



Office of the Sheriff-Coroner & Public Administrator

Jeremy R. Briese
Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

Kevin M. Packard
Undersheriff

July 8, 2026

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2026

The Honorable Anita Starchman-Bryant
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Mariposa
5088 Bullion Street
Mariposa, CA 95338

**MARIPOSA SUPERIOR COURT
ADMINISTRATION**

Re: Response to the 2025–2026 Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Starchman-Bryant:

I am in receipt of the 2025–2026 Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury Final Report. Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933(c), this letter serves as the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations regarding its inspection of the Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility.

I appreciate the Grand Jury's interest in touring the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office Adult Detention Facility and the opportunity to highlight the important mission and many responsibilities of the Custody Division. The Sheriff's Office values the Grand Jury's continued oversight and appreciates the professional manner in which the inspection was conducted.

The Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, providing secure detention services for the County. The facility is a fifty-eight-bed maximum-security correctional institution staffed by dedicated correctional professionals who are responsible for the safety, security, care, and supervision of incarcerated persons. In addition to maintaining the secure operation of the facility, correctional staff coordinate inmate transportation for court appearances, medical appointments, and other required services while facilitating rehabilitation and reentry programming. Their professionalism and commitment ensure the continued safe and efficient operation of the facility under increasingly complex operational and regulatory demands.

The Sheriff's Office appreciates the Grand Jury's thoughtful observations and recommendations. I agree with the findings and recommendations contained in the report. The Sheriff's Office has proactively worked to address many of the identified issues and continues to collaborate with the County Administrative Office, Public Works, and the Board of Supervisors to implement both immediate and long-term solutions. This partnership has already resulted in significant progress on several capital improvement projects. Most notably, the HVAC replacement project, which was identified in both the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 Grand Jury reports, is now only weeks away from full completion.

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Mariposa, CA 95338

(209) 966-3615

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The Sheriff's Office responses to each finding and recommendation are as follows:

Finding 1 / Recommendation 1

Accept.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with the Grand Jury's findings and recommendation regarding the need to replace or substantially repair the facility roof to prevent further structural deterioration. Since the Grand Jury's inspection, the Sheriff's Office has worked closely with the Mariposa County Public Works Department to address immediate concerns. Public Works has completed temporary repairs by sealing the roof edges to reduce water intrusion and prevent additional damage while a permanent solution is developed. The Sheriff's Office will continue to work collaboratively with Public Works to monitor the effectiveness of these interim repairs and evaluate future maintenance, and capital improvement needs to preserve the integrity of the facility.

Finding 2 / Recommendation 2

Accept.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with the Grand Jury's findings and recommendation regarding the need for a manual backup or fail-safe mechanism for the electronic door system. Maintaining a secure and reliable access control system is critical to the safe operation of the detention facility. A budget request has been submitted for the upcoming fiscal year to replace the affected electronic door system and modernize the facility's security infrastructure. If approved, the project will significantly improve system reliability while enhancing the safety and security of correctional staff, incarcerated persons, and facility visitors.

Finding 3 / Recommendation 3

Accept.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with the Grand Jury's findings and recommendation regarding the continued recruitment and retention of correctional staff. Significant progress has already been made. One of the two previously vacant female Correctional Deputy positions has been filled, and a second candidate is currently progressing through the background investigation process. Upon successful completion of the hiring process, the Adult Detention Facility will return to full staffing. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to maintaining appropriate staffing levels through continued recruitment, retention, and succession planning efforts to ensure safe and efficient facility operations.

