

Marysville Joint Unified School District

1919 B Street • Marysville, CA 95901

(530) 741-6000 • Fax (530) 742-0573



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JUL 23 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

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Deputy Superintendent

Jennifer Passaglia
*Assistant Superintendent
Business Services*

Robert Eckardt
*Assistant Superintendent
of Educational Services*

Ashley Vette
*Executive Director of
Personnel*

July 7, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
Superior Court of the State of California
County of Yuba
205 Fifth Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Christine Brown
Yuba County Grand Jury 2022-23 Foreperson
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: 2024-25 YUBA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT

MJUSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Jordan Reeves: Response to "District's policies as they pertained to bullying, finances, safety, and general management to ensure teachers and students are in a safe and well-managed environment."

Dear Judge Berrier and Ms. Brown,

This letter constitutes the response of Marysville Joint Unified School District to the findings and recommendation of the 2024-25 Yuba County Grand Jury Report concerning "District's policies as they pertained to bullying, finances, safety, and general management to ensure teachers and students are in a safe and well-managed environment."

The Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations are listed below, with the District's response.

Finding 1:

The Policies on the MJUSD website are outdated and need to be brought to current standards. The majority of the policies reviewed by the Grand Jury have not been revised since 2008.

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Recommendation 1:

It is recommended that policies should be updated every quarter until they are up to date. Once up to date, a rotational policy update plan should be followed.

Response: The district's Executive Cabinet has been reviewing and updating all Board Policies. To date, sections 0000 – Philosophy, Goals, Objectives, and Comprehensive Plans, 2000 – Administration, 3000 - Business and Non-Instructional Operations, 7000 – Facilities, and 9000- Bylaws have been updated and approved by the Board of Education for approval. The remaining sections, 4000, 5000, 6000, and 8000, are currently under review and will be brought forward for approval.

As the California School Board Association releases new and updated board policies, the district will present them to the Board of Education for approval and adoption every quarter.

Finding 2:

Curricula and resources, particularly as they pertain to bullying, are not sufficient.

Recommendation 2:

The district should educate parents and students on the definition of bullying provided by Cal. Ed Code section 48900 (r)(1), provide them with easily accessible complaint process and resources to help overcome the issue if someone is being bullied in school.

Response: The district is working on creating a "Bullying" webpage that will be available for parents and students alike. It will be tied to the Student Welfare and Attendance department, and we will notify families at the beginning of the year that it is available to them. We will also continue to use our anonymous tip line that has been utilized by students and parents for a number of years, to notify schools of potential bullying.

Finding 3:

Since 2017, there has been a significant increase in hiring of district office staff, especially during COVID.



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Finding 4:

The current budget is \$228 million, with 77-80% used for personnel. The Reserve is being used to pay extra district office staff. There is a \$3.7 million deficit.

Recommendation 3/4:

District office staff should be decreased to improve the budget. Once the current Reduction In Force is completed, the finances should be re-evaluated to ensure compliance.

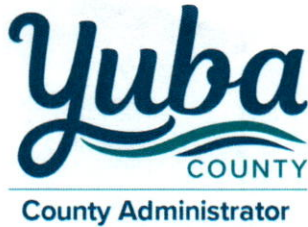
Response: For the 2025-26 Fiscal Year, the Board of Education approved a Workforce Reduction of 31.0 FTE, resulting in an approximate \$3 million budget reduction. The district is continuing to review positions and other expenditures to ensure budget alignment.

Thank you for your investment in Marysville Joint Unified School District and the opportunity to highlight the importance of a well-managed environment to ensure staff and student safety.

Sincerely,

Doug Criddle
President
MJUSD Board of Trustees

Jordan Reeves
Superintendent
Marysville Joint Unified School District



Kevin Mallen
County Administrator

Government Center 915 8th Street, Suite 115
Marysville, California 95901-5273
(530) 749-7575 Fax (530) 749-7312

August 6, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: County Administrator response to 2024-2025 Yuba County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Berrier:

This letter is provided to you in response to findings and recommendations made by the Yuba County Grand Jury in their 2024-2025 Report. I appreciate the effort that was clearly made by the members of the 2024-2025 Yuba County Grand Jury to prepare the 2024-2025 Report and applaud their dedication to make Yuba County a better place to live, work, play, and make a final resting place. Please accept the responses to the Yuba County Grand Jury recommendations in regard to Yuba County's public cemeteries.

Recommendation R5. The County should improve its website and/or social media platforms and provide an easy to find accessible page dedicated to CCDs.

CAO Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors will be taking the lead on implementation of this recommendation in fiscal year 2025-2026 with support provided by the County's Public Information Officer

Recommendation R7. For those that have not done so, CCDs may avail themselves of membership in the California Association of Public Cemeteries of California Special Districts Association. Where resources are limited, they may consult with these groups, as well as the Golden State Risk Management Authority for best practices and strategies. The BOS and other elected and appointed officers, other CCD board members, as well as LAFCo, may provide expertise and assistance in the course of their work and/or by offering certain services at a reasonable cost.

CAO Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The CCDs have both local and statewide association resources available to them. My office is always available to

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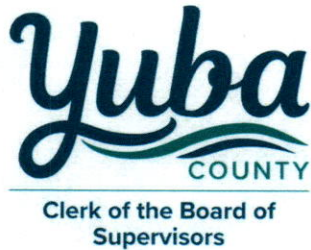
YUBA COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

answer administration type questions, and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is available to help answer questions related to meeting procedures, document filing/retention, and brown act rules.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Mallen
County Administrator
kmallen@yuba.gov



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AUG 14 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

Mary Pasillas
Clerk of the Board

Government Center 915 8th Street, Suite 109
Marysville, California 95901-5273
(530) 749-7510 Fax (530) 749-7353

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Clerk of the Board response to 2024-2025 Yuba County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Berrier,

This letter is provided to you in response to the findings and recommendations of the Yuba County Grand Jury in their 2024-2025 Report.

The Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations are listed below, please accept the Clerk of the Board (COB) responses regarding Yuba County's public cemeteries.

R5. The County should improve its website and/or social media platforms and provide an easy to find and accessible page dedicated to CCD's.

COB Response: The Clerk of the Board office will work with Yuba County's Public Information Officer to set-up a dedicated page to the CCD'S on the Yuba County's website in this fiscal year 2025-2026 which will have their current information.

R7. For those that have not done so, CCDs may avail themselves of membership in the California Association of Public Cemeteries of California Special Districts Association. Where resources are limited, they may consult with these groups, as well as the Golden State Risk Management Authority for best practices and strategies. The BOS and other elected and appointed officers, other CCD board members, as well as LAFCo, may provide expertise and assistance in the course of their work and/or by offering certain services at a reasonable cost.

