

TULARE COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY
FINAL REPORT
2021-2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 ➤	TABLE OF CONTENTS
3 ➤	TC CIVIL GRAND JURY
5 ➤	TC CIVIL GRAND JURY PICTURE
7 ➤	LETTER FROM THE JUDGE
9 ➤	LETTER FROM THE FOREMAN
11 ➤	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
14 ➤	COMPLIANCE REVIEWS
19 ➤	EDUCATION BEYOND PLANET EARTH
21 ➤	WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CASE GOES COLD
23 ➤	MENTAL HEALTH – DO YOU NEED HELP?
26 ➤	PARKS: RELAX AND ENJOY
29 ➤	SURPLUS STORE: A PLUS
31 ➤	ALTA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
34 ➤	MORE THAN JUST BOOKS
37 ➤	BOB WILEY DETENTION FACILITY
40 ➤	LINDSAY LOCAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
43 ➤	VAPING, JUST A SMOKE SCREEN?
47 ➤	WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL: TCOES
50 ➤	SYNOPSIS
51 ➤	CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM
54 ➤	APPLICATION/QUESTIONNAIRE

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

*THIS
PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT
BLANK*

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

A major function of the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury is to examine Tulare County and city governments, special districts, school districts and any joint powers agency operating within the county to ensure their duties are being carried out lawfully. The Grand Jury does not investigate criminal, state, federal or court activities nor personal disputes.

The Civil Grand Jury:

- ❖ Civil Grand Jurors serve a one (1) year term from July 1st through June 30th. The jury panel consists of nineteen (19) persons who are assigned to various committees.
- ❖ May review and evaluate procedures used by these entities to determine whether more efficient and economical methods can be employed
- ❖ May inspect and audit the books, records, and financial expenditures of those entities to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally used.
- ❖ Shall inquire into the condition and management of prisons within the county.
- ❖ May investigate any charges of willful misconduct by public officials in their official duties.

To request an investigation, the attached complaint form must be filled out in its entirety and submitted to the Civil Grand Jury either electronically or by mail. All complaints received by the Grand Jury are confidential.

1. Name of complainant and contact information must include address, phone number and email.
2. Complete nature of complaint to include name of person(s) or department(s) against which the claim is being filed.
3. Complaint form must be signed.
4. Written confirmation of complaint will be sent to complainant.

EMAIL FORM TO: grnd_jury@tularecounty.ca.gov

OR MAIL FORM TO: Tulare County Civil Grand Jury
5963 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277



TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

*THIS
PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT
BLANK*



Photo by: Alesa Hefner

Front row from left to right: Jack Mori, Ellen Pearson, Janice Pineda, Tommie Benc, Cheryl Blevins
 Back row from left to right: Lindell Yoshimura, Ron C. White, Foreman, Raymond Siebairo, Bonnie Pauli,
 Deidra Vance, Joel Harris, Thomas Mitchell, Greg Doss

Shirley Bearden
 (Absent the day of the picture)

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

*THIS
PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT
BLANK*

LETTER FROM THE JUDGE



Superior Court of the State of California

Stephanie Cameron
Court Executive Officer/
Jury Commissioner

COUNTY OF TULARE

ADMINISTRATION

221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 303
Visalia, California 93291
Telephone: (559) 730-5000
Facsimile: (559) 737-4290

JUDGES' COMMENTS

On behalf of the entire bench of the Tulare County Superior Court, I want to sincerely thank the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury for all the work they have performed on behalf of the citizens of Tulare County. Once again another Civil Grand Jury's term has been completed. Your efforts are especially appreciated during these difficult times. With the recent pandemic challenges and hurdles, the Civil Grand Jury remained diligent and worked hard to complete their duties.

Civil Grand Jurors always assume a great deal of responsibility whenever they agree to be a part of a year's panel. They willingly do this as volunteers without any purpose other than to insure that governmental agencies and individuals are properly performing their duties. The taxpayers of Tulare County were well served by all the time and effort put forth by this Civil Grand Jury. Our Court is especially grateful for the efficient manner in which this year's Civil Grand Jury performed these tasks and the overall cooperation and respect they showed to each other.

Much is misunderstood by the general public as to the functions and purpose of the Civil Grand Jury. It is empowered by statutory authority to investigate local governmental agencies and process citizen complaints involving local government issues. No other agency or group has mandate to be a "watch-dog" to insure that our local government works effectively, efficiently, and to the best interest of all citizens. We need responsible, dedicated people such as those on this year's Civil Grand Jury to serve in the future. If you would like to volunteer to do meaningful work for our community, we invite you to apply for service on Civil Grand Jury by contacting the Superior Court at (559) 730-5000 x1359 and ask for an application.

In closing, Tulare County Superior Court applauds each member of this Civil Grand Jury for your dedication to service on behalf of all citizens who live in Tulare County.

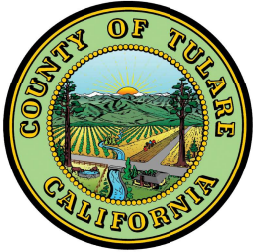


Juliet L. Boccone
Assistant Presiding Judge

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

*THIS
PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT
BLANK*

LETTER FROM THE FOREMAN



Tulare County Civil Grand Jury

5963 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277

(559) 624-7295 • Fax (559) 733-6078

Honorable Judge David C. Mathias
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
State of California
County of Tulare

Honorable Judge Juliet L. Boccone
Assistant Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
State of California
County of Tulare

Dear Judge Mathias and Judge Boccone,

The fellowship and experiences of the 2021-2022 Tulare County Civil Grand Jury has been educational, informational, and interesting, as we worked together as a team performing our duties. Due to COVID-19, our term was shorter than normal, and we performed our tasks with less jurors.

We wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to Judge Boccone for her guidance and advice throughout our term. Our thanks and appreciation to the Tulare County Counsel for their expertise and guidance, also the Tulare County District Attorney's Office for their assistance.

We are grateful to Ellen Kennedy, the Tulare County Superior Court Executive Secretary for her helpfulness and support through the year. Special thanks to Annette Jones, The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury Clerk for her assistance during our term; her knowledge and assistance were above and beyond her duties.

It has been an honor to serve with the 2021-2022 jury during my term as foreman. I offer my most sincere thanks to the other jurors for their dedication and service during this term.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron C. White".

Ron C. White, Foreman

2021-2022 Tulare County Civil Grand Jury.

*THIS
PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT
BLANK*



The 2021-2022 Tulare County Civil Grand Jury wishes to acknowledge and thank the following:

*The Honorable Juliet Boccone
Assistant Presiding Judge of the Civil Grand Jury*

*Ellen Kennedy
Superior Court Executive Secretary*

*Annette Jones
Tulare County Civil Grand Jury Clerk*

*Jennifer M. Flores
Tulare County Counsel*

*Diana L. Mendez, Allison K. Pierce, County Counsel Attorneys, and staff
Tulare County Counsel*

*Art Arreola
Print and Mail Division Manager*

*Julia Davis
Print and Mail Services*

Tulare County Administrative Staff

Tulare County Information & Communications Technology

*Thank you to all the dedicated employees of the county, cities and agencies
who unselfishly serve the residents of Tulare County in so many ways.*

*THIS
PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT
BLANK*

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

The Tulare County Grand Jurors' Chapter is a member of the California Grand Jury Association; its primary goal is to promote the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury.