I would also like to publicly recognize the dedicated men and women assigned to the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office Adult Detention Facility. Their professionalism, compassion, and unwavering commitment to public safety are evident each day as they perform an increasingly challenging and demanding mission. Their dedication reflects the highest standards of the Sheriff's Office and is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the 2025-2026 Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury for their service to our community. I appreciate their time, thoughtful observations, and continued commitment to improving County government through constructive review and collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeremy R. Briese
Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator
Director of Emergency Services
Mariposa County

cc: Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Reviewed: 

Honorable Anita Starchman Bryant, Per PC9



**MARIPOSA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
MARIPOSA COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Jeff Aranguena, Superintendent

P. O. Box 8 Mariposa, CA 95338 * Phone (209) 742-0250 Fax (209) 966-4549

VIA EMAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL

August 14, 2026

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AUG 27 2026

Honorable Anita Starchman Bryant
Presiding Judge of Mariposa Superior Court
5088 Bullion St.
Post Office Box 28
Mariposa, California 95338

**MARIPOSA SUPERIOR COURT
ADMINISTRATION**

RE: 2025-2026 Mariposa County Grand Jury Report
Mariposa County Unified School District, Mariposa County Office of Education:
Responses to "2025-2026 Mariposa County Grand Jury Final Report"

Dear Honorable Anita Starchman Bryant:

On behalf of the Mariposa County Unified School District and the Mariposa County Office of Education (hereinafter together referred to as the "MCUSD" or "District"), I want to thank the Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury ("MCCGJ" or "Grand Jury") for their time and effort to conduct its analysis of the District's website.

The District's responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations are set forth below in accordance with the response format required by Penal Code section 933.05, which requires the District to respond to findings and recommendations as follows:

- (1) the District agrees with the finding; or
- (2) the District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

(Penal Code §§ 933.05(a)(1)-(a)(2).) As to each Grand Jury recommendation, the District shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action;
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation;
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be

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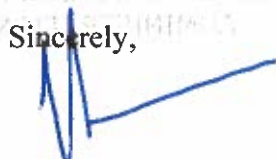
prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable; or

(4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.

(Penal Code §§ 933.05(b)(1)-(b)(4).)

I wish to thank the Grand Jury for their hard work and dedication in fulfilling their mission of service to the Court and the citizens of Mariposa County. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,



Jeff Aranguena
Superintendent
Mariposa County Unified School District
Mariposa County Office of Education

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The MCUSD's Response Attachment to Grand Jury Report dated June 8, 2026

The Grand Jury Report includes findings and recommendations for the Mariposa County Unified School District and the Mariposa County Office of Education (hereinafter together referred to as the "District"). The below responses are organized to respond to the findings and then to the recommendations as detailed in the Grand Jury Report.

Responses to Findings

Finding F6: Documents are not searchable: The website relies on scanned images of text (PDFs) with [sic] unclear naming conventions.

The District disagrees partially with this finding. Based on the District's recent review of its website with respect to budgets, LCAP, audits, and Board meeting agendas, the District only identified one document titled: "Public Hearing MCUSD & MCOE 2026-2027 Proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) & Proposed Budget" (found here: <https://www.mcusd.org/District/3337-public-hearing.html>) that appears to reflect a scanned image and thus did not contain searchable text. The District believes the title of this document is not unclear. Further, the remainder of the links and documents reviewed by the District revealed documents that were searchable and had specific titles related to the subject(s) contained therein. The District did not find any further documents that are not searchable and/or that are only scanned images of text with unclear naming conventions.

Finding F7: Brown Act compliance: The district uploads school board agendas as non-searchable scanned images, which directly violates California's Brown Act requirement for searchable, platform-independent public postings.

The District disagrees wholly with this finding. As a general matter, the District recognizes that Government Code section 54954.2(a)(2)(B) requires agendas to be posted in a searchable format even when contained in an integrated agenda management platform. However, based on the District's review of Board agendas found at <https://mcusd-org.community.diligentoneplatform.com/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>, the District did not identify agendas that were non-searchable scanned images.

Finding F8: There are indications that the website may not meet federal ADA compliance.

The District agrees with this finding only to the extent that the District intends to evaluate and comply with the Department of Justice's Interim Final Rule regarding accessibility of its web content by the applicable April 26, 2028, deadline, pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28, section 35.200. (See also <https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/>.)

Finding F9: Website Transitions: Links to external portals lack consistent school branding or "exit notices," which can lead parents and staff to dangerous phishing scams that mimic official sites.

The District agrees with this finding.

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Responses to Recommendations

Recommendation R6: Ensure all documents are searchable with descriptive file names.

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future to the extent required in light of the District's anticipated review of its web content accessibility pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28, section 35.200 and thus compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1 Level AA by the statutory deadline of April 26, 2028.

Recommendation R7: Remediate the agenda posting process. Ensure all future Board of Trustees and MCOE and Citizens Bond Oversight Committee(Measure L) [sic] agendas are posted in a fully searchable format in strict compliance with Government Code §54954.2.

This recommendation has been implemented, as the District continues to endeavor to post agendas compliant with Government Code section 54954.2.

Recommendation R8: Perform an evaluation of the website's ADA compliance and implement necessary improvements.

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future to the extent required in light of the District's anticipated review of its web content accessibility pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28, section 35.200 and thus compliance with WCAG Version 2.1 Level AA by the statutory deadline of April 26, 2028.

Recommendation R9: Implement standard exit-warning screens.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and/or is not reasonable. The District is unaware of statutory authority requiring the imposition of "standard exit-warning screens." However, the District recognizes the importance of this recommendation and may consider this recommendation during its anticipated review described above in response to R6 and R8.

Reviewed: 

Honorable Anita Starchman Bryant, Per PC933

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TRUSTEES

Robert C. Hill
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August 18, 2026

The Honorable Anita Starchman Bryant
Presiding Judge
Mariposa County Superior Court
5088 Bullion Street, P.O. Box 28
Mariposa, CA 95338

Re: Response to the Mariposa County 2025-2026 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Bryant,

This response is submitted with respect to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. Please relay our gratitude to the volunteers who dedicated their time to promoting government accountability and public trust in Mariposa County.

The Board of Supervisors directly oversees all County departments and advisory boards not under the authority of another elected official. Accordingly, this response is submitted on behalf of the County Administrative Officer, County Counsel, the Director of Public Works and Transportation, and the Board of Supervisors to address the applicable findings and recommendations.

The Board of Supervisors does not have jurisdiction over the Mariposa County Unified School District and, therefore, is not providing a response to the findings and recommendations related to the District contained in the 2025-2026 Grand Jury Report.

2025-2026 Findings

Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility

Operational oversight of the County Jail rests with the elected Mariposa County Sheriff, while the Board's authority regarding the jail is limited primarily to matters involving funding and budget approval.

For this reason, the Board defers to the response submitted by Sheriff Jeremy Briesse on July 8, 2026, which addresses the findings and recommendations concerning the operation and management of the Mariposa County Jail within the Sheriff's statutory authority and responsibility.

Mariposa County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility

F4: The Department of Public Works has failed to fully implement the CORE Report.

Response: Agree

The Board of Supervisors agrees that the CORE Report has not been fully implemented. Progress has been delayed due to staffing vacancies and turnover in the Solid Waste Manager position, which has limited the Department's ability to complete all recommendations while maintaining daily operations. Several recommendations have been completed, while others were modified or deferred based on operational, regulatory, and financial considerations.

R4: Fully execute all remaining phases of the CORE Report, establishing a clear internal timeline for stalled infrastructure and operational milestones.

Response: Will Be Implemented

The Department will develop a phased implementation plan for the remaining applicable CORE Report recommendations, including target completion dates and assigned responsibilities, and present the plan to the Board of Supervisors within 12-18 months of the publication of the Final Report.

F5: The Department of Public Works' failure to secure long-term, formalized waste disposal contracts with Yosemite National Park, Merced County Landfill, and Recology creates fiscal instability and shifts financial burden on local residential ratepayers.

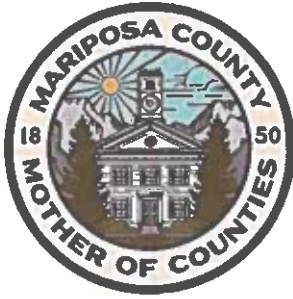
Response: Disagree, in part

The Department disagrees with this finding, in part. The County currently has agreements in place with both Recology and Yosemite National Park. The County does not have a formal long-term agreement with Merced County Landfill.

R5: Establish multi-year waste agreements with Yosemite National Park, Merced County Landfill, and Recology.