COB Response: The Clerk of the Board's office is readily available to answer any questions the CCD's may have, moving forward in this fiscal year 2025-2026 Clerk of the Board will create a guide list for all incoming new members, regarding meeting procedures, document filing/retention, Brown Act rules. Clerk of the Board will also follow through with quarterly visits to their scheduled meetings to answer any questions they may have.

R13. The BOS should strengthen recruitment efforts by improving public announcements, collaborating with affinity or service groups, working with the County historical commission and considering training programs or incentives to attract qualified candidates for board service.

COB Response: The Clerk of the Boards Office will include public announcements and other relevant information on the dedicated CCD's website, and will coordinate with Yuba County's County Counsel office to set up trainings for CCD's.

In conclusion, we appreciate your guidance and support to the Grand Jury, and we thank the Grand Jury for their dedicated service to Yuba County.

Sincerely,



Mary Pasillas
Clerk of the Board
mpasillas@yuba.gov





SUTTER-YUBA
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

1965 Live Oak Boulevard, Suite A
P.O. Box 1520 Yuba City, CA 95992-1520
O: (530) 822-7200

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AUG 14 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

RICK BINGHAM, LMFT, #41622

Local Mental Health Director
Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator
Assistant Director of Health and Human Services
O: (530) 822-7327

July 30, 2025

Presiding Judge
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, Ca. 95901

Your Honor:

I respectfully submit herewith Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health's response to the Yuba County Grand Jury's 2024-2025 findings and recommendations entitled, "Is Mental Illness a Crime? Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Response in Yuba County."

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

- F1. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has not conducted the necessary training to best educate law enforcement and non-law enforcement (e.g., fire, EMT) regarding the availability and value of the new Mobile Crisis Response program.

Response: Disagree

Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health began outreach efforts to various community stakeholders, including law enforcement, fire and EMT services beginning in October 2022. Between October 2022 and the end of the fiscal year noted in this report (June 30, 2025), 59 outreach and training events have occurred to community members with 27 of these directed to law enforcement, fire and EMT as noted here:

- 10/4/2022: Sutter and Yuba county probation departments and other community agencies
- 10/18/2022: all law enforcement agencies in Sutter and Yuba counties

SUSAN REDFORD, LMFT, #43709
Acute Psychiatric Services Branch Director
O: (530) 822-7200

ELIZABETH GOWAN, LMFT, #32342
Adult Services Branch Director
O: (530) 822-7200

JOSH THOMAS, LCSW, #65309
Children's Services Branch Director
O: (530) 822-7200

- 10/27/2022: Sutter and Yuba county probation departments, Sutter and Yuba county law enforcement and other community agencies
- 10/24/2023: all law enforcement agencies in Sutter and Yuba counties
- 12/12/2023: all law enforcement agencies in Sutter and Yuba counties
- 7/28/2024: Wheatland Fire Department
- 9/18/2024: Bi-County Ambulance
- 12/2/2024: Sutter County Sheriff's Department
- 12/5/2024: Sutter County Sheriff's Department
- 12/14/2024: Yuba County Sheriff's Department
- 12/17/2024: Yuba County Sheriff's Department
- 12/19/2024: Yuba County Sheriff's Department
- 1/28/2025: Yuba City Police Department
- 1/30/2025: Yuba County Sheriff, CAO and DA (presentation at DSH IST meeting)
- 1/30/2025: Yuba City Police Department
- 2/11/2025: Marysville Police Department
- 2/13/2025: Marysville Police Department
- 3/20/2025: Sutter County Adult Probation
- 3/25/2025: Marysville Police Department
- 3/27/2025: Marysville Police Department
- 3/31/2025: Sutter County Sheriff's Department
- 4/3/2025: Sutter County Sheriff's Department
- 4/15/2025: Yuba County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
- 5/28/2025: Wheatland Police Department
- 6/25/2025: Yuba County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
- 6/26/2025: Sutter County Sheriff's Department
- 6/30/2025: Wheatland Fire Department

The content of these meetings included introducing these entities to the newly launched Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) service, outlining its scope and purpose and establishing protocols for coordination and engagement. Presentations covered key components such as response hours, referral pathways, team composition, and eligibility criteria. Emphasis was placed on the value of MCR in diverting behavioral health crises from emergency departments and reducing reliance on law enforcement, fire, and EMT response. Partners were also provided with examples of appropriate MCR referrals, a breakdown of anticipated workflows, and contact information to facilitate collaboration and ensure continuity of care.

- F2. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has not conducted the necessary public communications for best informing the community regarding the availability and value of the new Mobile Crisis Response program and how it does not require contacting law enforcement.

Response: Disagree

Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has agreements with several entities with the goal of informing the community at large regarding the services available via Mobile Crisis Response as noted below.

- In March 2025, an MOU was finalized between The Lamar Companies and Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health in the amount of \$34,060 for advertisements on four Yuba-Sutter Transit buses and four Yuba-Sutter Transit bus shelters (two buses and shelters in each county respectively). The advertisements went live on May 8, 2025 and will run through April 2026.
- In April 2025, an MOU was finalized between The Lamar Companies and Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health in the amount of \$13,443.50 for two static billboards off Highway 99 (one north of Yuba City and one south of Yuba City). The billboard advertisements went live in May 2025 with one running through August and the other through November 2025.
- The County of Yuba has an agreement with an advertiser who owns a digital billboard off Highway 70. As part of Yuba County's advertising, it was agreed that advertisements for Mobile Crisis Response would be rotated into a cycle of county advertisements. The ads began in April 2025, with no end date on the schedule of rotation. The ads are free to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health.
- In April 2025, an MOU was finalized between Results Radio, LLC, and Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health in the amount of \$18,144 for a total of 864 radio spots on 3 radio stations covering the local area (KUBA, KKCY and 95.5 YTO). Advertisements began May 12, 2025 and will run through August 23, 2025.
- Between May 9 and May 16, 2025, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health delivered posters regarding MCR to virtually all schools in Yuba and Sutter counties, with Yuba County schools including Arboga Elementary, Cordua Elementary, Edgewater Elementary, Kynoch Elementary, Linda Elementary, Mary Covillaud Elementary, McKenney Intermediate, Paragon Collegiate, Yuba County Career Prep, Cedar Lane Elementary, Ella Elementary, Johnson Park Elementary, Olivehurst Elementary, Yuba Gardens Intermediate, Plumas Lake Elementary, Rio Del Oro Elementary, Riverside Meadows Intermediate, Browns Elementary, Sheridan Elementary, Bear River Middle, Wheatland Elementary, Yuba County Office of Education, Marysville High School, Lindhurst High School, Wheatland High School, Marysville Charter Academy and Yuba County Career Prep.

