplied by the contracted dentist. Vision – basic equipment to provide basic exams.*
- *Mental health/substance use disorder treatment – available daily. Counseling rooms needed.*
- *Eligibility worker and housing navigator – need counseling room*
- *Veteran’s services/ public guardian – need counseling room*
- *Legal services – need counseling room*
- *Court services/restorative justice – need classroom*

- *Life skills training, employment training, vocational training – need classroom or computer lab*
- *Education/GED – work with Hanford Adult School – need classroom or computer lab*

Space Considerations

Computer Lab – Need computers, desks, and chairs for 4-5 computers, and internet access

Food Pantry – Need shelving for storage of food as determined through a consult with dietitian (Dietary Directions – Fresno) on which basic foods for living on the street and provided through the Community Food Bank

Clothing Shop – Need racks for hang up clothes, and shelves for shoes and folded clothing

Housing start up kits – Need assembly room with a large table plus large shelves for storage of the kits

Laundry – Need 2 washers and 2 dryers plus a counter for folding clothes.

Showers – Need 3 each men’s and women’s shower plus one handicap accessible; wall mounted soap/shampoo dispensers; storage space for supplies, towels and washcloths

Barbershop/hairdresser space – Need chair that raises, and lowers located near the showers

2 Exam Rooms with sinks and running water – Need exam tables and equipment: supplies storage

1 Dental Operatory with a sink and running water – Need dental chair and supplies storage

4 Counseling Rooms – Need comfortable seating with tables and chairs, computers and telephone with Cat 6 lines.

Storage for medical supplies, syringe exchange program supplies, HIV testing supplies.

Storage for laundry and shower supplies

Dining Room with Kitchen and counter for beverages (this would double as the common room). Need table and chairs, storage for supplies (will need to work with the Soup Kitchen to establish detailed needs). Need storage for supplies such as jigsaw puzzles, games etc. Need a wall – mounted television.

Classroom – Need tables and chairs to accommodate 25 people and have the ability to be set up in either rectangle or classroom style. If possible, have the room was equipped with a computer and projector or large screen TV for presentations, and a conference line.

Administrative space – Need office space for Coordinator, case managers, program manager; security office including desk, chair, computer, and a locked file room with locking cabinets. This area needs to be secured during non-business hours.

Personal storage space – Need warehouse-type space with individual lockable space, perhaps a covered area outside to cut down on odors and pests.

Pet Kennels – Need 8 individual spaces for pets.

LEMOORE HIGH SCHOOL GUNS AS ART

March 28, 2023

SUMMARY

During a visit to Lemoore High School, the 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) noticed that there was a display of two rifles, one on the wall and the other in front of a countertop, inside of the art classroom. There were no acknowledgements or certifications posted as to if the rifles were inoperable. The Grand Jury recommend certificates of inoperability from Lemoore Police Department be displayed with the rifles.

BACKGROUND

Per penal code 933.5 the main function of the Grand Jury is that of a watchdog over Kings County Government. That includes all government entities such as Health and Education, Law and Public Safety, County Government and Local Government and how they conduct the people's business. It is the responsibility of the Grand Jury's Health and Education subcommittee to conduct routine status checks of the schools Kings County to ensure that there are adequate safety measures in place.

It is our obligation to report on matters of concern as school safety is paramount to the citizens of Kings County. When entering a classroom, visitors, parents, staff, and students alike should not be concerned about their safety. A display of weapons in a classroom that contains no certification showing that weapons are inoperable could raise alarm to the public and is a cause for great concern.

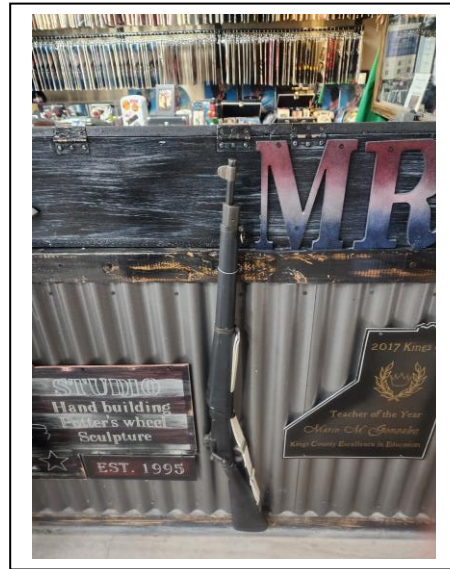
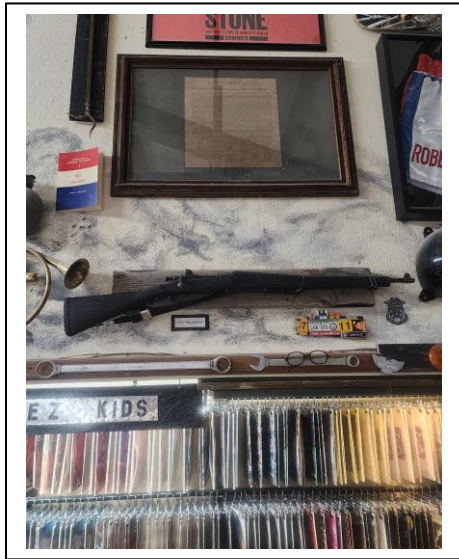
METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury conducted a site tour of Lemoore High School on January 30, 2023. The Administrative Staff was contacted regarding the artwork on display in the art classroom on February 13, 2023.