The community projects the chapter has been involved in are:

- Sixty (60) backpacks with school supplies
- Donation of two youth bicycles to the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's organization
- A monetary donation to the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's organization to aid the family of a deputy's kidney transplant
- Monetary donation to Paradise Unified School District for school supplies
- Gift cards for four families displaced by the Santa Rosa, CA wildfire
- 8 monetary gift cards for Tulare County victims of SQF fire
- Donation to Sleep in Heavenly Peace Charity for children's bedding
- Donated items to Kaweah Delta's Dialysis Center
- Donation to Central Valley's Veterans Honor Flight
- Stockings for Seniors
- Monetary donation to the Tulare County Child Welfare Agency for their Christmas youth project

GRAND JURY RESPONSE 2020-2021 COMPLIANCE REVIEW

OVERVIEW OF GRAND JURY RESPONSE DUTIES:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) is impaneled annually to act as the public's watchdog by investigating and reporting on the affairs of county agencies, local governments, school districts and special districts within Tulare County. TCCGJ reviews complaints brought by citizens and internally initiates investigations about perceived government irregularities. As a fact-finding body, the TCCGJ makes constructive recommendations to a wide range of local governmental problems. This is done by reviewing and evaluating policies and procedures, methods and systems utilized to determine if more efficient and economical programs can be employed. TCCGJ is authorized to, and in some cases must, do the following:

- Inspect and audit books, records, and financial expenditures to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent
- Examine the books and records of any nonprofit organization receiving local public funds
- Inquire into the conditions and management of jails and detention facilities
- Inquire into any charges of willful misconduct of County and local officials or employees

TCCGJ does not investigate private entities, nonprofit organizations not funded by the county, state or federal agencies, courts, school curricula, personnel issues, pending litigation, or other matters not connected with local governments.

TCCGJ annually issues a final report which contains specific reports addressing one or more issues. California Penal Code §933(c) requires responses from governing agencies, Tulare County Board of Supervisors, city and county government entities, schools, special districts, certain non-profit corporations, and other entities. This ensures these entities have performed their function in a lawful, economical, and efficient manner. Each report contains information such as the background regarding the subject matter, reasons for the investigation, the procedures followed in obtaining information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations. All required responders must reply in writing to each finding and recommendation in the specific report within a specified period.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE:

1. Reviewed responses to the 2020-2021 Grand Jury Final Report
2. Inquired into the status of implementation of the 2018-2019 Grand Jury recommendations
3. Reviewed relevant California Government and Penal Codes



REVIEWCHECK

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

4. Compiled statistics regarding the responses

The 2020-2021 TCCGJ required responses from the following agencies and reports:

Tulare County Sheriff's Office

Empowering Today's Youth By Exploring Life Changing Options
Tulare County Senior Explorer Program Preparing our Youth

Woodville Public Utilities District

For Your Viewing Pleasure

Tulare County Auditor-Controller

Monitoring...So What??

DATA REVIEWED:

1. There were 4 TCCGJ reports published requiring 3 agencies to respond in the 2020-2021 Final Report.
2. There were 12 findings and 5 recommendations in the 2020-2021 Final Report that required responses from the agencies listed above.
3. All of the agencies agreed with the findings in the report. One agency partially agreed with a recommendation while the others agreed with the recommendations in the 2020-2021 Final Report.

SUMMARY

Entities responding to a report shall do so in accordance with California Penal Code §933.05.

The 2020-2021 Final Report and responses may be found on the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury website: <http://tularecounty.ca.gov/grandjury>.

REVIEW OF 2018-2019 IMPLEMENTATION

TCCGJ annually issues a final report addressing one or more issues requiring responses from various agencies in Tulare County. All required responders must reply in writing to each finding and recommendation in the specific report. The 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury Final Report included 8 reports with 10 recommendations. 8 agencies were required to respond with 4 agencies invited to respond. The TCCGJ is obligated to follow up and verify implementation of recommendations made in these past reports.

METHOD OF FOLLOW UP:

1. Clarification letters were sent to the designated responders
2. Reviewed websites and confirmed updates were completed
3. Reviewed updated documents and responses

SUMMARY:

Of the 8 reports, 5 agencies responded they had implemented the recommendations, 1 agency sent an update after the initial response and 2 agencies responded that they would be implementing the recommendations in the future. Letters were sent to these 2 agencies to ascertain if the changes had been made.

The agencies that implemented the recommendations:

ELDER ABUSE: EVERYONE'S BUSINESS:

Response required by Tulare County Board of Supervisors (TCBOS)

- 1 If additional resources can be found by agencies serving the elderly, consideration should be given to prioritizing actions and policies toward promoting the earlier and more consistent reporting of suspected incidents of elder abuse.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. County agencies are continuously seeking resources to meet current needs in serving the elderly. These agencies also keep the BOS informed of these resources as they become available. In addition, 3 members of the TCBOS serve on the King-Tulare Area Agency on aging governing board to stay informed of available resources.

EFFECTS OF PROP 64 IN LEGALIZING MARIJUANA IN TULARE COUNTY

Response required by TC Resource Management Agency (RMA)

1. Tulare County RMA should hire additional certified code enforcement inspectors for the marijuana program.
Response: BOS approved 2 new Building and Zone inspectors for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

SHERIFF'S PATROL:

Response by TCSO

1. TCSO should continue periodic review of systems and procedures to further improve response times.
Response: The TCSO continues to review and monitor response time to call for service. We continue to research and evaluate systems and procedures to further improve response time to calls, while also ensuring that responding personnel are doing so safely and with set guidelines of policy and procedure as well as the vehicle code. The TCSO continuously works to improve its organizational effectiveness and fiscal stability by continually evaluating the organizational structure to improve service delivery.

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY CODE ENFORCEMENT

Response by TCBOS

1. The BOS should consider proposals made by RMA to improve the effectiveness of its code enforcement activities, including alternative means of collecting assessed fines and designating collected fines for use by RMA.
2. BOS should consider RMA's request for additional Certified Code Inspectors.
Response: #1 RMA agrees with recommendation the use of a special tax assessment to be places on the property tax roll will allow for collection of administrative costs and fees within 5 years. RMA submitted a revised nuisance abatement ordinance to the BOS and it was approved on June 4, 2019 by Resolution 2019-0467, which codifies the County's right to place unpaid administrative costs and fees on the property tax rolls.
#2 The BOS approved the addition of 2 Building and Zoning Inspector positions for 2019-2020 fiscal year. Resolution 2019-0417 & 0418.