- Between May 9 and May 16, 2025, posters were additionally delivered to the following Yuba County community locations: Ampla Health, Harmony Health, Peach Tree Health, Youth for Change, Yuba County Health and Human Services, Yuba County Sheriff, Marysville Police, Yuba County Probation, Pathways, The Life Building Center and the Hmong Outreach Center.
- On March 18, 2025 and again on May 2, 2025 flyers were delivered to Yuba-Sutter Transit for posting on the inside of all of their buses to inform community members about MCR.

In addition to these formal measures, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has engaged in other community informing efforts, such as social media campaigns and community stakeholder meetings.

- F3. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has not identified an ongoing funding source for the new Mobile Crisis Response services.

Response: Partially Disagree

Initial funding to stand up Mobile Crisis Response came from the Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) grant in the amount of \$2,125,269.99. The CCMU grant primarily funded infrastructure, equipment, marketing, and training. Additional funds were received from the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) in the amount of \$400,000 to fund direct services or salaries of MCR employees.

Outside of these grants, funding comes from Medi-Cal billing (state and federal funds), which currently provides reimbursement for services provided. However, because Mobile Crisis Response is based on a “firehouse” model where staff are on shift 24 hours a day whether calls and responses occur or not, the viability of the program moving forward is dependent on the number of calls received and, by extension, the ability to bill Medi-Cal for these service calls. If there are not sufficient calls to cover costs, then other funding sources, such as Realignment or MHSA must be used to fill the gap, impacting other currently funded services. As mobile crisis is a state mandate, without ongoing adequate state identified funding sources, mobile crisis will be subject to Unfunded Mandate claiming under Proposition 1A.



GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should develop and implement a formal and comprehensive training plan for current and future First Responders regarding the availability and value of the Mobile Crisis Response program.

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health currently conducts training for law enforcement in Sutter and Yuba counties on criteria and processes for writing holds pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5150. Trainings are live, in-person, classroom-style presentations led by our Psychiatric Emergency Services supervisor and/or manager. Trainings are offered on an as-needed basis, particularly when updates are made to the 5150 application form or related procedures. Content includes an overview of the legal criteria—danger to self, danger to others, and grave disability. Law enforcement personnel are provided with the most current 5150 forms and are encouraged to complete the CalMHSA 5150 Certification Training to support alignment with statewide best practices.

These trainings will be immediately augmented in the future with information on Mobile Crisis Response, which will include:

- An overview of Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health's services and other community behavioral health resources
- When and how to access Mobile Crisis Response along with its scope, limitations and coordination with dispatch
- Real life scenarios and case examples
- A question and answer session including distribution of resources

With the exception of training on WIC 5150, the above will additionally be offered to other first responders, such as fire and EMT services in Sutter and Yuba counties. Trainings will occur annually, at minimum, with opportunities for more frequent trainings as requested. Trainings will be updated based on changes in state law and feedback from community partners.

- R2. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should develop and implement a formal and ongoing community communications plan regarding the availability and value of the Mobile Crisis Response program.



Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

As noted in the response to F2 above, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health implemented a formal community communications plan regarding the availability and value of Mobile Crisis Response with portions of the plan continuing through April 2026 and with advertisement via a digital billboard in Yuba County occurring with no end date.

- R3. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should identify the available funding sources for the ongoing operation of the Mobile Crisis Response program and if insufficient, formally request additional funding from county, state, and/or federal sources to maintain the service.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

As noted in the response to F3 above, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health will fund Mobile Crisis Response with Medi-Cal reimbursement and other available funding sources. As with all programs provided at Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, continued fiscal analysis will occur to ensure that the program remains viable on a long-term basis, which may result in unfunded mandate claims, or other programs being scaled down or eliminated depending on funding and community need.

Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health appreciates the opportunity to submit the foregoing responses and acknowledges the Grand Jury's role in supporting process improvements that enhance the services we provide to the community.

Sincerely,



Rick Bingham

YUBA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

Paige Hensley, Executive Officer
David Ruderman, LAFCO Counsel
417 4th Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Phone: (530) 749-5467
Website: www.yubalafco.org



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AUG 26 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Maryville, CA 95901

Re: Yuba LAFCO response to the 2024-2025 Yuba County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Berrier,

This letter is provided to you in response to the findings and recommendations of the 2024-2025 Yuba County Grand Jury Report concerning "Forgotten In Death: The Decaying State of Yuba County's Public Cemeteries"

As requested, please accept the Executive Director of Yuba LAFCo's responses to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations listed below.

Recommendation 2. *The BOS should implement a policy on regular communications between the various jurisdictions, including state, County, LAFCo Board, and independent CCDs to allow for free-flowing information and to prevent catastrophic events without impinging upon the autonomy of the CCD boards.*

Yuba LAFCo EO Response: This recommendation will not be implemented by Yuba LAFCO, as Yuba LAFCO cannot implement policy on behalf of the BOS. However, Yuba LAFCo welcomes any opportunity for exchange of information between various jurisdictions that could assist the CCD boards in successfully providing their services.

Recommendation 7: *For those that have not done so, CCDs may avail themselves of membership in the California Association of Public Cemeteries or California Special Districts Association. Where resources are limited, they may consult with these groups, as well as the Golden State Risk Management Authority for best practices and strategies. The BOS and other elected and appointed officers, other CCD board members, as well as LAFCo, may provide expertise and assistance in the course of their work and/or by offering certain services at a reasonable cost.*

Yuba LAFCo EO Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Yuba LAFCO has made available information regarding the local and statewide association resources. Yuba LAFCO will also notify the CCD's of any future training opportunities for the CCD Trustees as LAFCO becomes aware of such opportunities, and a link to said opportunities will be posted to the LAFCO website. The Yuba LAFCO office is readily available to answer any questions the CCD's may have regarding available resources.

Recommendation 9: *The BOS needs to adopt a new SOI resolution and coordinate with LAFCo to conduct a SOI study.*

Yuba LAFCo EO Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented; however, it will be implemented in the future. Yuba LAFCO is currently working to prioritize a series of new Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) and Spheres of Influence (SOI) updates that will include the Community Cemetery Districts (CCDs) as part of its work program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Recommendation 10: *Yuba County LAFCo, in consultation with the BOS, each of the CCD boards, and other County officers, should engage in a public town hall conversation about options for improving 18CCD governance, maintenance, and resources. They may consider creating a County Service Area (CSA) to deliver a higher level of service for public cemeteries.*

Yuba LAFCo EO Response: This recommendation has not yet implemented; however, it will be implemented in the future. Yuba LAFCO is currently taking steps to facilitate a townhall meeting with the CCD trustees, along with county representatives and local and statewide association representatives in attendance. It is Yuba LAFCO's goal to hold this meeting within the next 4 months.