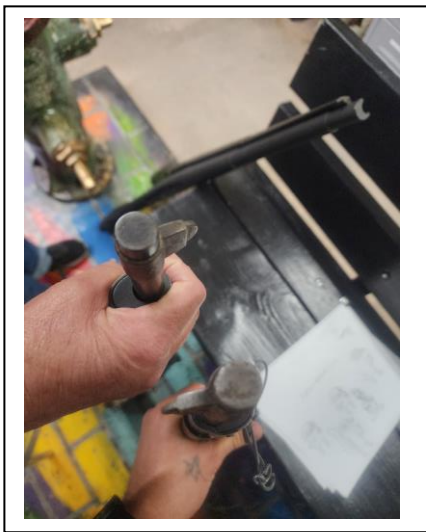
The Lemoore Police Department was contacted on March 27, 2023, regarding our concern of the displayed rifles in a public place such as a school classroom. On April 11, 2023, a follow-up inspection was conducted with Lemoore Police Department for verification and instructions on proper certification of the displayed rifles.

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury's Health and Education subcommittee conducted a site tour of Lemoore High School on January 30, 2023. This tour included the art classroom, where a display of rifles was seen, : one was hanging on the wall and another in front of a countertop.



The Grand Jury members inquired of the rifles' history and if they were real and still operable. Current members of staff had no idea where they came from or knowledge of their history. No notifications were posted on or near the display as to whether the rifles were inoperable or not. The rifles were attached with wires and screws to their fixtures. After further investigation, the Grand Jury determined that the rifles on display were inoperable. The barrels were capped off with a metal barrier and the bolts were screwed shut in a way so the bolt opening could not be accessed. The two rifles were donated from the NJROTC program at Lemoore High School due to the stocks being broken.



Contact was made with Lemoore Police Department and the following was received as a response to our inquiry.

On 04/11/23, I inspected rifles that were previously seen in a Lemoore High School classroom. Upon inspection of the rifles, it was discovered that they were screwed to a wooden board and a hung high up as decoration. A further inspection showed that they were inoperable and had the front end of the muzzle capped off with a metal barrier, showing it was not possible for a live round to exit through the front of the rifles. The rifles were previously used for LHS ROTC and were altered and stripped so they could not be used as live rifles.

Daniel Ortega, Youth Development Officer

Detectives Division
Lemoore Police Department
657 Fox St
Lemoore, CA. 93245
(559) 924-9574
Fax (559) 924-3116



FINDINGS

F1. The Grand Jury found a display of rifles, one on the wall and the other in front of a countertop, inside of the art classroom at Lemoore High School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. Any display of firearms, in schools, should include a notification or a document (attached or prominently displayed near the firearm(s)) showing that the firearm(s) have been certified by law enforcement to be rendered inoperable.

REQUIRED RESPONSE

California Penal Code 933c, provides in part: "No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body and every elected

county officer or agency head for which the grand jury had responsibility pursuant to section 9141 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge or the superior court...”

Dr. Miguel A. Guerrero
Superintendent of Lemoore High School
5 Powell Avenue
Lemoore CA 93245

REQUESTED RESPONSE

Rodney Brumit
Lemoore High School Principal
101 East Bush Street
Lemoore CA 93245

SEND FINAL REPORT RESPONSES TO:

Original to:
Michael Reinhart, Presiding Judge
c/o Shane Burns, Advising Judge
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1640 Kings Court Drive
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FOLLOW UP REPORT TO 2019-2020 KINGS COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT ON CALIFORNIA SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITY AND STATE PRISON AT CORCORAN

April 7, 2023

SUMMARY

The current 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury (KCGJ) is following up on the 2019-2020 Grand Jury report regarding tripping hazards for staff on their way to and from their work areas at The California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility & State Prison at Corcoran (CSATF). The current KCGJ wanted to see what the status is of the recommendations that were made by the 2019-2020 KCGJ.

BACKGROUND

CSATF is one of three state prisons within Kings County. As of the date of this report, it houses approximately 4744 inmates and employs approximately 1781 custodial and civilian employees. CSATF provides a workplace that has significant foot traffic, which includes approximately 2.5 miles of walkways. The mission of CSATF is to protect the public by safely and securely supervising adult offenders, providing effective rehabilitation, treatment, and integrating offenders successfully into the community. The Institution Annual Operating Budget as of February 22, 2023, was \$434,836,316.00 and the Medical Annual Operating Budget was \$93,000,000.00.

Public Interest and Staff Safety is the driving factors into this follow up report.

METHODOLOGY

The 2022-2023 KCGJ Law and Public Safety Committee conducted an on-sight follow-up inspection on the noted tripping hazards to include walkways and identified raised asphalt locations. Photographs were taken of all the noted hazards and repairs completed.

Plant Operations Manager was interviewed and stated walkway maintenance and repair was included in the budget as suggested from the 2019-2020 KCGJ past report.

An Employee Report to Supervisor of Injury/Illness CDCR 3066 form (Form 3066) was reviewed which included a section on the form listed as (Location where the incident occurred). This section was to be completed by the injured employee. Return to Work department was interviewed on the training for employees filling out the Form 3066. KCGJ was informed all Supervisors received the training on the completion of the Form 3066 and provided training in completion of the form. Return to Work Department Staff stated the location area listed on the form which caused an injury was reviewed at a monthly safety briefing. This briefing was conducted on the following month and not after the time of injury. It should be noted upon conducting an exit interview with the new Acting Warden, he stated a Safety Officer should be reviewing the area after the time of injury and

mentioned this process would be reviewed to ensure the procedure was being followed or it would be corrected.