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE, NOT A DROP TO DRINK:

Response required by TCBOS and RMA

1. The coordination of policies should be documented to provide useful guidelines for future projects with State agencies.
2. TCBOS and RMA should explore ways to accelerate the efforts in completing the water system in Yettem-Seville.

Response by RMA

1. A Grants Specialist for RMA is documenting the progress on the project to help direct future projects in working with the various state agencies associated with this project.
2. RMA & TCBOS are coordinating with state agencies to complete this project.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

Agency that sent additional information after initial response:

ELECTRIC MONITORING:

Response required by TCBOS and TC Probation Department

1. Consideration should be given to expanding the electronics monitoring program.

Response by Probation Department: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Probation Department acknowledges the potential cost savings of expanding the electronic monitoring program; therefore, will reevaluate its eligibility criteria and consider the possibility of expansion while maintaining public safety standards.

Response by Board of Supervisors: Same as Probation response.

Additional response: Upon further analysis of the Adult Electronic Mentoring the Probation Department has determined certain modifications will allow for a slight expansion of the program.

Agencies that required follow-up:

ELECTIONS: TIMELY ACCESS TO RESULTS:

Response required by Tulare County (TC) Registrar of Voters.

1. Formal policies, procedures and protocols should be developed to address issues related to complaints lodged with the Elections Office. This would include, but not limited to, establishing and maintaining a complaint log.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the near future. Most calls are handled when received; however, we will develop a log that tracks all legitimate complaints and list the date received, caller, description of the complaint, resolution, date completed and who handled the call. Follow-up: TC Registrar of Voters was contacted and they provided copy of complaint log.

INMATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN TULARE COUNTY

Response required by Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO)

1. The TCSO implement of a study of AB 1008. This study should be focused on determining AB 1008's effects on recidivism rates.

Response: To find out the influence that AB1008 has in the re-entry population in Tulare County the SO will conduct a survey with inmates who participated in the Pathway to Employment Connection Program will be incarcerated.

Follow-up: TCSO was contacted and the TCCGJ was provided documentation on the study they have completed.

EDUCATION BEYOND PLANET EARTH

BACKGROUND:

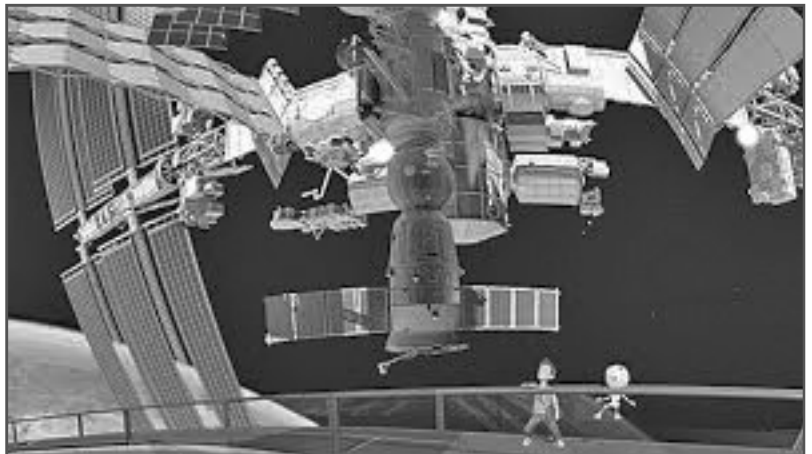
Tulare County has had a planetarium program since the mid 1960's. The original planetarium was located on W. Burrell Ave., in Visalia. In 2013, the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) received funds to build a new planetarium. The Sam B Pena Planetarium and Science Center (PASC) was completed in 2015. It is located at 11535 Ave. 264, Visalia, CA. The planetarium was named in honor of Sam B Pena, a Tulare County educator and artist. The completed cost of the PASC was \$4,412,493.84.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury initiated an investigation to inform the public about the PASC and the programs available to supplement the learning opportunities for students in Tulare County.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Reviewed web site information
2. Reviewed information provided by PASC
3. Site visit



FACTS:

1. The PASC was dedicated in September of 2015.
2. Colleen Venya Mitchell painted the mural on the building.
3. The PASC was created to provide a memorable educational learning opportunity specifically for school children.
4. The theater's seating capacity is 70.
5. The theater utilizes a specialized 30 foot Spitz dome screen with a high definition digital projection system.
6. About 20-30 new presentations are reviewed/evaluated each year by the Planetarium.
7. Opportunities to view the night sky are available as well.
8. Presentations are chosen based on grade level appropriateness.
9. Additional information about PASC and reservations can be found on their website at www.TCOE.org/Planetarium.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

FINDINGS:

- F1. The programs at the PASC are free for students in Tulare County.
- F2. Students from other counties may take advantage of this learning opportunity for a fee of \$3.00 per student.
- F3. PASC is open to the public at specified times and dates by reservations.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. Continue to provide an educational experience for both the schools and the public.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

- 1. Tulare County Office of Education Findings F1-F3 Recommendations R1



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CASE GOES COLD?

BACKGROUND:

The Tulare County Sheriff's Office had the responsibility of law enforcement until 1864 when Visalia was incorporated, and a town marshal was elected. Until 1923, the marshals provided law enforcement. At that time the city manager form of government was established, including a Police Department. The first Chief of Police was Chief Court Smith. The Visalia Police Department (VPD) was established to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect, and arrest violators of the laws, protect life and property and enforce the criminal laws of the State of California, and ordinances of the City of Visalia.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury decided to review and investigate the progress of unsolved homicides in the City of Visalia and to educate the public on the status of those homicides. These cases are commonly referred to as "Cold Cases".

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Reviewed documents
2. Presentation by the VPD

FACTS:

1. A cold case is defined as an unsolved criminal investigation (as a homicide or abduction) that has stopped being actively pursued because of lack of evidence (Merriam-Webster)
2. The VPD keeps records of unsolved homicide cases.
3. The VPD coordinates with the California Department of Justice, Fresno Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on DNA analysis to help solve Cold Cases.
4. The VPD homicide investigations are assigned to the Homicide Division.
5. A homicide is declared a Cold Case when no new evidence has been discovered, and there is insufficient evidence for a conviction.
6. At the start of 2020, the VPD had 107 Cold Cases, the oldest dating back to 1955.



TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

FINDINGS:

- F1. The VPD does not have a separate Cold Case unit.
- F2. The VPD was able in 2020 to review their Cold Case files, and create a synopsis for each case, due to a reduction in active homicides caused by COVID-19 restrictions.
- F3. The VPD was able to reduce their Cold Case files to 67 by solving some and retiring others due to incapacitation or death of suspects and/or witnesses.
- F4. Since 2005, VPD has been using DNA processing of evidence collected when the Cold Case crimes were committed.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. Continue with your commitment to solving Cold Cases.