Recommendation 11: *Yuba County LAFCo should promptly engage in another SOI study and consider adjusting the boundaries of all the districts to account for territory not covered under the current boundaries. Yuba County LAFCo may provide a series of proposals for consolidation, annexation or dissolution of the boundaries, providing for fewer districts or centralizing resources, including a singular CCD controlled by a County-wide board that would operate all CCDs in the County.*

This recommendation has not yet been implemented; however, it will be implemented in the future. Yuba LAFCO is currently working to prioritize a series of new Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) and Spheres of Influence (SOI) updates that will include the Community Cemetery Districts (CCDs) as part of its work program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. A Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) for the CCDs must be completed prior to or in conjunction with a Sphere of Influence (SOI) update, before a SOI can be amended.

Recommendation 12: *The Yuba County LAFCo should perform an MSR for the whole County, including a comprehensive review of the CCDs.*

This recommendation has not yet been implemented; however, it will be implemented in the future. Yuba LAFCO is currently working to prioritize a series of new Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) and Spheres of Influence (SOI) updates that will include the Community Cemetery Districts (CCDs) as part of its work program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

In conclusion, Yuba LAFCO recognizes the effort put forth by the Grand Jury in this recent report and we appreciate its recommendations with regards to the Community Cemetery Districts located within Yuba County. Yuba LAFCo wishes to thank the Grand Jury for their dedication and service to Yuba County.

Sincerely,



Paige Hensley, Executive Officer
Yuba Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
phensley@yuba.gov

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AUG 28 2025

August 20, 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

TO: Yuba County Grand Jury

FROM: Browns Valley Cemetery District Board of Trustees, Ruth Mikkelsen, Chairperson

RE: Response to the Yuba County Grand Jury report on Yuba County Public Cemetery Districts.

This board was unanimous in the opinion that the report was not reflective of the current status of the public cemeteries in Yuba County. No one ever interviewed us, or the other cemeteries that I talked to. No one ever asked for a tour of the cemeteries, spoke to us regarding our training, governing, meetings, agendas, minutes, or memberships in helpful organizations. There were numerous complaints over the photographs, too. We have no idea where many of the ideas came from other than it reflects the condition of some of the cemeteries about five years ago, not in 2024.

The report is poorly researched, with errors regarding a variety of issues. It's a disappointing example of a Grand Jury Report. It's too bad that no one ever bothered to do an in-depth study, reflecting the current status of our cemeteries.

Our responses to the items requested are listed below:

R2: No, they do not need a policy.

R3: The BOS has no jurisdiction over the Special District Cemeteries.

R4: No. They know we exist. They should have the cemeteries on their website.

R5: Yes. This is the same as R4.

R6: As of January 1, 2020, Senate Bill 929 mandated that Special District Cemeteries have a website. A social media presence is very time consuming. We use the local FB page for Browns Valley and the foothills.

R7: Yes

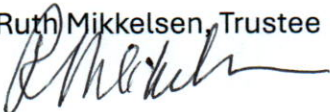
R9: No. LAFCo already does this.

R10: LAFCo is already planning this. No on consolidation or County Service Area.

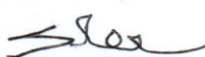
R11: The study is planned. NO on consolidation.

R12: LAFCo is already in the process of doing this.

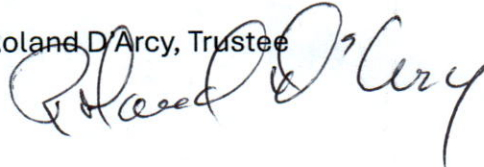
Ruth Mikkelsen, Trustee



Susan Lee, Trustee



Roland D'Arcy, Trustee



The County of Yuba

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Jennifer Vasquez, Director

5730 Packard Ave., Suite 100, P.O. Box 2320, Marysville, California 95901
Phone: (530) 749-6311 FAX: (530) 749-6281



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SEP 05 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

July 11, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Response to 2024-2025 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations

Dear Judge Berrier:

Please accept the following in response to the 2024-2025 Grand Jury Final Report- Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Response in Yuba County. Thank you to the dedicated members of the Grand Jury for their service and the opportunity to respond.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

F1. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has not conducted the necessary training to best educate law enforcement and non-law enforcement (e.g., fire, EMT) regarding the availability and value of the new Mobile Crisis Response program.

R1. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should develop and implement a formal and comprehensive training plan for current and future First Responders regarding the availability and value of the Mobile Crisis Response program.

Response: The Yuba County Health and Human Services Department agrees with this recommendation. However, SYBH has provided training to a variety of stakeholders in Yuba County, including Yuba County Health and Human Services.

F2. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has not conducted the necessary public communications for best informing the community regarding the availability and value of the new Mobile Crisis Response program and how it does not require contacting law enforcement.

R2. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should develop and implement a formal and ongoing community communications plan regarding the availability and value of the Mobile Crisis Response program.

Response: The Yuba County Health and Human Services Department agrees with this

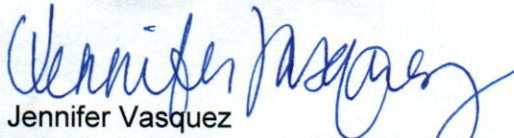
recommendation. The Director of SYBH has been hosting quarterly meetings with stakeholders to provide updates and solicit input. In addition, SYBH has launched several marketing initiatives to advertise the program throughout the community and information about the program was posted to Yuba County Health and Human Services social media platforms on February 13, 2025 and February 25, 2025.

F3. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health has not identified an ongoing funding source for the new Mobile Crisis Response services.

R3. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should identify the available funding sources for the ongoing operation of the Mobile Crisis Response program and if insufficient, formally request additional funding from county, state, and/or federal sources to maintain the service.

Response: The Yuba County Health and Human Services Department partially agrees with this recommendation. SYBH will likely need to evaluate program outcomes over a sufficient period of time to determine effectiveness and to inform decisions regarding continuation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Vasquez", is written over the printed name.