2020-2023 injury report was reviewed showing eight staff injuries resulting from some type of tripping or falling accident. Only one listed was due to uneven pavement which happened in front of Complex II. The report showing the area of injury was still vague and was not precise to the location or cause of the trip / fall accident.

DISCUSSION

The 2022-2023 KCGJ conducted interviews and visual inspection of past tripping hazards to see whether the Grand Jury's recommendations were followed.

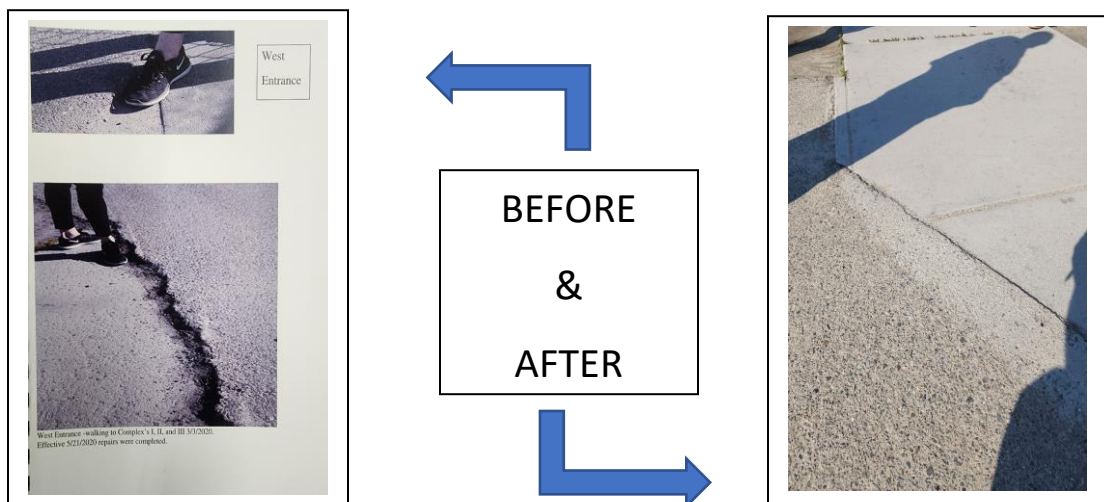
The recommendations from the 2019-2020 KCGJ were as follows:

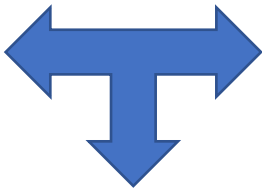
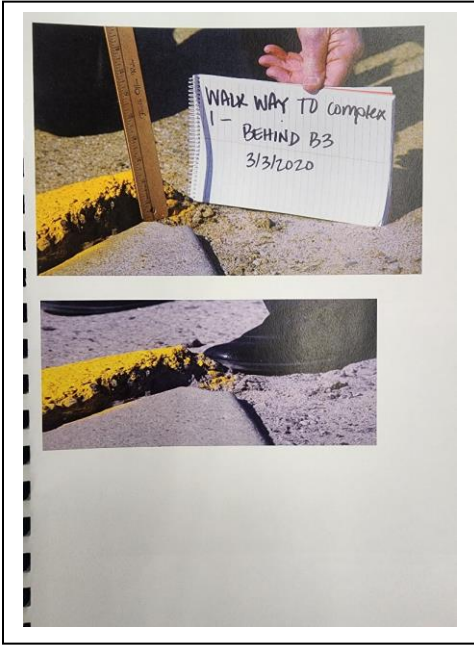
1. SATF to continue repairs and safety marking of all walkways with raised asphalt causing a tripping hazard.
2. Plant Operations department should include line items in their budget for walkway maintenance and repairs.
3. Training for the employees on how to properly fill out Form 3066 regarding the work area, including the specific location and alert the Plant Operations department per policy and procedures.

FINDINGS

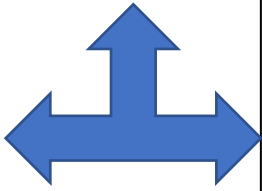
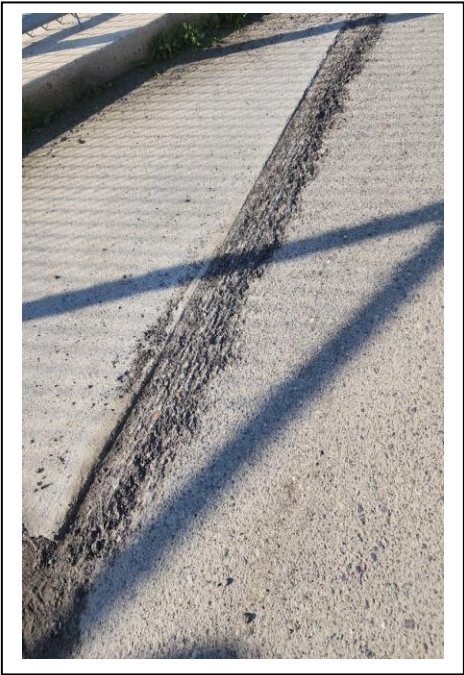
Finding #1