REQUIRED RESPONSE:

- 1. Visalia Police Department Findings F1-F4 Recommendation R1



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

MENTAL HEALTH – DO YOU NEED HELP?

BACKGROUND:

Mental health services and referrals in Tulare County are provided by The Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA) Mental Health Branch. They provide outpatient to long-term care services for residents who are experiencing symptoms of mental illness through County-operated and community-based clinics.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

To inform the residents of Tulare County of available mental health services.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Presentation by Mental Health Services
2. Reviewed relevant documents and data
3. Conducted internet search

FACTS:

1. As of December 2021, Tulare County Mental Health Services (TCMHS) has 238 employees.
2. TCMHS acts as both a referral source and service provider.
3. TCMHS works with numerous local agencies inside and outside of Tulare County.
4. Adult and youth mental health services for the treatment of mental disorders in children, adolescents, adults and seniors include:
 - a. Mental health assessments
 - b. Consumer-driven treatment plan
 - c. Case management for access to medical, social, educational and community services
 - d. Rehab services
 - e. Psychiatric and related medication services



TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

- f. Individual and group therapy
 - g. Crisis intervention
 - h. Therapeutic Behavior Services – 21 years and under
 - i. Assertive Community Therapy
- 5. A Psychiatric Emergency Team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for assistance in the event of a crisis.
 - 6. Mental health services are available through California Forensic Medical Group for those incarcerated in Tulare County jail facilities.
 - 7. Treatment teams may include licensed social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, case managers, psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric technicians, licensed nurses and peer support specialists.
 - 8. TCMHS has numerous vacant positions that need to be filled to be fully staffed.
 - 9. You qualify for mental health services if you receive Medi-Cal benefits and meet the criteria set by the Tulare County Mental Health plan and the State of California.
 - 10. You may also qualify if you are uninsured and not currently receiving Medi-Cal benefits.
 - 11. Eight clinics in Tulare County are available to those in need.
 - 12. Crisis and suicide prevention hotlines are open 24/7 to the public.
 - 13. Phone lines are available to report rape, child abuse and those needing a women's shelter.
 - 14. Dialing 2-1-1 connects teens and the LGBT community to resources and services.

FINDINGS:

- F1. TCHMS provides necessary and valuable services to the community.
- F2. TCHMC could reach more consumers and better the community if it filled vacant positions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. HHSA should fill available vacancies.
- R2. Continue to monitor programs and provide services to the community.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Health Human Services Agency Findings F1 and F2, Recommendations R1 and R2



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

PARKS: RELAX AND ENJOY



BACKGROUND:

Tulare County Parks & Recreation (TCPR) is a division of the Tulare County General Services Agency (GSA) responsible for the operations, maintenance and recreational activities at all County Parks.

On August 24, 2021, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (TCBOS) voted to approve the County of Tulare American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Interim Recovery Plan for an initial usage of \$90,552,914 of the ARPA funds received to support the County in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) chose to look at the conditions of parks located in Tulare County. Members of the Grand Jury explored the conditions of the parks. Bartlett and Cutler parks were randomly chosen for site visits.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Site Visits
2. Interviewed department personnel
3. Reviewed documents
4. Reviewed web sites

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

FACTS:

1. TCBOS approved more than \$8,000,000 in ARPA funding to make improvements to Tulare County Parks.
2. The Tulare County 5 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be implemented by GSA over the next 5 years.
3. Currently the TCPR has limited specifically assigned employees, including Bartlett and Cutler Parks.
4. Tulare County's 5 year CIP building needs for TCPR has earmarked over \$2 million for projects including repairing and replacing arbors, updating irrigation, water distribution and other projects.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The ARPA funding will assist in allowing the county to make major improvements to nearly every county park and will provide recreational opportunities.
- F2. Previous budget restraints over the past 10 years have hindered improvements and maintenance of all county parks.
- F3. County parks also have other employees and volunteers that are rotated within the other parks.
- F4. The TCBOS established the Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee to provide citizen input into matters concerning the park system, including funding, improvements and maintenance.
- F5. The TCCGJ found Bartlett and Cutler Parks were well maintained, with clean restrooms and arbors. There are available activities for both adults and youth, including playgrounds, Frisbee golf, baseball fields and fishing.
- F6. The county has created an on-line reservation system to reserve arbors and securely pay for reservations. <https://apm.activecommunities.com/tularecountyparks/Home>.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. GSA should continue to implement the CIP and grant funding on county parks for maintenance and improvements.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors Findings: F1, F2, F4, and F5

Recommendations: R1

2. Tulare County General Services Agency Findings: F3 and F5, Recommendation: R1



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

SURPLUS STORE: A PLUS

BACKGROUND:

The Tulare County Surplus Store (TCSS) is a department which falls under the jurisdiction of the Tulare County General Services Agency (TCGSA). The TCSS works in conjunction with the Tulare County Purchasing Department. The surplus store is located at 2637 W. Burrell Ave. in Visalia across from the TCGSA. The TCSS is tasked with selling and disposing of used Tulare County assets which include numerous office supplies, furniture, equipment and motor vehicles. The TCSS through their efforts have continued in reducing landfill concerns by recycling and repurposing

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury (TCCGJ) opened an investigation to educate the public about the TCSS and how it serves the County.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Site visit
2. Reviewed website
3. TCGSA presentation
4. Reviewed information and materials.

FACTS:

1. TCSS is one of the 10 divisions of TCGSA.
2. The store is open to the public Fridays from 8am to 1pm.
3. In addition to Friday, the store is open to Tulare County agencies on Monday thru Thursday by appointment.
4. TCSS currently has two full time employees.
5. TCSS sells furniture, books, clothing, computers, keyboards and other electronic devices, along with a wide variety of other items at reduced prices to the public. The website location is www.facebook.com/TulareCountySurplusStore.



TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

6. The store acquires items from other departments and agencies within the County.
7. Vehicles and other equipment are sold online by auction. Paperwork is included which details maintenance performed on the vehicles or equipment.
8. TCSS performs other services and functions other than selling excess assets and properties.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Each year the efforts of the store benefits the landfills.
- F2. Recently the TCSS distributed sandbags to various locations in the County in preparation for possible flooding.
- F3. TCSS stores medical masks and other items needed for the County's pandemic response.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. Continue to promote the County's green initiative by reducing the impact on the county landfills by recycling and repurposing.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Tulare County General Services Agency Findings: F1-F3 Recommendation: R1



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

ALTA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

BACKGROUND:



In 1945, the California Legislature passed the Local Hospital District Law which authorized hospital special districts. Most of the current health care districts were established in the first two decades thereafter. They were created to build and operate hospitals and other health care facilities and services in underserved areas. Each district is governed by a locally elected five-member board of directors. In 1994, they were renamed as “health care districts.” In Tulare County there are currently eight health care districts.

