



SANTA CRUZ  
COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

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## Responses to the findings and recommendations in the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, “Envisioning the Future of our Jails.....”

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Caitlin Smith <Caitlin.Smith@santacruzcounty.us>

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 4:35 PM

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached for the Board of Supervisors, the Public Defender, and Sheriff's responses to the findings and recommendations in the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, “Envisioning the Future of our Jails – We Continue to ‘Kick The Can’.”

Best,

Caitlin C. Smith

County Supervisors' Analyst

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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)

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### 4 attachments



**Future of our Jails response Cover letter.pdf**  
37K



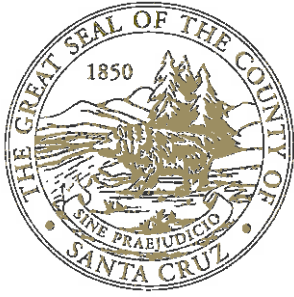
**Future of our Jails Report-Board of Supervisors response.pdf**  
321K



**Future of our Jails Report-Sheriff's response.pdf**  
256K



**Future of our Jails Report-Public Defender Response.pdf**  
212K



# County of Santa Cruz

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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August 8, 2023

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

**RE: Response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report titled "Envisioning the Future of our Jails – We Continue to 'Kick The Can'"**

Dear Judge Cogliati:

The purpose of this letter is to formally transmit the responses of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, the Santa Cruz County Public Defender, and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report titled "Envisioning the Future of our Jails – We Continue to 'Kick The Can'."

Sincerely,

ZACH FRIEND, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

ZF: cs  
Attachment

CC: Clerk of the Board  
Santa Cruz County Grand Jury



The 2022–2023 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury

Invites the

**Santa Cruz County Public Defender**

to Respond by August 23, 2023

to the Findings and Recommendations listed below  
which were assigned to them in the report titled

**Envisioning the Future of our Jails**

*We Continue to “Kick The Can”*

Responses are **invited** from appointed agency and department heads, appointed committees, and non-profit agencies contracted to the county which are investigated by the grand jury. You are not required to respond by the California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#); if you do, [PC §933\(c\)](#) requires you to make your response available to the public.

If you choose to respond, 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 the 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. **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

- F6.** Programs such as those run by the Public Defender's Office and CAFES that reduce recidivism are effective because they give former inmates the mental health and/or substance abuse treatments they need, as well as case management and supportive housing.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

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

The Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender (PDO) strongly agrees with this finding. The holistic model employed by PDO, which provides social workers and client advocates as part of the confidential legal team, provides for earlier identification of mental health and substance use disorders and seamless connection to supportive services.

**F7.** Lack of continuing care for released inmates, most especially those with mental illness, SUD and/or who will be homeless after release, significantly contributes to recidivism, which then contributes to the need for a new jail.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

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

PDO agrees that the inaccessibility of continuing care and housing resources for people exiting custody contributes to cascading consequences. Too often, people are released to the streets with no housing and no ability to access treatment upon release and end up back in custody in short order. An investment in intensive case management and supportive or transitional housing resources for those exiting custody would likely lead to a reduction in recidivism.

**F8.** Some continuing care does exist, but is massively underfunded, especially for former inmates who need supportive housing.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

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

There is a need for additional continuing care in the community, particularly for those suffering from mental illness or substance use disorders. Supportive housing is especially critical for former inmates who are unhoused and struggling with these challenges. There is also a need to make continuing care that does exist less diffuse and difficult to access.

## Recommendations

**R5.** The Public Defender's Office should receive funding in the next budget cycle to provide adequate anti recidivism programs. (F7 – F9)

- 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 FY 2023-24 budget provides PDO with funding to provide holistic representation to the people we represent. This holistic model of representation supports county-wide efforts to reduce recidivism and connect people to meaningful, stabilizing services and support in the community. PDO will continue to request funding to support this important work during the next budget cycle, which begins in fall 2023 and ends in spring 2024.