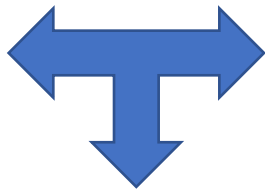
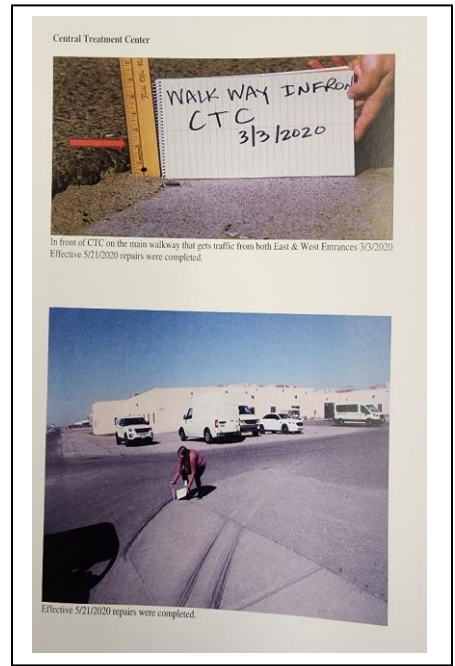
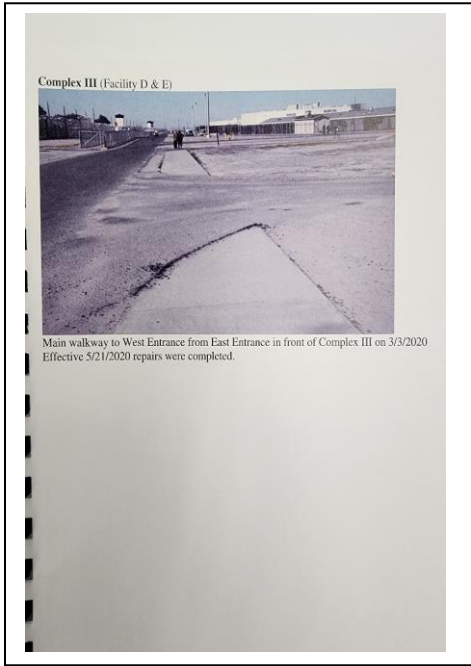
All identified tripping hazards were repaired by grinding down raised asphalt in some areas and placing down new concrete where needed.



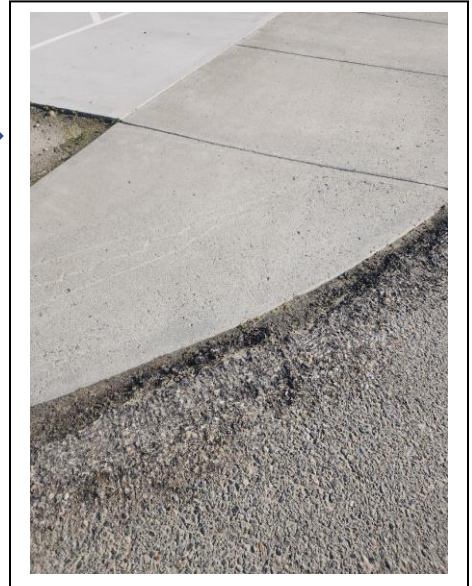
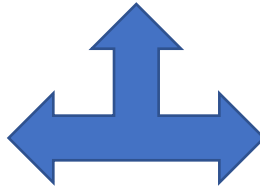
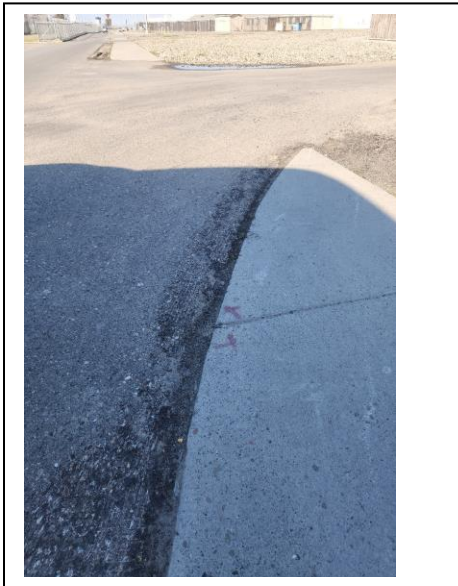


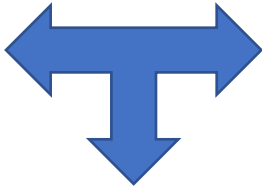
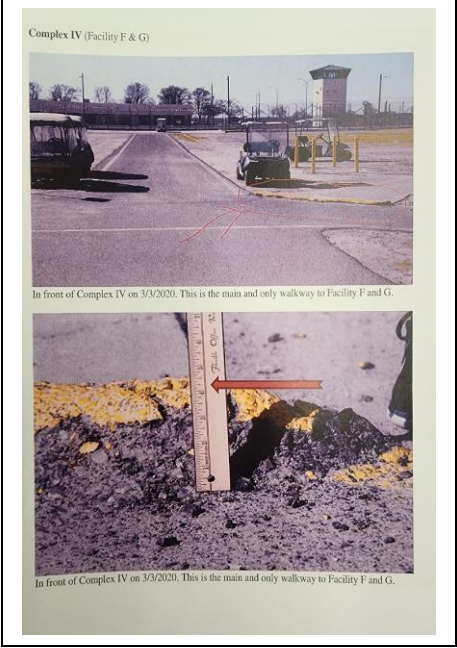
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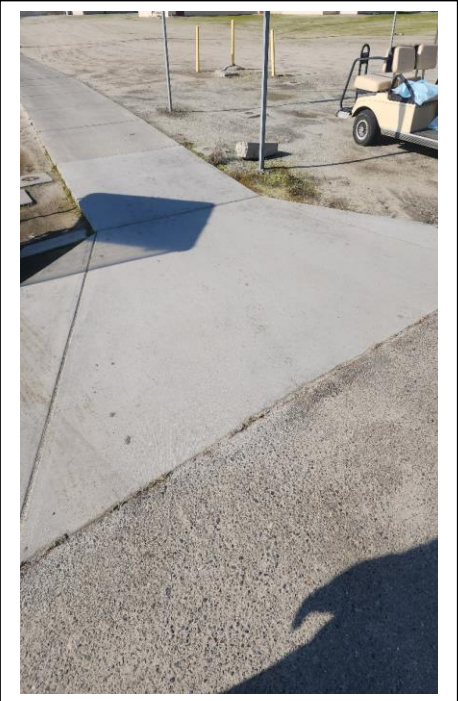
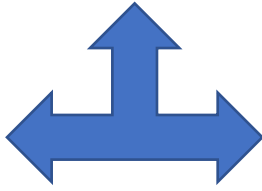