Jennifer Vasquez
Yuba County Director of Health & Human Services



RECEIVED

SEP 17 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

Andy Vasquez, District 1
Renick House, District 2
Seth Fuhrer, District 3
Gary Bradford, District 4
Jon Messick, District 5

Government Center 915 8th Street, Suite 109
Marysville, California 95901-5273
(530) 749-7510 Fax (530) 749-7353

September 9, 2025

RECEIVED

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street
Marysville, CA 95901

SEP 09 2025

County of Yuba
County Administrator

RE: Board of Supervisors Responses to 2024-2025 Grand Jury Recommendations

Dear Judge Berrier:

This letter is provided to you in response to recommendations made by Yuba County Grand Jury in their 2024-2025 Report. We appreciate the effort that was clearly made by the members of the 2024-25 Grand Jury to prepare the annual report and applaud their dedication to making Yuba County a better place to live, work, and play. Please accept the following responses to the Grand Jury recommendations:

Community Cemetery Districts (CCDs)

R1. The BOS should adopt a resolution outlining the County's role and responsibilities with appointments, financial processes, or compliance with any other legal mandate in its relationship with CCDs outlining how each county department is required to, can and should support the CCDs as independent special districts without sacrificing the CCD's autonomy or overburdening the county departments.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. As appropriately pointed out by the Grand Jury, CCDs are independent special districts that are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. The Board will form an Ad Hoc Committee with two of its members to study Recommendations 1,2,3, 4, and 10 further and then report back to the full Board.

R2. The BOS should implement a policy on regular communications between the various jurisdictions, including state, county, LAFCo, and independent CCDs to allow for free-flowing information and to prevent catastrophic events without impinging upon the autonomy of the CCD boards.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. As appropriately pointed out by the Grand Jury, CCDs are independent special districts that are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. The Board will form an Ad Hoc Committee with two of its members to study Recommendations 1,2,3, 4, and 10 further and then report back to the full Board.

R3. *The BOS should coordinate a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the CCDs to create a set of procedures and controls regarding assorted cemetery data and records. Through collaboration with County officials and the County historical commission, these MOUs could develop a streamlined and secure record storage process - either in the cloud or on a shared server - that minimizes barriers to entry, protects privacy, and offers redundancy to ensure continuity during emergencies.*

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. As appropriately pointed out by the Grand Jury, CCDs are independent special districts that are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. The Board will form an Ad Hoc Committee with two of its members to study Recommendations 1,2,3, 4, and 10 further and then report back to the full Board.

R4. *The BOS is encouraged to draft a resolution acknowledging the existence of CCDs, their purposes, and how the public can better associate and access these special districts on a prominent page on the County's website and/or a regular feature on the County's social media platforms.*

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. As appropriately pointed out by the Grand Jury, CCDs are independent special districts that are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. The Board will form an Ad Hoc Committee with two of its members to study Recommendations 1,2,3, 4, and 10 further and then report back to the full Board.

R7. *For those that have not done so, CCDs may avail themselves of membership in the California Association of Public Cemeteries or California Special Districts Association. Where resources are limited, they may consult with these groups, as well as the Golden State Risk Management Authority for best practices and strategies. The BOS and other elected and appointed officers, other CCD board members, as well as LAFCo, may provide expertise and assistance in the course of their work and/or by offering certain services at a reasonable cost.*

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. The CCDs have both local and statewide association resources available to them. The County Administrator's Office is always available to answer administration type questions, and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is available to help answer questions related to meeting procedures, document filing/retention, and Brown Act rules.

R9. The BOS needs to adopt a new SOI resolution and coordinate with LAFCo to conduct a SOI study.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented by the Board. Establishing spheres of influence (SOI) for independent special districts is not under the Board's jurisdiction.

R10. Yuba County LAFCo, in consultation with the BOS, each of the CCD boards, and other County officers, should engage in a public town hall conversation about options for improving CCD governance, maintenance, and resources. They may consider creating a County Service Area (CSA) to deliver a higher level of service for public cemeteries.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. The formation of a County Service Area (CSA) is an action of LAFCo. However, the CCDs could petition LAFCo to form a CSA for the purpose of providing a higher level of public cemetery service. The Board will form an Ad Hoc Committee with two of its members to study Recommendations 1,2,3, 4, and 10 further and then report back to the full Board.

R13. The BOS should strengthen recruitment efforts by improving announcements, collaborating with affinity or service groups, working with the County historical commission and considering training programs or incentives to attract qualified candidates for board service.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. The Clerk of the Board will include public announcements and other relevant information on a dedicated CCD webpage on the County's website.

Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health

R1. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should develop and implement a formal and comprehensive training plan for current and future First Responders regarding the availability and value of the Mobile Crisis Response program.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. SYBH has provided training to a variety of stakeholders in Yuba County, including Yuba County Health and Human Services. In addition, SYBH has had outreach efforts to various community stakeholders, including Law Enforcement, Fire and EMT services beginning October 2022. Since the initial outreach, SYBH has noted 27 outreach and training events specifically directed to Law Enforcement, Fire and EMT's.

R2. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should develop and implement a formal and ongoing community communications plan regarding the availability and value of the Mobile Crisis Response program.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. The Director of SYBH has been hosting quarterly meetings with stakeholders to provide updates and solicit input. In addition, SYBH has launched several marketing initiatives to advertise the program throughout the community and information about the program. These advertisements are in the form of bus advertisements, billboards, radio station advertisements, and posters to schools in Yuba and Sutter counties, and additional information was posted to Yuba County Health and Human Services social media platforms on February 13 and 25, 2025.

R3. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health should identify the available funding sources for the ongoing operation of the Mobile Crisis Response program and if insufficient, formally request additional funding from county, state, and/or federal sources to maintain the service.

Board of Supervisors Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) provided a grant for initial funding. Additional funds were received from the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) to fund direct services or salaries of the Mobile Crisis Response employees. Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health will likely need to evaluate program outcomes over a period of time to determine effectiveness and continuation of funds.

Sincerely,



Gary Bradford
Chair

SEP 17 2025

KEYSTONE CEMETERY DISTRICT

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

PO Box 172
15868 Indiana Ranch Road
Dobbins, CA 95935

Phone 530-692-2955
<https://kcdca.specialdistrict.org/>

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Keystone Cemetery District Board of Trustees Response to 20204-2025 Yuba Grand Jury Findings for the Forgotten In Death: The Decaying State of Yuba County's Public Cemeteries Report

This letter is provided to you in response to the findings and recommendations of the 2024-2025 Yuba County Grand Jury Report concerning "Forgotten In Death: The Decaying State of Yuba County's Public Cemeteries".

