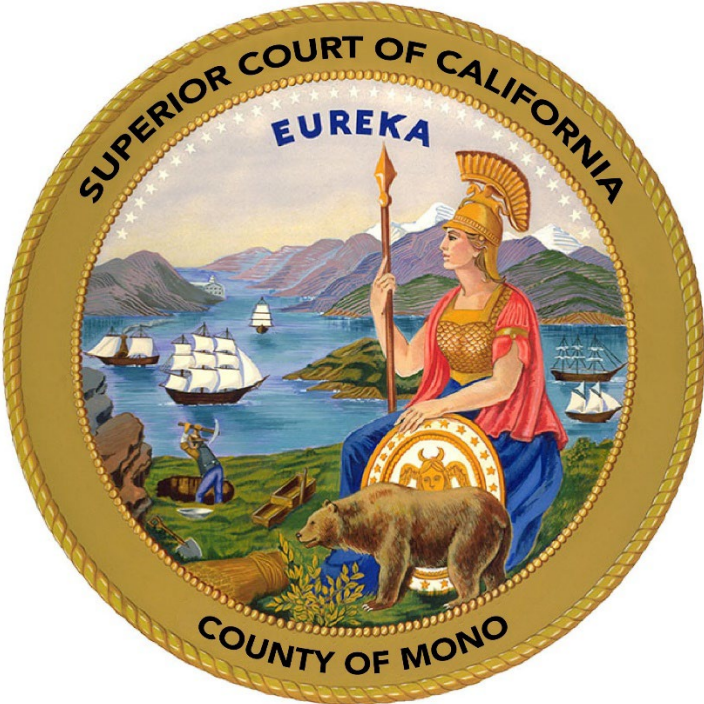


MONO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2025-2026

COMPLIANCE AND CONTINUITY FINAL REPORT

June 10, 2026



SUMMARY

The 2025-2026 Mono County Civil Grand Jury reviewed the responses to the three investigative reports issued by the 2024-2025 Mono County Grand Jury, to assess compliance with the California Penal Code. The complete text of these reports can be accessed in the Mono County Grand Jury 2024-2025 Final Report, issued on July 14, 2025, at the Mono County website <https://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/generalinfo/jury-grandjury.htm> .

BACKGROUND

California Penal Code Section 933(a) requires the grand jury to submit to the presiding judge of the superior court a final report of its Findings and Recommendations that pertain to county government matters during the fiscal or calendar year. Government bodies or department officials are required to respond to the Findings and Recommendations directed to them within 90 days of the release of a grand jury's report. Elected County officials are required to respond within 60 days. (PC §933(c)).

Penal Code Section §933.05 Responses to Grand Jury Reports

§933.05 (a). For the purposes of subdivision(b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent 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.

b. For the purposes of subdivision(b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The Recommendation has been implemented, with a summary of the action taken;
- (2) It will be implemented, with a timeframe for implementation being provided;
- (3) It requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope of the analysis and a timeframe for response being provided for not more than six months from the release of the report; or
- (4) It will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation being provided.

The 2024-2025 Mono County Civil Grand Jury issued the following final reports:

- LAFCO Investigation Report
- MLPD Investigation Report
- County Cyber Security Report
- Mono County Jail Annual Inspection
 - The Mono County Jail Annual Inspection Report focuses only on the Penal Code requirements for completing an inspection by the 2024-2025 Civil Grand Jury, no review is needed. The three inspection reports contained findings and recommendations, and had required responses from persons, agencies, or departments which needed to be reviewed.

METHODOLOGY

The 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury evaluated responses to the 2024-2025 Civil Grand Jury Report Findings and Recommendations to ensure compliance with the governing sections of the Penal Code (PC §933.05(b)). The following criteria were considered:

1. If a response indicated that a Recommendation had been implemented, did it include a summary of what was done?
2. If a response indicated that a Recommendation would be implemented, did it include a summary and timeframe for what would be done?
3. If a response indicated that a Recommendation required further analysis or study, did it include an explanation of the scope, parameters, and timeframe of the proposed analysis or study?
4. If a response indicated that a Recommendation would not be implemented because it was unwarranted or unreasonable, did the respondent include a reasoned explanation supporting that position?

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.

LAFCO Investigation Report

The required respondents did respond within the timeframe required by law. The respondents disagreed with several of the Findings. The 2025-2026 Grand Jury concurred with the respondents' rationale for the disagreements. The 2024-2025 Grand Jury report focuses on deficient training for LAFCO commissioners, in addition to the Sphere of Influence 5 year reviews and updates falling behind schedule.

Findings

F1. Regarding Commissioner training, Mono LAFCO staff provides annual high level training and encourages commissioners to attend annual CALAFCO conferences and workshops. When organizational decisions are required, targeted training is preferred to comprehensive training detailing the intricacies of state law and broad roles that Mono LAFCO commissioners will rarely, if ever, find useful.

F2. Mono LAFCO was behind schedule with the required 5 year Sphere of Influence reviews and updates. The Board of Supervisors did follow through with their stated intention to do a Sphere of Influence comprehensive review at the June 12, 2025 LAFCO meeting. The LAFCO Commissioners continued the SOI reviews at their October 2, 2025 meeting. As a result, SOI reviews were completed, as necessary, by the end of 2025.

Recommendations

R1. Continue the annual LAFCO training and, as stated, include the Mono LAFCO Handbook training as part of the annual commissioner training.

R2. Follow through with the stated intention to update the Sphere of Influence and Service Review policy, as necessary, and submit for adoption by the commission at a noticed public hearing and publish as required.

MLPD Investigation Report

The required respondents did respond within the timeframe required by law. The respondents disagreed with some and agreed with others of the Findings. The 2025-2026 Grand Jury concurred with the respondents' rationale for the disagreements.

The main focus of this report was the disconnect between the Mammoth Lakes Police Department and Mono County Department of Behavioral Health with disposition of 5150 holds. The term, 5150, originates from the California Welfare and Institutions Code 5150, which authorizes police officers, designated mobile crisis team members, and mental health professionals to detain someone involuntarily for up to 72 hours in a designated facility. The individuals, as a result of a mental health disorder, are a danger to themselves, a danger to others, or gravely disabled. The initial detainment is usually initiated by MLPD. Mono County Department of Behavioral Health then determines whether continued detainment is warranted. Appropriately, MLPD is not informed on any further medical treatment or disposition of the patient. This situation is mandated by HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability) Federal Law.

The major recommendations of the 2024-2025 Report were to encourage additional communication and cross-training between the 4 entities involved in these situations (MLPD, Mono County Sheriff, Mono County Department of Behavioral Health and Mammoth

Hospital). Efforts towards this goal were agreed to and begun, but with major staffing shortages have been discontinued.

Mono County Cyber Security Report

The required respondents did respond within the timeframe required by law. The respondents disagreed with several of the Findings, but agreed with most of the Findings. The 2025-2026 Grand Jury concurred with the respondents' rationale for the disagreements.

The 2024-2025 Mono County Civil Grand Jury conducted an investigation into Mono County's cybersecurity preparedness, focusing on the County's security posture and Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance. The following issues were identified:

- The County has operated without a Chief Information Security Officer since June 2021 leaving cybersecurity responsibilities to be absorbed by existing IT staff.
- The County is lacking regular penetration testing and vulnerability testing.
- The absence of immutable backups places the County at high risk for potential ransomware attacks.
- Unsupported devices remain in the environment, creating significant cybersecurity vulnerabilities due to lack of security patches and updates.
- The County appears to be using an incorrect self-assessment questionnaire for PCI compliance attestation, and the IT department is not involved in the compliance process.

Findings

F1. A new Chief Security Officer was hired in 2025. Under his direction, three new security trainings have been developed and are being rolled out. Full implementation is scheduled for July 2026 and is on schedule.

F2. The immutable backup implementation required unallocated resources for 2024-2025. Resource allocation was included in the Fiscal Year 25-26 budget process. Contracts have been signed and full immutable backups will be stored and update procedures in place by the end of July 2026.

F3. IT acknowledges that there are pieces of equipment that are past their End-Of-Life (EOL) still operating in the IT department. A significant amount of money was allocated in the 2025-2026 budget and is being spent to make good progress. This is an ongoing effort. A new process has been implemented and a spreadsheet identifying all equipment and its associated EOL. This allows improved monitoring and planning. The 2026-2027 budget allowance will need to include appropriate funding to maintain this status.

F4. There is a lack of consistent external penetration testing and vulnerability scans. IT has submitted a grant request to fund this effort, but has not yet been granted the funds. If not received, additional funding will be required from the County. The first penetration test is scheduled for the fourth quarter 2026.

F5. Important cybersecurity projects and initiatives have not begun or are lagging due to insufficient staffing. The 2025-2026 budget included funds for additional staffing. May 2026 saw two new IT hires. The security analyst position is in progress and a job description has been filed

with Human Resources. This position will need to be approved for funding in the 2026-2027 budget.

F6. Quarterly cybersecurity training is taking place with noteworthy results; however, there is a lack of visibility to compliance measurements among County executives. The first report out to the Board of Supervisors was in February 2026 and included compliance training results. The Board of Supervisors requested this practice continue with quarterly reports.

F7. There is a new Director of Finance who is overseeing the PCI compliance assessment and attestation process.

Recommendations

R1. Follow through with the stated budget requests for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to continue with updating staffing needs and program developments.

Required Responses

There are no required responses. The implementation of the Recommendations have been timely and are ongoing, contingent on resource approval in Fiscal Year 2026-2027.