BEFORE
&
AFTER





BEFORE
&
AFTER



Finding #2

Plant Operations have included walkway maintenance and repairs to their budget as stated by the Plant Operations Manager.

Finding #3

Plant Operations were notified of the area causing a tripping or falling accident, but the specific location was not listed, and notification was not done in a timely manner. The Form 3066 although listed and completed was still vague and not precise to the specific location causing the tripping or falling.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1

Continue repairs to all walkways and raised asphalt locations when identified as a walking hazard.

Recommendation #2

Continue to include walkway repairs to Plant Operations yearly budget.

Recommendation #3

Have injured employee provide specific location of tripping or falling accident on Form 3066 for Safety Officer to locate and identify in order to notify Plant Operations of the hazard for marking and timely repairs.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

California Penal Code § 933 (c), provides in part: “No later than 90 days after the Grand Jury Submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elected county officer or agency head for which the Grand Jury had responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court...”

California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Warden

INVITED RESPONSE

California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Public Information Officer

SEND FINAL REPORT TO:

Original to:

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c/o Shane Burns, Advising Judge
Kings County Superior Court,
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Hanford CA, 93230

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County Government Committee



Kathy Bare, Chairperson
Stephanie Gomez, Co-Chair

Kevin Scott
Jose Macias
Alex Velasco
John Wright
George Cleary

Maria Kelley
Fay Johnson
Kathleen
Taylor
Gary Leasure

County Government Committee, Letters Sent

| Kings County | | Date |
|--------------------------------|--|------------|
| Diane Freeman | County Council | 8/5/2022 |
| Edward Hill | Chief Administrative Officer | 8/7/2022 |
| Joe Neves | Board of Supervisors & LAFCO | 8/10/2022 |
| Trista Kerrigan | Adult Protective Services, Social Service Supervisor | 8/17/2022 |
| Esam Abed | Deputy Director Community Services | 9/14/2022 |
| Dominic Tyburski | Public Works Director | 10/12/2022 |
| Natalie Reacher | Library Director | 10/26/2022 |
| Kyria Martinez | Assistant Chief County Administrative Officer | 11/2/2022 |
| Jeff Garner | KCAO Director | 11/9/2022 |
| Officers Smith & Carrillo | Hanford Police HART Program | 11/9/2022 |
| Wendy Osikafo | Human Services Agency Director | 11/16/2022 |
| Commander Dodd | County Sheriff's Office | 11/30/2023 |
| Dennis Mills | General Manager Kings County Water District | 11/30/2022 |
| Domingo Cruz | Administrative Analyst | 12/7/2022 |
| Clinton Vick, Tyler Haener | County Sheriff's Office | 1/4/2023 |
| Commander Dodd, Bettencourt | County Sheriff's Office | 1/13/2023 |
| Kelly Vernon | Chief of Probation | 1/18/2023 |
| Jeff Garner | KCAO Director | 1/25/2023 |
| Rusty Robinson | Board of Supervisors | 1/27/2023 |
| Sarah Hacker | County District Attorney | 2/2/2023 |
| Julieta Martinez | Job Training Office | 2/8/2023 |
| Bill Lynch | County Fire Chief | 3/8/2023 |
| Vickie Jones | Investigator, District Attorney | 3/15/2023 |
| Josh Speer | County Sheriff's Office | 3/29/2023 |
| Wendy Osikafo | Health and Human Services | 4/12/2023 |

Health and Education Committee



Val Parks, Chairperson
Fay Johnson, Co-Chair

Kathy Bare
Kevin Scott
Jose Macias
Wayne Harvey
John Wright

George Cleary
Sal Pina
Rebecca Bell
Gary Leasure
Maria Kellev

Health and Education Committee, Letters Sent

| Area | | | Date |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Avenal | Blanca Rodriguez Vargas | Principal, Elementary School | 3/23/2023 |
| | Moses Perez | Assistant Principal, Middle School | 4/17/2023 |
| | Rigoberto Leal | Counselor, Middle School | 4/17/2023 |
| Corcoran | Antonia Ramirez | Principal, High School | 5/8/2023 |
| Hanford | Dr. Eric Evans | Hanford High School | 9/26/2022 |
| | Joye Gabler | Hanford Elementary School, Superintendent | 12/12/2022 |
| Lemoore | Miguel Guerrelo | High School Superintendent | 10/24/2022 |
| | Mr. Brumit | High School, Principal | 1/30/2023 |
| Kettleman City | Ana Rosas | Principal, Elementary School | 4/17/2023 |
| Kings County | Clarissa Ravelo | Program Officer, Health Department | 8/15/2022 |
| | | First 5 | 8/15/2022 |
| | Lisa Lewis | Director, Behavioral Health | 9/14/2022 |
| | Courtney Coelho | Office of Education, Pre School | 9/19/2022 |
| | Lisa Fagundes, Frank Ruiz | Program Manager, Hannah's House (Champions) | 10/12/2022 |
| | Michael DeLeon, Frank Ruiz | Program Manager, Samuel's House (Champions) | 1/23/2023 |
| | Lisa Lewis | Director, Behavioral Health | 2/1/2023 |
| | Jason Stricklen | Director, School Climate and Welfare | 3/6/2023 |
| Todd Barlow | Superintendent, Schools | 3/27/2023 | |

