

Response Compliance Report

June 23, 2026



Response Compliance Report

2025-2026 Amador County Grand Jury

SUMMARY

Governing boards of local government entities and elected county officials are required by law to respond to the findings and recommendations in reports the grand jury directs to them. The responses must be submitted to the superior court within a given timeframe and must include legally mandated wording.

The 2025-2026 Amador County Grand Jury issued one report on June 25, 2025, that required a response from three entities. We found that one entity responded for all three entities in one letter dated October 7, 2025, two weeks beyond the 90-day deadline.

METHODOLOGY

The 2025-2026 Amador County Grand Jury evaluated responses to the findings and recommendations to determine their compliance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05. The following criteria were considered:

Timeframe: Were responses submitted to the judge in the timeframe required by the law?

Findings: Did the governing board or elected county official indicate their agreement or disagreement with each finding? If there was disagreement, did they explain the reason for the disagreement?

Recommendations: Did each response include one of the four statements required under Penal Code section 933.05(b) (1-4)? Did the response also contain the required content?

- If a response stated a recommendation had been implemented, did the response include a summary of what had been done? (Penal Code section 933.05(b)(1))
- If a response stated a recommendation would be implemented, did the response include a summary and timeframe for what would be done? (Penal Code section 933.05(b)(2))
- If a response stated a recommendation required further analysis or study, did the response include an explanation of the scope and parameters of the analysis or study, and a timeframe (within six months of receipt of the report)

- for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the applicable public official, department head, or governing body? (Penal Code section 933.05(b)(3))
- If a response stated a recommendation would not be implemented because it was not warranted or not reasonable, did the respondent include an explanation supporting that position? (Penal Code section 933.05(b)(4))

BACKGROUND

Responses to grand jury reports must adhere to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05.

For each finding, required respondents must either agree or disagree. If the respondent disagrees, they must explain what part of the finding they disagree with and explain the reasons for the disagreement.

For each recommendation, respondents must choose one of the following four responses:

1. That the recommendation has been implemented, with a summary of actions taken; or
2. That it will be implemented within a specified timeframe; or
3. That the recommendation needs further analysis, with an explanation, the scope of the analysis, and the timeframe (not to exceed six months from issuance of the report) as to when the response will be considered by the respondent; or
4. That the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable, with an explanation (Penal Code section 933.05(a)(1)-(4).)

The 2024-2025 Amador County Grand Jury issued two reports during its term from July 2024 through June 2025. One report required no response and the second report, "Poorly Maintained and Deteriorating County Roads," (County Roads) contained 12 Findings and 7 Recommendations (see Table 1).

This report does not comment on the merit or wisdom of any disagreements expressed by any respondent to last year's reports, but merely upon whether the responses complied with legal requirements.

Table 1. Summary of 2024-2025 Amador County Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations

COUNTY OF AMADOR CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORTS ISSUED FOR 2024-2025	
PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN JACKSON	
Complaint received concerning Jackson Police Department's enforcement and citation of illegal parking in handicap spaces.	
FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
F1. After investigating the City of Jackson's parking enforcement practices, we find that parking laws are investigated and enforced in a timely manner.	The Grand Jury has no recommendations.
POORLY MAINTAINED AND DETERIORATING COUNTY ROADS	
Numerous newspaper articles and social media postings where citizens complained about poorly maintained and deteriorating roads.	
FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
F1. Amador County's lack of sufficient funding to complete necessary road repairs, maintenance and paving has resulted in the deterioration of county roads. (R1), (R2)	R1. Amador County Public Works evaluate current internal road work costs versus outsourced road work for labor and material to determine ways to improve cost efficiencies. Evaluation to be completed by January 1, 2026. Execute any process changes by June 1, 2026. (F1)
F2. Due to Amador County's limited use of existing personnel to more proactively seek available road grants, opportunities for funding have potentially been missed. (R2)	R2. The Amador County General Services Administration and/or Public Works allocate more ongoing personnel time to seeking available road grants. To be implemented by November 1, 2025. (F1) (F2)
F3. The Amador County Public Works' current shortage of staff limits the quantity and timeliness of road maintenance and repair work that can be completed. (R3), (R4)	R3. To increase efficiency, the Public Works Director identify the training needs of current department staff, including that of road crews, and develop a training plan. To be completed by January 1, 2026. Implement plan by March 1, 2026. (F3)
F4. Amador County's lack of short-term and long-term planning for the repair and maintenance of roads has resulted in a reactive rather than proactive approach, leading to an ineffective system in which repairs and maintenance occur mainly in response to complaints, rather than being guided by strategic prioritization. (R7), (R8), (R9)	R4. The County Administrative Officer and the Public Works Director evaluate current Public Works Department staffing numbers, skill levels, and job responsibilities to make any necessary changes to maximize productivity. To be completed by January 1, 2026. (F3)
F5. The Amador County Public Works' lack of a comprehensive method to assess and document road conditions on an ongoing basis has resulted in the Department's inability to conduct remedial action effectively. (R5), (R6)	R5. The Public Works Director develop and implement a process to routinely survey and document current County road conditions, based on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), in the Pavement Management Program on an ongoing basis. Process implementation to begin by April 1, 2026. (F5)
F6. The Amador County Public Works' lack of producing ongoing, informative reports to County managers hampers the ability to effectively determine staffing requirements, road work priorities and funding needs for Public Works. (R9), (R10)	R6. The Public Works Director determine, from road condition surveys and updated Pavement Management Program data, the roads that require immediate repair. Initial report to be completed by June 1, 2026. (F5)
F7. Amador County's lack of effective communication to inform the public about planned road repairs, the response to complaints, and the funding mechanisms for road improvements has led to widespread frustration. (R11), (R12)	R7. The Amador County Board of Supervisors oversee the development of a 5-year strategic plan, updated annually, for how the County will work to improve County roads to an overall Good condition, per the rating criteria in Table A in the Road Conditions section of this report. To be completed in time for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget planning. (F4)
	R8. The Amador County Board of Supervisors oversee the development of a short-term action plan, to be developed by the Public Works Director, to improve the County's roads that incorporates current road conditions, prioritizes road projects, includes a forecasted schedule of road work, to be updated at least semi-annually. To be completed by November 1, 2025. (F4)
	R9. The County Administrative Officer and the Public Works Director oversee the development of an electronic database for entering and tracking road service/work requests and complaints received - from initiation to resolution. To be implemented by October 1, 2025. (F6), (F4)
	R10. The Public Works director oversee the development of reports, to be provided to the County Administrative Officer monthly and quarterly to the Amador County Board of Supervisors, that includes data for the month and fiscal year-to-date: -Road Work Scheduled - Including which road and type of work -Road Work Completed - Including which road and type of work -The number and type of road service/work requests received and those completed -The number and type of citizen road complaints and damage claims received and the resolution (F6) Above to be completed by April 1, 2026.
	R11. The Amador County Board of Supervisors oversee the development and execution of a communication plan for enhancing information provided to the public about roads. To be completed by January 1, 2026. (F7)
	R12. The County Administrative Officer and Public Works Director oversee enhancements to the County website so that County road information is on the home page, including direct links to a road maintenance schedule and the online Work Request form. To be completed by December 31, 2025. (F7)

DISCUSSION

The law requires county elected officials to respond to a grand jury report in writing. The elected official's response must be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receiving the report. Governing boards have 90 days after receiving a grand jury report to submit their response to the presiding judge. Although their response was due no later than September 23, 2025, responses from the County Administrative Officer, Public Works Director, and the Amador County Board of Supervisors were combined in one letter from the Board of Supervisors dated October 7, 2025.

The respondents agreed with 4 of the 7 findings, as shown in Table 2. All "Disagree" responses to the 2024-2025 Amador County Grand Jury findings included what they specifically disagreed with and why.

Table 2. County Roads Findings Response Summary

	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7
Agree	X	X	X				X
Disagree				X	X	X	

Respondents do not plan to implement any of the 12 recommendations made in the grand jury report. Table 3 breaks down why each recommendation was rejected.

Table 3. County Roads Recommendation Response Summary

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
Not Warranted	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Not Feasible							X					
Not Reasonable											X	

FINDING

F1. The County Administrative Officer, Public Works Director, and the Amador County Board of Supervisors failed to respond to the Grand Jury report “Poorly Maintained and Deteriorating County Roads,” by September 23, 2025, the required 90-day response period.

RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation is required.

REQUIRED RESPONSE

No response is required.