CLEARLAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, CA 95422 **Timothy Hobbs** | Chief of Police

November 19, 2026

Honorable Michael S. Lunas
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Lake
675 Lakeport Blvd.
Lakeport, CA 95453

SUBJECT: Response to 2025-2026 Grand Jury Final Report Entitled: "Dog Bites: A Serious, Underreported Problem"

Dear Judge Lunas:

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(a), (b), and (c), the following is my response as Chief of Police of the Clearlake Police Department to the recommendation in the above-entitled Grand Jury Report:

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-1 Has been implemented.

Establish a centralized, collaborative system for recording dog bites throughout Lake County, including the cities of Clearlake and Lakeport, preferably managed by Lake County Animal Care and Control.

The Clearlake Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury's recommendation regarding the importance of centralized reporting of dog bite incidents. California law already requires animal bites involving species susceptible to rabies to be reported to the local health officer pursuant to Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Section 2606(a).

Consistent with this requirement, the Clearlake Police Department forwards all dog bite reports it receives to Lake County Public Health, as well as the Clearlake Animal Association, the City's contracted animal services provider.

As a result, an established process already exists for reporting dog bite incidents to a central county agency. However, the Clearlake Police Department is not responsible for maintaining these records once they are submitted to Lake County Public Health and cannot speak to how the information is subsequently compiled, maintained, or shared with other agencies.

Full implementation of a countywide centralized reporting system would require coordination among the responsible agencies, including Lake County Public Health, animal control agencies, and medical and veterinary providers, which are outside the Clearlake Police Department's administrative authority.

The Clearlake Police Department supports continued coordination among agencies to ensure accurate and timely reporting of dog bite incidents throughout Lake County.

I would like to thank the Grand Jury for their efforts in completing this report and their recommendations.

Best Regards,

TIMOTHY HOBBS
Chief of Police