

- Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. Annual Budget: Capital Improvement Program and Departmental Allocations. (Fiscal Years 2024–2025).
- Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury. 2023-2024 Final Report: Operations and Infrastructure Review. (Published 2024).
- Site Tour and Physical Inspection. Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility. Conducted by the 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury. (November 10, 2025).

MARIPOSA COUNTY SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

The Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury conducted an investigation into the operational and financial status of the Mariposa County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility. A primary concern identified by the Jury is the incomplete implementation of the 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan (CORE report), which was designed to stabilize the facility’s financial baseline and extend the potential operational lifetime of the facility.

The Public Works Department identified issues with execution of the CORE report. The CORE report contains clear directives and consultant projections of structural shortfalls. Implementation of the CORE report remains the most direct strategy to comply with management standards and state-mandated regulatory frameworks.

The lack of formalized, long-term waste disposal contracts with Yosemite National Park, the Merced County Landfill and Recology has subjected the county to financial instability. In the short term, the absence of these agreements deprives the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund of foreseeable, high-volume commercial scale fee, forcing the county to rely on spot-market volume. Current implementation of the CORE report fee structure is limited to increases of dump fees shifting an unfair financial

burden directly onto local ratepayers and severely undermining the facility's self-sustaining mandate.

Central to the CORE report was the urgent requirement to minimize the \$11.9 million deficit in the Landfill Closure Maintenance Fund timeline. While the Board of Supervisors took action to approve an incremental 80% fee increase to address this liability, infrastructure goals have not kept pace with the plan's broader strategic benchmarks.

Reference:

Blue Ridge Services Montana Inc, Hamilton, Montana, 2024, pp. 1–74, *Final Core Report for Mariposa Landfill*.

ID #	Finding	Recommendation
F4 / R4	F4: The Department of Public Works has failed to fully implement the CORE Report.	R4: Fully execute all remaining phases of the CORE report, establishing a clear internal timeline for stalled infrastructure and operational milestones.
F5 / R5	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	R5: Establish multi-year waste agreements with Yosemite National Park, Merced County Landfill and Recology.

	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