

Civil Grand Jury

El Dorado County

P.O. Box 1003

Placerville, CA 95667



June 30, 2024

Honorable Lauren C. Bowers, Presiding Judge
California Superior Court, County of El Dorado

Judge Bowers,

The 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Final Report is the product of a dedicated panel of El Dorado County citizens. Each juror shares responsibility for the investigations, deliberations and ultimately, the Final Report. It is my privilege to present it to you.

The 2023-2024 Grand Jury was comprised of entirely new Grand Jurors this year, except for one holdover from prior years. With limited experience coming in and some initial turnover, the ultimate group turned out to be incredibly skilled and dedicated to the Grand Jury efforts. As a result, we had a productive year that resulted in the impactful reports you will find in this Final Report.

It was my pleasure mid-year to step up to the Foreperson position upon the departure of the prior Foreperson. We would not have been successful without the amazing level of camaraderie, collegiality, and dedication that all the jurors exhibited throughout the year. Although many of us were surprised by the level of effort that a full Grand Jury term could entail, it appears that every person found the experience tremendously educational and rewarding. Speaking on behalf of my colleagues on this jury, each one of us is a better person for having served the County this past year.

We wanted the tone of our reports to not only affect change, but to enhance the public's awareness of County operations. As representatives of the public and a watchdog organization, we can only be effective with follow-on public involvement and awareness. We hope the level of detail presented in these individual reports and the resulting style stimulated public interest in County issues to that end.

I would like to thank Assistant County Counsel Janeth D. SanPedro for her tireless support throughout the year as the Grand Jury's legal advisor. Also, a similar thanks for the support from Assistant District Attorney James A. Clinchard whose efforts were invaluable to some of our investigations and the quality of the resulting reports. We cannot say enough about the support we have received from the Office of the CAO throughout the year, particularly Assistant CAO Sue Hennike whose timely access to information and historical context seemingly knew no bounds. I would also like to thank the support from the Superior Court staff this year, including Court Executive Officer Shelby Wineinger and Operations Supervisor Amanda Sooth. We would be remiss in not thanking the excellent technical support from the County IT organization under Tonya DiGiorno. From what I have seen in other rural counties, the resources provided to the Civil Grand Jury in El Dorado County has allowed us to be, we believe, one of the most productive and impactful Grand Juries in the state.

Again, it has been my sincere pleasure to lead the Grand Jury this term and to serve with this dedicated and inspirational group of fellow jurors!

Sincerely,

Gary Kinghorn
Foreperson, 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury