



**Santa Cruz County**  
**Civil Grand Jury**

Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

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## **Board of Supervisors' response to 2021-2022 Grand Jury Report "Honoring Commitments to the Public..."**

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**Caitlin Smith** <Caitlin.Smith@santacruzcounty.us>

Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 5:11 PM

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached for the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2021-2022 Grand Jury report "Honoring Commitments to the Public – County Agency Actions in Response to 2018-2019 Grand Jury Recommendations."

Best,

Caitlin C. Smith

County Supervisors' Analyst

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

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831-454-3516

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To email all five members of the Board of Supervisors at once,

please use: [BoardOfSupervisors@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:BoardOfSupervisors@santacruzcounty.us)



**Honoring Commitments to the Public.pdf**  
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# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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(831) 454-2200 • FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD/TTY - Call 711

**MANU KOENIG**  
FIRST DISTRICT

**ZACH FRIEND**  
SECOND DISTRICT

**RYAN COONERTY**  
THIRD DISTRICT

**GREG CAPUT**  
FOURTH DISTRICT

**BRUCE MCPHERSON**  
FIFTH DISTRICT

August 11, 2022

The Honorable Syda Cogliati  
Santa Cruz Courthouse  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**RE: Response to the 2021-2022 Grand Jury Report "Honoring  
Commitments to the Public – County Agency Actions in Response to  
2018-2019 Grand Jury Recommendations"**

Dear Judge Cogliati:

The purpose of this letter is to formally transmit the response of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to the 2021-2022 Grand Jury Report titled "Honoring Commitments to the Public – County Agency Actions in Response to 2018-2019 Grand Jury Recommendations."

Sincerely,

MANU KOENIG, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

MK: cs  
Attachment

CC: Clerk of the Board  
Santa Cruz County Grand Jury



**The 2021–2022 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury  
Requires the  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
to Respond by August 15, 2022  
to the Findings and Recommendations listed below  
which were assigned to them in the report titled  
**Honoring Commitments to the Public**  
County Agency Actions in Response to  
2018–2019 Grand Jury Recommendations**

Responses are **required** from elected officials, elected agency or department heads, and elected boards, councils, and committees which are investigated by the Grand Jury. You are required to respond by the California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#).

Your response will be considered **compliant** under [PC §933.05](#) if it contains an appropriate comment on **all** findings and recommendations **which were assigned to you** in this report.

Please follow the instructions below when preparing your response.

## Instructions for Respondents

Your assigned [Findings](#) and [Recommendations](#) are listed on the following pages with check boxes and an expandable space for summaries, timeframes, and explanations. Please follow these instructions, which paraphrase [PC §933.05](#):

1. **For the Findings, mark one of the following responses with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **AGREE with the Finding**, or
  - b. **PARTIALLY DISAGREE with the Finding** – specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons why, or
  - c. **DISAGREE with the Finding** – provide an explanation of the reasons why.
2. **For the Recommendations, mark one of the following actions with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – provide a summary of the action taken, or
  - b. **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – provide a timeframe or expected date for completion, or
  - c. **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – provide an explanation, scope, and parameters of an analysis to be completed within six months, or
  - d. **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – provide an explanation of why it is not warranted or not reasonable.
3. **Please confirm the date on which you approved the assigned responses:**

We approved these responses in a regular public meeting as shown  
in our minutes dated August 9, 2022.

4. **When your responses are complete, please email your completed Response Packet as a PDF file attachment to both**

The Honorable Judge Syda Cogliati [Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org](mailto:Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org) and  
The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).

**If you have questions about this response form, please contact the Grand Jury by calling 831-454-2099 or by sending an email to [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).**

## Findings

- F5.** Santa Cruz County considered the Conflict Attorneys' use of the County's Watsonville office space, as committed in its response to the Grand Jury's 2018–2019 report *Santa Cruz County's Public Defense Contracts—How Complex Contracts Misled County Leaders*, but has deferred action to the next round of contract renewal.

**AGREE**  
 **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
 **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The new Public Defender's Office has fully taken over the Watsonville office space, and the conflict contract was renegotiated with the contracted law firm responsible for providing their own office space.

- F6.** The County's failure to address the Conflict Attorneys' use of free office space means the value of this benefit may not be apparent to the Auditor and reported to appropriate tax officials, and there is no binding obligation on how the Conflict Attorneys may use this space.

**AGREE**  
 **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
 **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The new Public Defender's Office has fully taken over the Watsonville office space, and the conflict contract was renegotiated with the contracted law firm responsible for providing their own office space.

## Recommendations

**R1.** The CAO should enter into a written agreement with private attorneys using County office space outlining the basic understanding of the attorneys' use of this space. (F5, F6)

- HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

**Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:**

The new Public Defender's Office has fully taken over the Watsonville office space, and the conflict contract was renegotiated with the contracted law firm responsible for providing their own office space.