Law and Public Safety Committee



Alex Velasco, Chairperson
Sal Pina, Co-Chair

Kathy Bare
Jose Macias
Wayne Harvey
John Wright

Fay Johnson
Kathleen Taylor
Gary Leasure
Stephanie Gomez

Law & Public Safety Committee, Letters Sent

| | | | Date |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---|------------|
| Avenal | Warden Martin Gamboa | Avenal State Prison | 10/25/2022 |
| | Chief Robert Nevarez | Avenal Police Department | 3/8/2023 |
| Corcoran | Warden Tammy Campbell | Corcoran State Prison | 10/18/2022 |
| | Chief Reuben Shortnacy | Corcoran Police Department | 1/17/2023 |
| | Chief William Lynch | Corcoran Fire Department | 1/17/2023 |
| | Warden Bryan Phillips | Cal Substance Abuse Treatment Facility & Prison | 1/31/2023 |
| | Lieutenant Brent Urban | Cal Substance Abuse Treatment Facility & Prison | 2/7/2023 |
| Hanford | Nate Wright, Operations Mgr. | American Ambulance | 9/6/2022 |
| | Chief Parker Sever | Hanford Police Department | 11/15/2022 |
| | Chief Steve Pendergrass | Hanford Fire Department | 11/15/2022 |
| | Captain Stephanie Huddleston | Hanford Police Department HART Program | 4/25/2023 |
| | Officer Mark Carrillo | Hanford Police Department HART Program | 4/25/2023 |
| | | | |
| Lemoore | Chief Michael Kendall | Lemoore Police Department | 8/23/2022 |
| | Chief Bruce German | Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department | 8/30/2022 |
| | Soledad Perez, CSO | Lemoore Police Department | 3/28/2023 |
| | Chief Michael Kendall | Lemoore Police Department | 3/28/2023 |
| | Lieutenant Matthew Smith | Lemoore Police Department | 3/28/2023 |
| Kings County | Captain Chrystal Thomas | Kings County Jail | 9/6/2022 |
| | Chief William Lynch | Kings County Fire Department | 11/8/2022 |
| | Chief Kelly Vernon | Kings County Probation Department | 1/10/2023 |
| | Chief Deputy Wayne Brabant | Kings County Coroner | 4/26/2023 |
| | Assistant DA Thom Snyder | District Attorneys Office | 5/23/2023 |
| | Corrections Mgr. Stacie Sellai | Kings County Probation Department | 5/30/2023 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Local Government Committee



Maria Kelley, Chairman
Wayne Harvey, Co-

Kevin Scott
Jose Macias
John Wright
Val Parks
Alex Velasco

Kathleen Taylor
Kathy Bare
Gary Leasure
George Cleary

Local Government Committee, Letters Sent

| | | | Date |
|--------------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Avenal | Antony Lopez | City Manager | 9/15/2022 |
| | Antony Lopez | City Manager | 3/8/2023 |
| Corcoran | Greg Gatzka | City Manager | 10/14/2022 |
| | Greg Gatzka | City Manager | 4/13/2023 |
| Hanford | Brad Albert | Parks and Recreation/Community Services | 8/4/2022 |
| | Mario Cifuentez II | City Manager | 8/11/2022 |
| | Bob Loogman | Airport Manager | 8/25/2022 |
| | Kalish Morrow | City Council | 10/13/2022 |
| | Jim Ross | Public Works Director | 11/17/2022 |
| | Carole Farris | Manager/Hanford Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen | 2/2/2023 |
| | Randy Shaw | Building Superintendent | 3/16/2023 |
| | Jason Rodrigues | Wastewater Treatment Manager | 5/25/2023 |
| | Isaac Salgado | Wastewater Treatment Supervisor | 5/25/2023 |
| | Bob Williams | Public Utilities | 5/25/2023 |
| | Brent Corrin | Public Utilities | 5/25/2023 |
| | Lemoore | Nathan Olson | City Manager |
| Nathan Olson | | City Manager | 4/6/2023 |

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**RESPONSES TO 2021-2022
FINAL REPORT**



JOE NEVES – DISTRICT 1
LEMOORE & STRATFORD

RICHARD VALLE – DISTRICT 2
AVENAL, COCKRAN, HOME GARDEN
& KETTLEMAN CITY

DOUG VERBOON – DISTRICT 3
NORTH HANFORD, ISLAND DISTRICT
& NORTH LEMOORE

CRAIG PEDERSEN – DISTRICT 4
ARMONA & HANFORD

RICHARD FAGUNDES – DISTRICT 5
HANFORD & BURRIS PARK

COUNTY OF KINGS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MAILING ADDRESS: KINGS COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, HANFORD, CA 93230
OFFICES AT: 1400 W. LACEY BLVD., ADMINISTRATION BUILDING # 1, HANFORD, CA 93230
(559) 852-2362, FAX: (559) 585-8047
Web Site: <http://www.countyofkings.com>