The Alta Healthcare District (AHD) is one of three hospital special districts in Tulare County receiving taxpayer funds from residents, which does not operate a hospital. The AHD was formed

on October 1, 1946 as the Alta Local Hospital District to provide services to residents of rural communities. The area served included Dinuba, Sultana, Cutler-Orosi and New London from 1946-2002. In 2002, the district ceased hospital operations and filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 9. In October of 2015 the district completed the Chapter 9 proceedings and repaid all debts under the bankruptcy. Subsequent to the chapter 9, the district reopened as the AHD and continues to serve the area to this day.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury opened an investigation to review and determine how funds are being used in AHD as the district no longer operates a hospital facility.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Conducted interviews
2. Reviewed website of AHD
3. Conducted internet research
4. Reviewed documents

FACTS:

1. The AHD board is divided into 5 districts with each district electing their own representative.
2. The district operates no health facilities.
3. With the exception of administrative costs, all funds expended are through grants.
4. Grants may be submitted on the website or by a presentation to the board.
5. Local government and non-profits are encouraged to apply for funds.
6. In the fiscal year July 2020 to June 2021 revenue for the district was \$607,782.
7. In fiscal year July 2020 to June 2021 the districts expenditures were \$375,664.
8. The website address for AHD is <https://www.altahcd.com>.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The members of the board have been determined to be employees of the district.
- F2. AHD has no immediate plans to reopen a hospital within the district.
- F3. Grants are reviewed by the board for consideration and approval.
- F4. All grants are distributed within the local district.
- F5. Revenue in excess of expenditures for the year are distributed to various funds for future needs.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. The district should encourage more entities to apply for grants.

REQUIRED RESPONSE:

1. Alta Healthcare District Board of Directors Findings: F1-F5 Recommendation: R1



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).



**MORE THAN JUST
BOOKS: TULARE
COUNTY LIBRARY**



BACKGROUND:

The Tulare County Library was established in 1910 by the Board of Supervisors. It provides library services to all citizens through 17 branch libraries, 5 book vending machines, and an online presence. The library is a member of the San Joaquin Valley Library System, a cooperative network of ten public library jurisdictions in California's Central Valley.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury opened an investigation into the educational programs and the services provide by the Tulare County Library.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviewed employee
2. Reviewed documentation
3. Site visits

FACTS:

1. The Tulare County Library has identified goals of enriching the lives of citizens by providing a variety of interesting collections of books, self-educational and research materials, maps, cultural enrichment, and an extensive variety of programs for the community.
2. In August of 1961 space was added to the Visalia library in order to add a Children's Reading Room.
3. Programs available to enrich children include:
 - "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" is a program geared to provide direction and assistance for parents who wish to prepare their child for school and encourage a love for books

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

- “Every Child Ready To Read” is a program developed with a goal of teaching 5 critical skills for learning to read
 - “Learn, Play, Create” is a grant program for teens geared to provide them with an opportunity to develop social, emotional, and creative skills through an intern/mentor setting
 - Story times, summer reading programs and summer meals programs
4. The library provides use of an upgraded computer system with Wi-Fi.
 5. There is a wide variety of learning opportunities available including how to fill out a resume, use of the internet and test taking skills with feedback from practice exams. Adult literacy services assist in reading, writing and life skills.
 6. The library has received grants to purchase a bookmobile and books, replace book vending machines and update technology in the system.
 7. The Literacy Center offers scholarships that are partially funded through a California Library Grant.
 8. Study space, technology assistance and tutoring are available in preparing students for success.
 9. The library has 42 full time and 10 extra help employees.
 10. The library has a book museum which is kept in a temperature controlled vault.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The libraries have been following Covid restrictions as mandated while continuing to provide safe and optimal services. Pickup services were available when libraries were actually closed for indoor use.
- F2. The libraries were able to retain their full staff during the pandemic by using staff as wisely as possible to serve their much-needed place in the community.
- F3. Children’s story time and book reading competitions remain popular learning experiences for young children and youth.
- F4. Even with the Covid restrictions the library continues to serve the needs of Tulare County residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Continue to apply for grants to meet future demands for updating services and technologies.
- R2. Continue to develop outreach programs to meet the changing needs of the community.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Tulare County Public Librarian Findings F1-F4 Recommendations R1-R2



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).



BOB WILEY DETENTION FACILITY



BACKGROUND:

Tulare County became a county on July 10, 1852. The following year Visalia was named the county seat of Tulare County.

During 1854, the Tulare County Supervisors recognized the need for a jail. Until the Jail was built the more dangerous criminals were chained to a large oak tree. The supervisors approved the building of a jail and courthouse. The construction of the jail and courthouse were completed by 1876 with the jail on the first floor and the courthouse on the second floor. Two of the more notable prisoners were two members of the Dalton Gang who later escaped in September of 1891. There is a historical marker at the site of the first jail and courthouse on the corner of N. Church St. and E. Oak Avenue.

The Tulare County Main Jail and courthouse was built at 2404 W. Burrel, Visalia, California in 1962. The Jail was staffed by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Visalia City Police and the State Police. The Jail facility has been closed and is scheduled for demolition.

Inmates are now housed at the Bob Wiley Detention Facility, which was completed in 1992. The facility is located at 36712 Road 112 in Visalia. The facility can house 898 inmates and is operated by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office. Staff includes administrators, correctional officers, clerks, dispatchers and other personnel.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury is mandated by law to inquire into the conditions and management of public jails and detention facilities within the county.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Site Visit
2. Interviews
3. Reviewed documents

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

FACTS:

1. At the present time, each visitor must take a Covid-19 test in the lobby upon entering the facility, and masks are required.
2. Observation centers are located on the second floor with unobstructed views of inmate activities. Correctional Officers also use personal visual inspections through cell door windows.
3. The housing units consist of four main units, each main unit has 2-3 smaller modular units. The women's section has two person cells, two handicap cells on one side of the pod and a four bunk bed configuration on the other side.
4. Correctional Officers use an intercom system to each cell to communicate with inmates.
5. There are secure outside exercise areas for inmates.
6. Kitchen staff includes inmates who are trained for skills useful for employment after their release.
7. The kitchen supplies all meals for all Tulare County Detention Facilities. All inmates receive three meals per day, two cold meals (breakfast and lunch), and one hot meal for dinner.
8. The three provided inmate meals are at an average cost of \$1.72 per meal and \$1,883.40 per year per inmate.
9. On-site medical personnel are available for inmates that need medical attention.
10. Annual Medical cost to house an inmate is approximately \$22,000.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Bob Wiley Detention Facility appears clean and well run with safety features for the inmates and staff.
- F2. The Facility has a newly installed ICS Solutions phone system that supports communications with inmates via phone or video.
- F3. Inmates can use pre-paid phone cards to place calls to family or use ICS Solutions supplied video tablets to video conference with family and/or legal representatives.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. Continue to safely and securely house county inmates.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Tulare County Sheriff's Office: Findings: F1-F3 Recommendation: R1



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

LINDSAY LOCAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT



BACKGROUND:

In 1945, the California Legislature passed the Local Hospital District Law which authorized the formation of local hospital districts. Most of the current health care districts were established in the first two decades thereafter. They were created to build and operate hospitals and other health care facilities and services in underserved

areas. Each district is governed by a locally elected five-member board of directors. In 1994, they were renamed as “health care districts.” In Tulare County there are currently eight health care districts.