Before responding to the Grand Jury's Findings and Responses, the Keystone Cemetery District (KCD) Board of Trustees would like to thank the Grand Jury for its efforts in exploring our local CCD's and attempting to respond to our community members. However, the KCD Board would also like to strongly and clearly state the following:

- The KCD Board and Staff are committed to the continuing care and custody of this cemetery; each member takes their role both personally and professionally ~ we are each proud to represent our cemetery.
- The Grand Jury (GJ) wrote in their section regarding Legal Compliance—Public cemetery rules are complex and some districts struggle with compliance with state laws regarding fees, non-resident burials, and other regulations. Meetings are often canceled, ignored, or are irregular enough that they are poorly attended. Further the GJ wrote - "Despite multiple attempts at phone calls and emails, the GJ was only able to connect with a few CCDs or attend their public meetings".

The KCD Board and Staff wishes mightily that a member of the GJ HAD called us or attended a publicly posted and conducted (per the Brown Act) Board Meeting. No one from the GJ contacted ANY Trustee or Staff person affiliated with the KCD. We would have welcomed a visit and/or a discussion and invite the Court and or the current GJ to come up for a visit.

As requested, please accept the Keystone Cemetery Board of Trustees responses to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations listed below.

FINDINGS

- F-1 True ~ The authority structure is not reliable nor consistent, Yuba County aid is sketchy at best.
- F-2 True ~ Communication between these entities is not common, CCD's are always concerned.
- F-3 The KCD Board has asked the Yuba County Auditor-Controller to create/implement a secondary system of record retention
- F-4 True ~ The Board of KCD is ready to aid in developing a way to effectively engage and educate our constituents.
- F-5 KCD's website (<https://kcdca.specialdistrict.org/>) addresses many of these issues in a straightforward

- and public manor.
- F-6 See F-5
- F-7 The KCD is in full compliance with CA Laws; the Brown Act and conducts regular monthly meetings that are open to the public; the KCD has completed numerous costly audits and is in process with its current audit.
- F-8 NA
- F-9 As the last SOI was conducted in 2010 and our population has changed considerably, the KCD believes that a 15 year wait for an updated SOI plan has not been helpful.
- F-10 The KCD Board and Staff were not interviewed by the Grand Jury and therefore not included in any opportunity to express a "desire for reimagining boundaries, consolidations; or annexations" further with no current or close to current data and/or plans it is difficult to propose or consider new consolidations or annex new boundaries designed to increase the effectiveness of the KCD.
- F-11 See F-19 and F10
- F-12 As the most recent Municipal Service Review (MSR) was conducted 17 years ago, the KCD looks forward to a current, updated MSR for the region to aid in reviewing all of the discrepancies and assisting with additional compliance.
- F-13 True, see F-4 ~ Board membership is difficult to maintain and grow; the KCD has experienced these conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R2. The BOS should implement a policy on regular communications between the various jurisdictions, including State, County, LAFCo Board, and independent CCDs to allow for freeflowing information and to prevent catastrophic events without impinging upon the autonomy of the CCD boards.

The KCD is in full agreement with this recommendation.

- R3. The BOS should coordinate a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the CCDs to create a set of procedures and controls regarding assorted cemetery data and records. Through collaboration with County officials and the County historical commission, these MOUs could develop a streamlined and secure record storage process—either in the cloud or on a shared server—that minimizes barriers to entry, protects privacy, and offers redundancy to ensure continuity during emergencies.

The KCD is in full agreement with this recommendation.

- R6. Although not mandated by law, CCDs may find it beneficial to maintain a basic website to provide relevant and timely information. This could include meeting agendas and minutes, independent audits, and details about the burial process. They may also consider a social media presence to let their constituents and other public officials know what is going on in the district. This can also be achieved by integrating the CCDs' websites with the County websites on the special districts' page. Should an extraordinary event occur, CCDs should send notices to the BOS, Clerk of the Board, and County Administrator so they may be able to take appropriate action, including the appointment of new members to vacant board seats.

The KCD works closely with the California Special District Association (CSDA) and learned that special districts in California have been mandated by Senate Bill 929 (SB 929) to maintain a public website

since January 1, 2020. With that in mind, the KCD website (<https://kcdca.specialdistrict.org>) includes specific required information like contact details, current agendas, and financial reports. Additionally, the KCD website complies with federal and state accessibility requirements, such as the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#), which ensures digital content is accessible to people with disabilities. Further, the KCD has a presence on social media - this is new to the KCD and will be enhanced in the near future to include opportunities for public comment. Once again, the KCD would have appreciated the opportunity to share this information with the Grand Jury - and is one of the reasons the KCD is dismayed for not having been contacted.

- R7. For those that have not done so, CCDs may avail themselves of membership in the California Association of Public Cemeteries or California Special Districts Association. Where resources are limited, they may consult with these groups, as well as the Golden State Risk Management Authority for best practices and strategies. The BOS and other elected and appointed officers, other CCD board members, as well as LAFCo, may provide expertise and assistance in the course of their work and/or by offering certain services at a reasonable cost.

The KCD is an active member of the California Association of Public Cemeteries; the California Special Districts Association; the Pacific Cemetery Alliance and the Golden State Risk Management Authority and is always on the lookout for new best practices and strategies. The KCD would have appreciated the opportunity to share this with the Grand Jury.

- R9. The BOS needs to adopt a new SOI resolution and coordinate with LAFCo to conduct a SOI study.

The KCD is in full agreement with this recommendation.

- R10. Yuba County LAFCo, in consultation with the BOS, each of the CCD boards, and other County officers, should engage in a public town hall conversation about options for improving CCD governance, maintenance, and resources. They may consider creating a County Service Area (CSA) to deliver a higher level of service for public cemeteries.

The KCD is in full agreement with this recommendation. The creation of an updated CSA might aid the community in the future.

Once again, the KCD Board and Staff would have appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Grand Jury and as stated by KCD Staff

"... if the 2024-25 Grand Jury had met with our district, and some of the others, that they would not be considering ways to deliver a higher level of service for public cemeteries overall. I'm sure there are reasons that the Yuba County Grand Jury selected special district cemeteries to report on during their time of service, but I don't believe their research encompassed all district governing and sites.

I don't know that a County Service Area could deliver a higher level of service to our local constituents than our very local board of trustees and employees who strive to offer our best. After all it was the intent of the Public Cemetery District Law that the local officials meet the diversity of local conditions and circumstances. I believe we do so. But more importantly I am aware that Keystone Cemetery District is continuously striving to improve in all aspects of our district governing and operations."

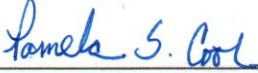
- R11. Yuba County LAFCo should promptly engage in another SOI study and consider adjusting the boundaries of all the districts to account for territory not covered under the current boundaries. Yuba County LAFCo may provide a series of proposals for consolidation, annexation or dissolution of the boundaries, providing for fewer districts or centralizing resources, including a singular CCD controlled by a County-wide board that would operate all CCDs in the County.

The KCD believes that the need for a new SOI Report and plan is long overdue. Further, it is our strong belief that the need for a singular CCD Board would NOT be in the interest of local communities nor of the independent CCD Boards. The diversity of this County would make it difficult to meet all of the needs of the existing Cemetery Districts and their Boards all under one banner.

In conclusion, the Keystone Cemetery District Board of Trustees and Staff recognizes the effort and intent put forth by the Grand Jury in the 2024-2025 report with regards to the Community Cemetery Districts located within Yuba County.

The Keystone Cemetery District Board and Staff wishes to thank the Grand Jury for their dedication and service to Yuba County residents and wishes to extend an open invitation to visit this hidden gem in the Yuba County Foothills.

Sincerely,



Pamela S. Cook, Board Trustee



Patrick Streight, Board Trustee

unavailable

Teresa Royat, Board Trustee

WHEATLAND CEMETERY DISTRICT

P. O. Box 281
Wheatland, CA 95692
Telephone: (530) 633-2964

September 8, 2025

RECEIVED

OCT 01 2025

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

Yuba County Grand Jury
c/o Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: 2024-2025 Grand Jury Report: Forgotten in Death: The Decaying State of Yuba County's Public Cemeteries Recommendations

Dear Yuba County Grand Jury:

The Wheatland Cemetery District has reviewed the Yuba County 2024-2025 Grand Jury's Report: Forgotten in Death: The Decaying State of Yuba County's Public Cemeteries and hereby responds as follows:

Recommendations:

- R2. The BOS should implement a policy on regular communications between the various jurisdictions, including State, County, LAFCo Board and independent CCDs to allow for free-flowing information and to prevent catastrophic events without impinging upon the autonomy of the CCD boards.
- R3. The BOS should coordinate a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the CCDs to create a set of procedures and controls regarding assorted cemetery data and records. Through collaboration with County officials and the County historical commission, these MOUs could develop a streamlined and secure record storage process – either in the cloud or shared server – that minimizes barriers to entry, protects privacy and offers redundancy to ensure continuity during emergencies.
- R6. Although not mandated by law, CCDs may find it beneficial to maintain a basic website to provide relevant and timely information. This could include meeting agendas and minutes, independent audits and details about the burial process. They may also consider a social media presence to let their constituents and other public officials know what is going on in the district. This can also be achieved by integrating the CCDs' websites with the County websites on the special districts' page. Should an extraordinary event occur, CCDs should send notices to the BOS, Clerk of the Board and County Administrator so they may be able to take appropriate action, including the appointment of new members to vacant board seats.
- R7. For those that have not done so, CCDs may avail themselves of membership in the California Association of Public Cemeteries or California Special Districts Association. Where resources are limited, they may consult with these groups as well as the Golden State Risk Management Authority for best practices and strategies. The BOS and other elected and appointed officers, other CCD board members, as well as LAFCo, may provide expertise and assistance in the course of their work and/or by offering certain services at a reasonable cost.

- R9. The BOS needs to adopt a new SOI resolution and coordinate with LAFCo to conduct a SOI study.
- R10. Yuba County LAFCo, in consultation with the BOS, each of the CCD boards, and other County officers, should engage in a public town hall conversation about options for improving CCD governance, maintenance and resources. They may consider creating a County Service Area (CSA) to deliver a higher level of service for public cemeteries.
- R11. Yuba County LAFCo should promptly engage in another SOI study and consider adjusting the boundaries of all the districts to account for territory not covered under the current boundaries, Yuba County LAFCo may provide a series of proposals for consolidation, annexation or dissolution of boundaries, providing for fewer district or centralizing resources, including a singular CCD controlled by a County-wide board that would operate all CCDs in the County.

Responses:

- R2. The Wheatland Cemetery District is in full support of this recommendation and believes that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) should provide and facilitate regular communications between the State, County, Lower Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and the Yuba County Cemetery Districts. As it stands, while no "official" Yuba County Cemetery District association exists, our management team is frequently contacted by the various Yuba County Cemetery Districts for assistance and/or advice on personnel actions, contract solicitation and development, resolutions, conflict of interest codes, pricing and Brown Act/Open Meeting compliance as well as the digitization of burial records and maps.
- R3. Many of the Yuba County Cemetery Districts have their own policies, by-laws and procedures in place. The Wheatland Cemetery District created its own policies with the aid of our former Legal Counsel; all of our policies and forms are contained in Word. We also designed our roster and mapping system in Excel. There are very specific things that are contained in burial documentation such as eligibility, pricing and burial rights, and likely each District does things differently. Some smaller Districts may not have the funds to secure whatever technology ends up being required by such a collaboration so the BOS would need to be prepared to financially assist those Districts.

As for storage of our documentation in anticipation of an emergency, we store digital documentation on our password protected, encrypted desktop that is kept in our Secretary's Office with a monitored burglar and fire alarm, in the Cloud, on an external drive that is locked in our fireproof safe at the Wheatland Cemetery and one of our Trustees has a copy. We also have multiple paper copies in those same locations.

- R6. We are in full support of the recommendation that Yuba County create a webpage on its website for each cemetery district. However, it should be noted that the County as well as each Cemetery District would then be bound by the Brown/Open Meeting Acts. All would be required to post meeting agendas and all supporting documentation online at least 72 hours prior to any regularly scheduled meeting; 24 hours prior to any special meeting; and as soon as possible for any emergency meeting. This level of compliance may tax the already meager resources of all parties and would actually require 24-hour access to the Yuba

County Webmaster as most Cemetery Districts rely on volunteer or off-shift workers to keep operations running smoothly.

Would the County provide personnel to scan all the documentation listed in Recommendation 6? Most Yuba County Cemetery Districts, including this one, do not have full-time staff, professional scanning equipment or budgetary resources to scan the list of suggested items from District formation in 1871 to date. Also, the associated expenditures with digital access to said items and the level of security necessary for webhosting would finally cripple this District and would be best born by the County.

However, in the spirit of cooperation, we will explore the cost involved in developing and maintaining an active Wheatland Cemetery District website that might contain the items suggested in this recommendation. Dependent upon the expenditure involved, this may be a viable option for the future.

Please note that the Wheatland Cemetery District does post our current agenda, minutes, policies, resolutions, budget, expenditures, the identity of the current Board of Trustees and the District's contact information in the marquee located on the left side of the Wheatland Cemetery's office door. There is also burial information, burial policies, pricing and payment information located in the marquee located on the right side of the Wheatland Cemetery's office door. We also post our Agenda on the bulletin boards located at the Wheatland Post Office and the Plumas-Brophy Dairy Road Fire Station.

