

	instability and shifts financial burden on local residential ratepayers.	
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To maintain absolute institutional impartiality and ensure the highest standards of professional integrity, one member of the Civil Grand Jury was formally recused from all deliberations, interviews, and final draft evaluations regarding the Mariposa County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility investigation. This procedure ensures that no conflict of interest, perceived or actual, influenced the findings, recommendations, or conclusions contained within this report.

MARIPOSA COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT/OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD) and the Mariposa County Office of Education (MCOE) operate as special district under a unified administrative structure, where a single Superintendent and a five-member Board of Trustees manage both entities. Together, they serve approximately 1,700 students across a vast, geographically challenging 1,450-square-mile terrain, stretching from the remote foothills to Yosemite National Park. This necessitates a complex infrastructure network, it also demands highly efficient county-wide communication and administrative services to keep its communities connected and informed.

As one of Mariposa County's largest employers, the district's ability to serve this wide geographic area relies on recruiting and retaining specialized staff. However, this critical effort is severely impacted by the organization's

reliance on an outdated website. MCUSD/MCOE's digital visibility and public-facing web presence would benefit from modernization.

The district's website limitations extend beyond recruitment into the district's transition toward infrastructure and state-mandated fiscal transparency. The district currently addresses urgent repairs, while the site needs proactive updates. The online presence makes it difficult for the public to track progress, view financial reserves, or access vital campus updates. MCUSD/MCOE must urgently address these systemic website and digital platform issues to ensure administrative efficiency, safety, and community transparency.

Between December 2025 and February 2026, members of the Civil Grand Jury conducted multiple visits to the website: www.mcusd.org. This strategy involved accessing the site as a general member of the public, to test the following:

- **ADA Compliance:** Testing the site using automated accessibility tools and manual keyboard navigation to assess barriers.
- **Transparency Benchmarking:** Searching for specific mandated documents (Budgets, Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), Audits, and Brown Act-compliant agendas).
- **Security and Privacy Assessment:** Transitions between webpages and portals for transparency in security and privacy functions.

The current infrastructure of the district's website reflects a reactive rather than proactive approach to technology. Individually, the school websites were found to be accessible and informative, however the larger district websites operated by MCOE and MCUSD are lacking accessibility and information.

The primary challenge lies in an unsearchable file-naming convention by treating the website as a file cabinet, rather than a dynamic communication tool. There are indications that the site may not fully meet federal ADA and Section 508 standards. This creates a risk of excluding a segment of the population and potentially exposes the taxpayers to legal liability.

The difficulty in accessing financial data including nonfunctioning links, specifically regarding bond oversight (Measure L), indicate a need for a centralized transparency portal. Modernizing these elements is necessary to ensure the district remains accountable to the public it serves.

ID #	Finding	Recommendation
F6/ R6	F6: Documents are not searchable: The website relies on scanned images of text (PDFs)with unclear naming conventions.	R6: Ensure all documents are searchable with descriptive file names.

F7 / R7	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.	R7: Remediate the agenda posting process. Ensure all future Board of Trustees and MCOE and Citizens Bond Oversight Committee(Measure L) agendas are posted in a fully searchable format in strict compliance with Government Code §54954.2.
F8 / R8	F8: There are indications that the website may not meet federal ADA compliance	R8: Perform an evaluation of the website's ADA compliance and implement necessary improvements.
F9 / R9	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.	R 9: Implement standard exit-warning screens.

To maintain the impartiality and professional integrity of this investigation, three members of the 2025–2026 Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury officially recused themselves from all proceedings, deliberations, and voting regarding the Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD) and Office of Education (MCOE).

References

- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Title II. 42 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq. (Regarding non-discrimination in public services).
- California Government Code §54950 et seq. (The Brown Act). Specifically §54954.2 regarding the posting of searchable agendas.
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq. (Regarding procedural safeguards and parental participation).
- California Department of Education (CDE). *DataQuest: Mariposa County Unified School District Profile*. (Enrollment, suspension, and demographic data 2024–2025).
- California School Dashboard. *MCUSD Performance Overview*. (Metrics on chronic absenteeism and graduation rates).
- Mariposa County Unified School District. *Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) 2024–2027*.
- MCUSD/MCOE Board of Trustees. *Regular Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas*. (January 2023 – May 2026).
- Measure L Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee. *Annual Report on Bond Expenditures and Project Status*. (2024–2025).
- Staff Interviews. (December-March 2026).