The Lindsay hospital started as rooms in a doctor’s office on Elmwood Avenue in the early 1920’s. It evolved into the building of hospital facilities serving Lindsay and the surrounding communities from the early 1940’s until the 1990’s. The Lindsay Local Hospital District (LLHD) was formed in 1958 to cover the city of Lindsay and its surrounding communities. The LLHD closed the hospital in 1990, no new operating entity could be found to take over the operations. The hospital property then reverted to the City of Lindsay.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury opened an investigation to review and determine how the LLHD is using their taxpayer funds since the district hasn’t operated a hospital since 1990.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Conducted interviews
2. Reviewed website of LLHD
3. Conducted internet research
4. Reviewed documents and data

FACTS:

1. There are five elected members of the Board of Directors.
2. LLHD Board of Directors are elected to serve four year staggered terms.
3. LLHD receives income from district property taxes and rental properties.
4. For the period July 2021 to January 2022 \$469,665 was received in property taxes and \$88,106 in rental income.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

5. For the period of July 2021 to January 2022 the district had \$415,290 in expenses.
6. As of January 31, 2022 the district has \$2,534,042 cash in bank.
7. Funds are expended through grant/funding requests.
8. All requests for grant/funding are to be done in writing followed by a presentation to the Board of Directors.
9. LLHD desires to connect with health care agencies, providers, service agencies and wellness providers to provide services for residents in the district through grants or funding.
10. LLHD provides funding to:
 - a. The City of Lindsay to operate the Wellness Center
 - b. McDermont Ventures
 - c. Lindsay Unified School District program for healthy kids
11. The web address for LLHD is <https://lindsayhospitaldistrict.org>.

FINDINGS:

- F1. LLHD focuses on providing funding assistance to health care services in the City of Lindsay.
- F2. LLHD looks to assist Lindsay Unified School District to provide additional health care professionals to its students that may not otherwise be possible.
- F3. LLHD rents properties to various health care providers including Kaweah Health Care.
- F4. LLHD does not provide direct health care.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The district should continue to solicit requests for grants/funding.
- R2. The district should look for additional health related projects to fund.

REQUIRED RESPONSE:

1. Lindsay Local Hospital District Board of Directors

Findings: F1–F4 Recommendations: R1-R2

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

VAPING, JUST A SMOKESCREEN?

BACKGROUND:

Vaping is defined as the action or practice of inhaling and exhaling vapor containing nicotine and flavoring produced by a device designed for this purpose.

Although vaping in its current form is relatively new, the idea of vaping can be traced back to ancient civilizations. Egyptians and residents of the Middle East and India used hot coals and hookahs to produce the vapors. In 2007 Pax Lab was formed and began to develop the types of vaping devices we see today. In 2016 they developed a pod system by marketing prefilled pods for legal medical and adult use purposes.

E-cigarettes were invented by a Chinese pharmacist as an alternative to smoking. Today's e-cigarettes contain nicotine as do regular cigarettes. The e-cigarette is a battery operated device which delivers nicotine with a puff of hot air, minus the smoke.

Vaping was designed to be addictive and is gaining in popularity. Vaping devices are made in many shapes and forms, and are designed to look like other objects, like jump drives and asthmatic inhalers, in order to avoid detection.

The youth of Tulare County have been inundated with marketing techniques and flavored additives to be enticed into vaping. The CDC would like to seriously curb the use of these devices. There is concern that young people may take up vaping as a less harmful alternative to smoking cigarettes. One vaping pod manufactured by JUUL contains the nicotine equivalent of 20 cigarettes.

Due to its infancy, the actual long term effects of vaping are unknown. The health related issues are being compared similarly to those of cigarette and other tobacco use.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury opened an investigation into vaping and how the Tulare County schools are dealing with vaping issues and what educational programs are available to students.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Received presentation on vaping in schools
2. Interviewed witnesses
3. Reviewed documents



TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

4. Internet research

FACTS:

1. Vaping health risks include:
 - a. Wet lung (pneumonitis) causing respiratory failure
 - b. Popcorn lung (bronchiolitis) damages to airways causing shortness of breath
 - c. Brain development: Can stunt the growth of the frontal lobe and rewire teen's brains toward chemical addiction
 - d. 2nd to 3rd degree burns: Vape devices can heat up to 480 degrees with over 1500 e-cigarette devices exploding since 2015
2. As of January 13, 2020, the CDC has reported 59 deaths nationwide linked to vaping.
3. A survey was taken in Tulare County at the beginning of the 2021 school year with 3,500 students in grades 6 to 12.
 - a. 3.2% reported current usage of e-cigarettes
 - b. 12.8% reported witnessing their peers using e-cigarettes at school
 - c. 85.7% think vaping is very dangerous to their health
 - d. 17.8% responded vaping was ok
 - e. 2.8% responded vaping was not bad at all
4. Youth vaping is trending upwards. According to Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) study youth who use e-cigarettes are 3 times more likely to become daily smokers.
5. TCOE's Choices Prevention Program provides Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE):
 - a. To over 40,000 students in 50 schools and districts across the county
 - b. Conducts in-class presentations to students in grades 6-12
 - c. Publishes a weekly newsletter
 - d. Holds several special events designed to increase students' knowledge of the dangers of tobacco and marijuana use

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

6. The TUPE is partnering with local law enforcement agencies to ensure local tobacco retailers comply with state sales and advertising laws as applied to minors.
7. The TUPE program has been providing services for over two decades.
8. The TUPE program is funded by a three year \$2.1 million grant from the California Department of Education.
9. California law now defines vaping and vaping products as tobacco.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Why students are vaping:
 - a. Peer pressure
 - b. Flavors
 - c. Easy to acquire
 - d. Easy to hide in plain sight
- F2. The long term effects of vaping use are still unknown.
- F3. Although the long term impact of the TUPE program has yet to be determined, the information they are providing is addressing a growing problem in Tulare County schools.
- F4. The current grant for the TUPE program expires at the end of 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Continue to provide educational opportunities for students and educators in Tulare County.
- R2. Continue to research and apply for available grants.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

Tulare County Office of Education Findings F1-F4 Recommendations R1-R2

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

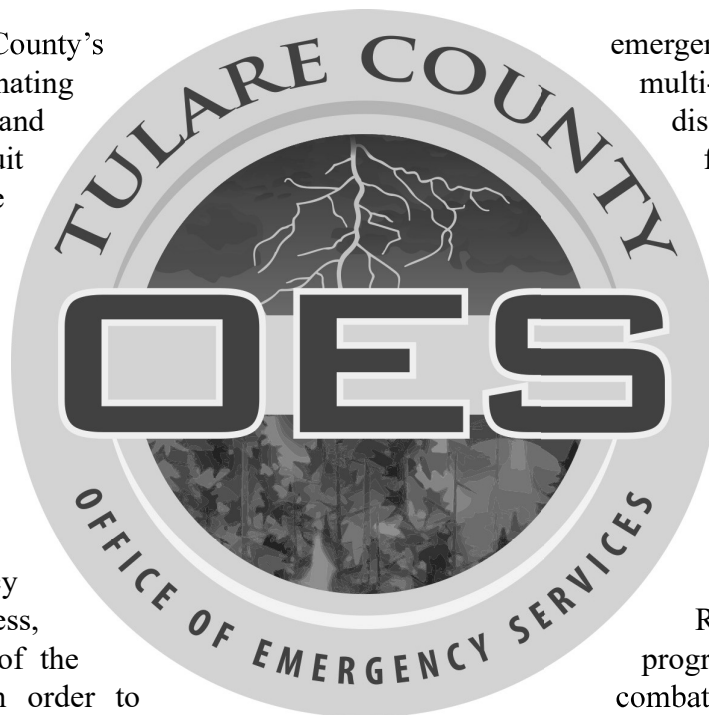
WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL: TCOES

BACKGROUND:

The Tulare County Office of Emergency Services (TCOES) is defined in Tulare County Ordinance, Section 1, Chapter 15 – Civil Defense and Disaster. This chapter identifies roles, responsibilities, lines of succession and emergency powers of County staff. It assigns the Office of Emergency Services the responsibility to create and maintain emergency plans and manage the day-to-day functions of the emergency services program. This chapter also creates the Emergency Council, comprised of the Director and Coordinator of Emergency Services and one representative appointed by each incorporated city, charged with overseeing the implementation of plans and preparedness measures by each jurisdiction.

The TCOES is the County's responsible for coordinating large-scale emergencies and The TCOES is the conduit coordination between the local governments of the as defined in California's Management System. The management aims to and systems to build the efforts of government, organizations in all phases

The TCOES activities can four phases of the emergency Mitigation, Preparedness, The day-to-day activities of the and Mitigation phases, in order to minimize community impacts during the Response and Recovery phases.



emergency management agency multi-agency responses to complex, disasters within Tulare County. for information and resource State of California and the Tulare Operational Area, Standardized Emergency discipline of emergency create partnerships, plans capabilities and coordinate industry and voluntary of an emergency.

be categorized under the management cycle: Response, and Recovery. program center on Preparedness combat potential hazards and

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury opened an investigation to review the procedures when responding to emergencies.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. TCOES Presentation
2. Reviewed documents and website

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

FACTS:

1. The TCOES is an emergency management agency.
2. TCOES staff integrates government and voluntary agencies into a unified disaster response network.
3. The four phases of emergency operations are:
 - a. Mitigation: Takes actions to reduce or eliminate long term risks to people and property from hazards
 - b. Preparedness: 90% of preparedness are relationships with states, cities, districts, tribes and Red Cross Agencies. This includes emergency food storage of freeze dried meals, water storage tanks, fuel and power, maps and shelters. They develop emergency and safety training per Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards
 - c. Response: TCOES administers the Alert Tulare County system (mass notification system) by phones, emails or texts for advance warning of impending disaster. TCOES gives support to all agencies in the field
 - d. Recovery: Restoration of the community and environment to pre-disaster or a “new normal” state
4. State and Federal assistance is given for infrastructure restoration, schools, roads and grocery stores.
5. Federal assistance is given to individuals for housing and finance support for those in need.
6. TCOES has allocated 4 full-time positions.
7. Recent Incidents of TCOES involvement includes the following:
 - a. 2021 KNP Complex/Windy Fire
 - b. 2020 SQF Complex
 - c. 2020-present COVID 19
 - d. 2017 Pier Fire
 - e. 2017 Kings River Flood
 - f. 2014-2018 Drought

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

FINDINGS:

- F1. In our local area TCOES has been an integral agency for helping with recent wildland fires, freezing of crops and drought.
- F2. TCOES currently has 3 full-time employees.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Fill all allocated positions.
- R2. Continue the excellent coordination to local area disasters and emergencies.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | County Administrative Office | Finding F2 Recommendation R1 |
| 2. | Health and Human Services Director | Findings F1, F2 Recommendations R1, R2 |



Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

Synopsis

An inquiry generally begins with a Citizen's Complaint submitted to the Grand Jury or with a Grand Jury Initiated Investigation. If it is determined by a committee that the Citizen's Complaint or Jury Initiated Investigation warrants a more in-depth investigation the committee will schedule interviews, visits, and data reviews. After the committee completes its investigation, it will determine if the issue raised warrants a final report.

In 2021-2022, the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury had 15 Citizen's Complaints and 11 Jury Initiated Investigations.

Eleven (11) final reports were published.

Fifteen (15) issues were closed without a written report.

1. Eleven were determined that no further action was warranted.
2. Two in which the Grand Jury did not have jurisdiction over matters which may be pending in court.
3. One was pending legal action.
4. One complainant failed to appear.



TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

Tulare County Civil Grand Jury CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM

The Civil Grand Jury of Tulare County, in an attempt to carry out its duties, encourages Tulare County residents to report concerns relating to local and county government and the conduct of public officials. Please note: Tulare County Civil Grand Jury has no jurisdiction over State or Federal Agencies, Courts, Judicial Officers or private companies and organizations.

We recognize that many citizens are reluctant to put details of their concerns in writing. Please bear in mind that your name will never be used by the Civil Grand Jury. All Civil Grand Jury members are bound by an oath of secrecy. Civil Grand Jury documents, including this form, are never available to anyone outside the Civil Grand Jury and cannot be subpoenaed.

For an investigation to be initiated, the Civil Grand Jury must consider the validity of each request. Therefore, please include any pertinent correspondence, documents, dates, names and facts. If necessary, you may be asked to participate in an absolutely confidential interview with members of the Civil Grand Jury.

Name	
Address	
Telephone Number	
Email	

Give a brief summary of the problem (i.e., agency involved, person(s) to be questioned, dates, etc.). If necessary, attach additional pages. All documents submitted become the property of the Civil Grand Jury and will not be returned.

--

Your signature: _____

Date: _____

Return this form to:
Tulare County Civil Grand Jury
5963 S Mooney Blvd,
Visalia, CA 93277
559-624-7295 Fax 559-733-6078 • Grnd_jury@tularecounty.ca.gov

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY APPLICATION/QUESTIONNAIRE 2023-2024

2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY

This jury service differs from jury duty as a trial juror. Your participation is voluntary and it is considered to be a privilege to be chosen to serve on the Civil Grand Jury.