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2022

September 20, 2022

GRAND JURY RESPONSE

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED “FOLLOW UP TO GRAND JURY 2020-2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN KETTLEMAN CITY: A COMMUNITY’S LONG-STANDING PLEA FOR IMPROVEMENTS”

Thank you for the consideration regarding the pedestrian crossing at State Route (SR) 41 and General Petroleum Avenue in Kettleman City. The Board has read the report and reviewed the findings and recommendations made by the Grand Jury. To date, the County has secured \$2 million in state funding from Senate Bill (SB) 119. Additionally, there is a \$6 million appropriation for this project in California’s Budget Act of 2022, Assembly Bill (AB 179); which was signed into law and approved by Governor Newsom on September 6, 2022. The latest estimate for the project is \$7 – \$9 million. The County has and will continue to explore all viable options to address the pedestrian crossing in Kettleman City at SR 41 and General Petroleum Avenue.

KINGS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Neves

Joe Neves, Chairman



**COUNTY OF KINGS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

GOVERNMENT CENTER HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230 (559) 852-2362
Catherine Venturella, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**AGENDA ITEM
September 20, 2022**

SUBMITTED BY: Administration – Edward D. Hill/Kyria Martinez

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED “FOLLOW UP TO GRAND JURY 2020-2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN KETTLEMAN CITY: A COMMUNITY’S LONG-STANDING PLEA FOR IMPROVEMENTS”

SUMMARY:

Overview:

Pursuant to Section 933 of the California Penal Code, the Board and Kings County Public Works are required to respond to the findings and recommendations outlined in the Grand Jury’s report titled Follow Up to Grand Jury 2020-2021 Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements. The Board’s response has been prepared for review and approval.

Recommendation:

Approve the Board of Supervisors’ response to the Grand Jury report titled Follow Up to Grand Jury 2020-2021 Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements.

Fiscal Impact:

The County has secured \$2 million via Assemblymember Salas in Senate Bill (SB) 119, which has been deposited in the County treasury and included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Final Budget. An additional \$6 million appropriation is currently included in the state budget (SB 179) via another request from Assemblymember Salas – however, the budget bill is still in the approval process and has not been passed. Therefore, the County has yet to receive this allocation. The project was last estimated to cost \$7 million, per the required response to this report by Kings County Public Works.

(Cont’d)

BOARD ACTION:

APPROVED AS AMENDED IN LETTERS.

**ROLL CALL: VALLE, PEDERSEN, FAGUNDES, NEVES – AYE
VERBOON - ABSENT**

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED: OTHER: _____

I hereby certify that the above order was passed
and adopted on September 20, 2022.

CATHERINE VENTURELLA, Clerk to the Board

By *Catherine Venturella* Deputy.

Agenda Item

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED “FOLLOW UP TO GRAND JURY 2020-2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN KETTLEMAN CITY: A COMMUNITY’S LONG-STANDING PLEA FOR IMPROVEMENTS”

September 20, 2022

Page 2 of 2

BACKGROUND:

The 2020-2021 Grand Jury initially investigated pedestrian crossing safety concerns in Kettleman City at General Petroleum Avenue and State Route (SR) 41. The findings in the report included identification of evidence supporting needed improvements for pedestrian crossing at SR 41 and General Petroleum Avenue, lack of warning signage for motorists approaching the crosswalk, and proposed a pedestrian bridge be constructed for long-term safety for the residents of Kettleman City, particularly schoolchildren.

The recommendations from the initial investigation were outlined in the original report titled *Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements*. The current Grand Jury are following up on the status of those initial recommendations. In assessing the status of the Grand Jury’s recommendations from the initial report, they conducted interviews with a County Supervisor, the Director of Public Works, the Superintendent of Reef Sunset School District, a member of the Assembly Ethics Committee, and CalTrans (District 6). These follow up interviews resulted in four findings and four recommendations.

Public Works and the Board were provided with the *Follow Up to Grand Jury 2020-2021 Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements* report on June 28, 2022. The Board is responding in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.5 and must officially respond by September 26, 2022.



COUNTY OF KINGS
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 852-2690
FAX: (559) 582-2506

Dominic Tyburski, P.E., Director

County of Kings Grand Jury
P.O. Box 1562
Hanford, CA 93232

August 10, 2022

Reference: Public Works Response to Grand Jury Report Dated June 7, 2022

The following responses are from the Kings County Department of Public Works as requested by the Kings County Grand Jury in reply to the June 2022 report titled "FOLLOW UP REPORT TO GRAND JURY 2020-2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN KETTLEMAN CITY A COMMUNITY'S LONG-STANDING PLEA FOR IMPROVEMENTS".

GJ Statement:

Page 1, Recommendation #2

PW Response:

Solar powered radar feedback signs were installed in SR41 NB & SB RW by County Public Works in 2015. Solar powered, pedestrian activated rapid rectangular flashing beacons at the existing SR41 crosswalk at General Petroleum Avenue paired with pre-warning beacons (also solar powered) 250' North and South of the crosswalk is scheduled for construction by the end of 2022.

GJ Statement:

Page 2, Recommendation #3

PW Response:

In progress.

GJ Statement:

Page 2, paragraph 3 under 'DISCUSSION'

PW Response:

The most effective way for the Reef Sunset School District to help would be to provide funding assistance for the pedestrian bridge project. Any funding provided by the District would be instrumental in completing this project.