It should be noted that this District already freely communicates with our Supervisor Gary Bradford, the Auditor's Office, the Treasurer's Office, the County Clerk, the City of Wheatland and local funeral homes as well as with members of the public via telephone and email.

- R7. The Wheatland Cemetery District is already a member of the California Association of Public Cemeteries, the Public Cemetery Alliance and Golden State Risk Management, all of which facilitate free mentorship through numerous, learned, certified managers and board members.

Dependent upon the time commitment and costs involved, the Wheatland Cemetery District may be interested in a membership to the California Special District Association.

As previously stated, our management team has 30+ years of experience in cemetery operations and is frequently contacted by the various Yuba County Cemetery Districts for assistance and/or advice on personnel actions, contract solicitation and development, resolutions, conflict of interest codes and Brown Act/Open Meeting compliance as well as the digitization of burial records and maps.

- R9. The Wheatland Cemetery District is in full support of this recommendation and believes that County should adopt a new SOI resolution and coordinate with LAFCo to conduct a SOI study.

- R10. The Wheatland Cemetery District is in full support of this recommendation to engage in a public town hall conversation about options for improving CCD governance, maintenance and resources. However, the Board does not agree that a County Service Area (CSA) would deliver a higher level of service for the Wheatland and Lofton cemeteries. In fact, a CSA would likely complicate the whole process, increase costs exponentially to the Public for said services as well as burials and would likely see the land that the Founders of the City of Wheatland set aside to care for their dead be filled with people from outside

Wheatland because those areas did NOT plan accordingly. Yuba County failed to include burial needs while approving new developments in Spring Valley, Linda, Olivehurst and Plumas Lake that made no such consideration or provided for such forethought. It should be noted that all of the new developments provided for a myriad of parks, green belts and public safety services, but not for cemetery land additions or Districts – why is that? No one survives life. This District has been in communication with the BOS as well as the City of Wheatland on that specific issue for more than 10 years with no action taken by either.

A town hall where the citizens of Wheatland are told that the City of Wheatland has already approved a general plan to add another 15,000 more homes to their District and now LAFCo and the BOS would like to consolidate the entirety of Yuba County into one Cemetery District should be a fantastically wild meeting. Our tax paying, In-District residents are vehemently opposed to the Wheatland Cemetery District's boundaries being opened so that people not residing within them can fill the cemetery established for their City to capacity because someone at the County dropped the ball while approving proposed developments in unincorporated Yuba County. Please have the City of Wheatland Police and/or the Yuba County Sheriff's Office attend the meeting to ensure everyone's safety.

- R11. Yuba County LAFCo should promptly engage in another SOI study; however, LAFCo should NOT adjust the boundaries of all the districts to account for territory not covered under the current boundaries or provide a series of proposals for consolidation, annexation or dissolution of boundaries, providing for fewer district or centralizing resources, including a singular CCD controlled by a County-wide board that would operate all CCDs in the County.

In fact, a singular CCD controlled by a Countywide Board would likely complicate the whole process, increase costs exponentially to the Public for this new District and for all future burials. Allowing anyone in Yuba County to be buried in any of the Yuba County Cemetery Districts would likely see the land that the Founders of the City of Wheatland set aside to care for their dead filled to capacity with people from outside Wheatland because those areas did NOT plan accordingly, nor did the County or City before approving new developments. Their decisions were made with no such consideration or forethought.

The Wheatland Cemetery District Board of Trustees would like to thank the Yuba County Jury for their Recommendations.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or our Manager, Holly Welch, at (530) 633-2964 or at wheatlandcemetery@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



Debra J. Coker, Chairman
Wheatland Cemetery District
Board of Trustees

Cc: Brian Hughes, Legal Counsel - Best, Best & Krieger, LLP

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2026

Clerk/Board of Supervisors

Peoria Cemetery District

P O Box 23

Browns Valley, CA 95918

Monday, August 1, 2025

Honorable Judge Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street
Marysville, CA 95901

**Subject: Response to 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report – Findings Regarding
Peoria Cemetery District**

Dear Judge Berrier,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Peoria Cemetery District, I respectfully submit this rebuttal to certain findings contained in the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report regarding our District. While we value the oversight role of the Grand Jury, several statements in the report regarding Peoria Cemetery are factually incorrect and were made without verification from district officials.

I. Meetings and Compliance with Bylaws

The report stated that Peoria Cemetery held only one meeting per year, despite a requirement in our bylaws for four meetings annually. This is not accurate. The Peoria Cemetery District has consistently held regular monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Loma Rica Lions Club. Records, community notices, and testimony from long-serving trustees confirm this practice.

At no time did the Grand Jury contact any trustee, past or present, to verify its findings. Currently, only one trustee, Mr. Ray Bradley, remains on the Board from that period, and he was never contacted, despite living and operating a business adjacent to the cemetery. Local mortuaries (Yuba-Sutter area) and the Yuba County Supervisor's Office also maintain current contact information for District trustees, making verification readily available had it been sought.

2. Grounds Maintenance and Bylaws

The report further alleged that the grounds of Peoria Cemetery were not adequately maintained and that the bylaws were inadequate. We strongly disagree with these assertions. The cemetery grounds have historically been maintained with care and respect. While resource limitations sometimes affected the pace of maintenance, the dignity of the cemetery has always been preserved. The bylaws in effect during that time were consistent with operational needs and provided sufficient governance for a small special district.

3. Lack of Verification and Representation

The Grand Jury report claims that "hundreds of hours" of research went into the investigation. Yet not one trustee from Peoria Cemetery District—or any other special district cemetery mentioned from what we have gathered—was ever contacted for input or clarification. This omission raises serious concerns about the accuracy and fairness of the report's findings.

4. Passage of Time

It is also important to note that this report is being brought to the attention of the district 23 years after its release. The current secretary (me) and two trustees serving today were not involved with the district during that period. Only Mr. Bradley remains from the 2002–2003 Board, and again, he was never consulted during the original investigation.

Conclusion

For the record, we respectfully submit that the 2002–2003 Grand Jury Report inaccurately portrayed the operations of the Peoria Cemetery District. Monthly meetings were, and continue to be, held regularly. Grounds have been properly maintained, and bylaws have been adequate for governance. The absence of direct verification with trustees undermines the credibility of the report's findings.

We ask that this rebuttal be formally entered into the record alongside the Grand Jury's report so that the public has a complete and accurate understanding of the Peoria Cemetery District's operations.

Sincerely,
Marianne Spencer
Board Secretary
Peoria Cemetery District