Response: Implemented, in part

The Department has agreements in place with Recology and Yosemite National Park and will continue to evaluate opportunities to negotiate long-term agreements.



Courtney Progner Morrow
Treasurer – Tax Collector and
County Clerk

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JUN 25 2026

**MARIPOSA SUPERIOR COURT
ADMINISTRATION**

Treasurer (209) 966-2830 - Tax Collector (209) 966-2621 - County Clerk / Registrar of Voters (209) 966-2007 - Fax (209) 966-6496

June 24, 2026

Presiding Judge, Anita Starchman Bryant
Mariposa Grand Jury
PO Box 316
Mariposa, CA 95338

RE: 2025-2026 Grand Jury Report Response

To the Honorable Judge Anita Starchman Bryant;

In response to the narrative in the 2025-2026 Grand Jury Report pertaining to the process and protocols demonstrated by the Mariposa County Elections Department during the November 4, 2025 Special Election, I agree with the findings set forth. As the Grand Jury indicated no recommendations for this department, we will continue our adherence to our established Elections procedures.

Many thanks to the Mariposa County Grand Jury volunteers for their service.

Sincerely,

cpmorrow

Courtney Progner Morrow
Treasurer, Tax Collector & County Clerk
County of Mariposa

Reviewed: _____

Anita Starchman Bryant

Honorable Anita Starchman Bryant, Per PC933



**JOHN C. FREMONT
Healthcare District**

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2026

July 22, 2026

**MARIPOSA SUPERIOR COURT
ADMINISTRATION**

The Honorable Anita Starchman-Bryant and Members of the Grand Jury
Mariposa County Superior Court
P.O. Box 28
Mariposa, CA 95338-0028

Re: Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury Report 2025/26

Dear Judge Starchman-Bryant and Esteemed Members of the Civil Grand Jury,

The John C Fremont Healthcare District Board of Directors are in receipt of the most recent Civil Grand Jury Final Report, regarding the review of last year (2025-2026). Although the healthcare district was not in receipt of any findings, the board and administrative team wish to thank you for your time in honoring the process of public governance. Your time is valued, and we thank you for your dedication to the community.

We will continue to uphold best practices and implement all of the lessons learned from previous years. Our goal is to keep moving forward on improving our cohesiveness as a team in order to ensure our public full transparency. The healthcare district is a vital service to our region and we look forward to the future of becoming an, "inspirational leader in rural healthcare—uniting with a collaborative, high-performing team that advances professional growth and earns lifelong trust across our community." (*JCFHD Vision, newly adopted 2026*).

Sincerely,

The John C Fremont Board of Directors and CEO, Stacey Kuzak

Rose Fluharty, Board Chair
Teresa Johnson, Board Vice Chair
Jesse Bullis, Secretary/Treasurer
Rob Fox, Director
Jon Wurl, Director

Reviewed:

Honorable Anita Starchman Bryant, PerPC93

(209) 966-3631

5189 Hospital Road - P.O. Box 216 Mariposa, CA 95338-0216



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2026-371

MEETING: August 18, 2026
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Joe Lynch, County Administrative Officer
RE: Approve a Response to the 2025-2026 Grand Jury Final Report; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Response

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION

Approve a Response to the 2025-2026 Grand Jury Final Report; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Response.

California Penal Code requires the Board of Supervisors, as the governing body of a public agency subject to the Grand Jury's reviewing authority, to comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to the matters under the control of the governing body within ninety days after the Grand Jury submits its final report. Please see the attached response. For reference, the complete Grand Jury Report is also attached.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS

The Board has responded to final reports from the Grand Jury as required.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Do not approve. A new or modified response will need to be approved within the 90-day window allowed in California Penal Code.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025-2026 Grand Jury Report Response - Board of Supervisors
2. FY 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury Final Report

VOTE RESULT

RESULT: Adopted (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: District I Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe
SECONDER: District II Supervisor Shannon Poe
AYES: District V Supervisor Menetrey, District I Supervisor Smallcombe, District III Supervisor Toso, District II Supervisor Poe, District IV Supervisor Kiser