GJ Statement:

Page 2, paragraph 4 under 'DISCUSSION'

PW Response:

Paraphrased response attributed to PW Director is out of context. The question centered on whether other safety improvement alternatives to building a pedestrian bridge exist, which as in most instances including this one there *are* various alternatives. Additionally, the PW Director was asked what a detractor might be to building a pedestrian bridge aside from cost. The paraphrased statement regarding the utilization rate of pedestrian structures was based on Caltrans empirical data, not the opinion of the Public Works Director. A 100% effective traffic control device has yet to be invented, as such there is no safer option for pedestrians crossing a vehicular pathway than a grade separation.

Administration Engineering Roads Building Maintenance Parks Equipment Maintenance



COUNTY OF KINGS
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 852-2690
FAX: (559) 582-2506

Dominic Tyburski, P.E., Director

GJ Statement:

Page 2, paragraph 5 under 'DISCUSSION'

PW Response:

Cost estimates indicated in the report reflect Caltrans cost projections, County estimate is \$7.0-9.0 million, \$4.0 million of which has already been secured for this project.

GJ Statement:

Page 3, Finding #4

PW Response:

Public Works does not *advocate* for solutions to roadway challenges. The Department determines a course of action based on industry standard best practices and professional judgment, and if multiple viable options exist the Department seeks direction from the County Board of Supervisors. In either scenario, approval by the County Board is required prior to proceeding and the Department does not attempt to *lobby* or influence the Board's decision other than providing a professional recommendation. Additionally, the proposed roundabout at SR41 and General Petroleum Avenue is a Caltrans concept which would be utilized in conjunction with any SR41 pedestrian crossing solution that may be employed, including a bridge not "instead of".

GJ Statement:

Page 4, Recommendation #3

PW Response:

The community has expressed a great deal of support for this project, as such I would expect the Caltrans utilization rate projections to be inaccurate and would expect a high utilization rate by the community. Additionally, the County's estimated cost for this project is \$7.0 million, \$4.0 million of which has already been secured and can only be used for a pedestrian bridge in Kettleman City. Further efforts are underway to secure the remaining funds however in the interim, the Department intends to move forward with design and RW acquisition.

GJ Statement:

Page 4, Recommendation #4

PW Response:

Maintenance of a concrete structure of this type is negligible. Additionally, the expectation of probable non-usage appears to be inaccurate due to the high community support for this project. Lastly, public safety improvement recommendations should be based on professional engineering judgement.

Should you have additional questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dominic Tyburski, P.E.
Public Works Director

Administration Engineering Roads Building Maintenance Parks Equipment Maintenance



COUNTY OF KINGS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GOVERNMENT CENTER HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93230 (559) 852-2362
Catherine Venturella, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

AGENDA ITEM
August 23, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: Public Works – Dominic Tyburski

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED “FOLLOW UP TO GRAND JURY 2020-2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN KETTLEMAN CITY: A COMMUNITY’S LONG-STANDING PLEA FOR IMPROVEMENTS”

SUMMARY:

Overview:

Pursuant to Section 933 of the California Penal Code, the Board and Kings County Public Works are required to respond to the findings and recommendations outlined in the Grand Jury’s report titled *Follow Up to Grand Jury 2020-2021 Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements*. The response from Public Works has been prepared for Board review as well as consideration for the Board to use as its response.

Recommendation:

Approve Kings County Public Works’ response to the Grand Jury report titled *Follow Up to Grand Jury 2020-2021 Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements*.

Fiscal Impact:

The County has secured \$2 million via Assemblymember Salas in Senate Bill (SB) 119, which has been deposited in the County treasury and included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Final Budget. An additional \$2 million appropriation is currently included in the state budget (SB 178) via another request from Assemblymember Salas – however, the County has yet to receive this allocation. The project is estimated to cost between \$7 to \$9 million.

BACKGROUND:

The 2020-2021 Grand Jury initially investigated pedestrian crossing safety concerns in Kettleman City at General Petroleum Avenue and State Route (SR) 41. The findings in the report included identification of evidence supporting needed improvements for pedestrian crossing at SR 41 and General Petroleum

(Cont’d)

BOARD ACTION:

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED: OTHER:

ROLL CALL: VERBOON, PEDERSEN, VALLE, NEVES – AYE
FAGUNDES - ABSENT

I hereby certify that the above order was passed
and adopted on August 23, 2022.

CATHERINE VENTURELLA, Clerk of the Board

By Catherine Venturella Deputy.

Agenda Item

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED “FOLLOW UP TO GRAND JURY 2020-2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN KETTLEMAN CITY: A COMMUNITY’S LONG-STANDING PLEA FOR IMPROVEMENTS”

August 23, 2022

Page 2 of 2

Avenue, lack of warning signage for motorists approaching the crosswalk, and proposed a pedestrian bridge be constructed for long-term safety for the residents of Kettleman City, particularly schoolchildren.

The recommendations from the initial investigation were outlined in the original report titled *Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements*. The current Grand Jury are following up on the status of those initial recommendations. In assessing the status of the Grand Jury’s recommendations from the initial report, they conducted interviews with a County Supervisor, the Director of Public Works, the Superintendent of Reef Sunset School District, a member of the Assembly Ethics Committee, and CalTrans (District 6). These follow up interviews resulted in four findings and four recommendations.

Public Works and the Board were provided with the *Follow Up to Grand Jury 2020-2021 Pedestrian Safety in Kettleman City: A Community’s Long-Standing Plea for Improvements* report on June 28, 2022. Public Works is responding in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.5 and must officially respond by August 29, 2022.