The Civil Grand Jury is composed of 19 active panel members who meet, form committees, investigate and report on the operations, accounts and records of the officers, departments and functions of the county. Service on the panel is from July 1st through June 30th and requires approximately 10-12 hours per week during the fiscal year.

Please complete the application/questionnaire and return it to Room 303, Visalia Courthouse. This questionnaire will assist the Judges of the Superior Court in compiling a list of nominees, which fairly represents a cross-section of our community. Your personal information is confidential and will only be used by the Judges of the Superior Court to assure that the group nominated represents various age groups, economic and social backgrounds. Your application will still be considered even though you may leave some of the questions unanswered.

If there is anything you would like us to know feel free to attach additional information, if necessary.

Your prompt attention to the completion and return of the questionnaire will be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please call: (559) 730-5000 ext. 1359

Fax application to: (559) 737-4290

Email application to: administration@tulare.courts.ca.gov

Court's website is: www.tularesuperiorcourt.ca.gov

DUTIES OF THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

Civil Grand Jurors serve a one (1) year term from July 1st through June 30th. The jury panel consists of nineteen (19) persons who are assigned to various committees plus three (3) alternates. It is understood that Civil Grand Jurors may be absent for reasonable periods for vacations. During your term as a Civil Grand Juror you would be excused from trial jury service in the State Courts.

The Civil Grand Jury is a time-honored component of our Anglo-American legal system. Civil Grand Jurors are selected citizens of the county who are expected to exercise sound judgment in reviewing and commenting upon the actions of governmental agencies

Essentially, the Civil Grand Jury operates as an investigative agency performing a two-fold function. First, the Civil Grand Jury has powers and duties with respect to the oversight of public offices, officers, and transactions. Designated State and all County and special District agencies that serve Tulare County are routinely reviewed and critiqued by the Civil Grand Jury in its annual and interim reports. Secondly, the Civil Grand Jury has powers and duties with respect to inquiry into possible public offenses, misconduct in office by public officers and determining whether to return indictments charging the commission of felonies.

The Tulare County Civil Grand Jury selection process will be conducted May - June annually. The process involves completing this questionnaire and being interviewed by the designee of the Presiding Judge of the Tulare County Superior Courts. After selection, the designee of the Presiding Judge will further instruct jurors of their duties. Throughout its term, the Civil Grand Jury may request advice on legal matters from the District Attorney and County Counsel.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

2023-2024

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY APPLICATION/QUESTIONNAIRE

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 893, the following questions must be answered:

STATUTORY QUALIFICATIONS: (Place a check in the appropriate box)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Are you a citizen of the United States? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Are you eighteen years of age or older? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Have been a resident of Tulare County for at least one year prior to the date of this application? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Are you in possession of your natural faculties? Are you of ordinary intelligence and of sound judgment and fair character? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Do you possess a sufficient knowledge of the English language? |

STATUTORY DISQUALIFICATIONS: (Place a check in the appropriate box):

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Are you serving as a trial juror in any court of this State? If Yes, County _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Have you been discharged as a grand juror in any court of this State within one year prior to the date of this application? If Yes, County _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Have you ever been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Are you currently serving as an elected public official? |

_____ (initial here) I am interested in serving on the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury for the fiscal year **2023-2024** and I understand the time commitment required.

If you answered **NO** to any **STATUTORY QUALIFICATIONS** or you answered **YES** to any **STATUTORY DISQUALIFICATIONS**, you do not qualify. There is no need to continue or to return the questionnaire.

IF QUALIFIED, please continue and complete the questionnaire, returning it to Court Administration – Rm 303

CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT, Rule 10.625, regarding certain demographic data relating to regular grand jurors.
{Please check the appropriate box to the following}

- (A) Age range, please check the appropriate box: ☐ 18-25 ☐ 26-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74
☐ 75 and over (B) Gender: ☐ Male ☐

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

Female

(C) Please indicate your ethnic origin by **circling one** of the following (may select more than one):

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Decline to Answer

Place of Residence by Supervisorial District: ☐ District 1 ☐ District 2 ☐ District 3 ☐ District 4 ☐ District 5

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS TO ASSIST THE JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN COMPLETING A LIST OF NOMINEES WHICH FAIRLY REPRESENTS A CROSS-SECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY. SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT MAY SEEM PERSONAL ARE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE JUDGES THAT THE GROUP THEY NOMINATE, FROM WHICH THE FINAL NAMES WILL BE DRAWN, REPRESENTS VARIOUS AGE GROUPS, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

1. Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

2. Address (Phys.): _____ City: _____ Zip +4: _____

Address (Mail): _____ City: _____ Zip +4: _____

Residence Phone: () _____ Business Phone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____ Fax Number: () _____

Email Address: _____

3. Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

If retired, previous occupation _____

4. Can you afford the time required to be a Civil Grand Juror (approximately 10-12 hours per week)? _____

If not, briefly state why not: _____

5. Do you have any physical or mental condition which would interfere with your ability to function as a Civil Grand

Juror? _____ If yes, explain briefly _____

What accommodations would the Court need to provide to accommodate your physical or mental impairment?

6. Education (Circle highest grade completed):

6 (or less) 7 8 9 10 11 12 College: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Name of schools attended and degrees or certification attained: _____

7. Clubs or organizations: List any civic, service organizations or any volunteer work to which you belong.

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

8. Spouse / Domestic Partner Name: _____

Occupation: _____

If retired, list previous occupation you retired from _____

Employer: _____

9. Are you or any immediate family member an appointed or elected public officer of any public agency? _____

If yes, explain: _____

10. Are you currently involved in any litigation (law suits) in this county? _____

11. Are you or any of your immediate family members employed by the County of Tulare or any school district within the county? _____

If yes, where? _____

12. Do you have any significant problems reading or understanding the English Language? _____

13. Do you have any suggestions, comments or other matters you would like to bring to the judges attention in connection with your application? _____

14. Please tell us about any special skills or abilities that you have which the judges should know about in considering your application? _____

15. Please tell us why you are interested in serving on the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury. (Please attach additional pages as needed)

16. Describe any background experience or skills you have which would be helpful to grand jury service (i.e., computer skills, leadership skills, or experience writing/editing reports, working in groups, or conducting investigations or interviews.)

TULARE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT 2021-2022

Mail to: **Attention: Civil Grand Jury**
 Tulare County Superior Court
 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 303
 Visalia, CA 93291

Or Fax to: (559) 737-4290

Or email to: administration@tulare.courts.ca.gov

NOTE: Applicants for nomination as a member of the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury are subject to investigation by an appropriate law enforcement agency as to the statutory qualifications for service and the applicant's ability and suitability for service.

In support of my application for selection as a member of the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



*Tulare County Civil Grand Jury
Government Plaza
5963 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, California 93277
Phone: (559) 624-7295
Fax: (559) 733-6078
Email: grnd-jury@tularecounty.ca.gov
Website: tularecounty.ca.gov/grandjury*