



## CITY OF GRASS VALLEY

125 East Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Tim Kiser, City Manager

### Council Members

Hilary Hodge, Mayor  
Haven Caravelli, Vice Mayor  
Jan Arbuckle  
Tom Ivy  
Joe Bonomolo

August 12, 2025

The Honorable Scott Thomsen  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
County of Nevada  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Deborah Heller, Foreperson  
Nevada County Grand Jury  
950 Maidu Ave.  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**RE: Response to “Nevada County Grand Jury Final Report, 2024-2025” Released  
May 15, 2025**

Dear Judge Thomsen and Foreperson Heller:

The City of Grass Valley has carefully reviewed and considered the report prepared by the Grand Jury “A Long and Winding Road for the Homeless of Nevada County,” released May 15, 2025. On page 7 the Report requests the City’s response to Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 5, which can be found on page 6. Accordingly, the City provides the following responses pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05, subdivision (b):

#### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

*Local governments (cities, the county, and the BoS) should enact comprehensive and coordinated anti-camping laws; possibly consulting existing anti-camping laws in other counties and states.*

#### **Response:**

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

The City of Grass Valley already has ordinances in place that prohibit camping on public property, limits camping on private property, and regulate related behavior. These ordinances have been enforced consistently and were developed in alignment with best practices and legal standards. Grass Valley remains open to regional collaboration and periodic review of its policies to ensure continued compliance and effectiveness.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 2**

*Local governments should develop one or more designated low-barrier “sanctioned” camping areas for the homeless, with facilities and access to support services, similar to those established by other municipalities.*

#### **Response:**

**The recommendation requires further analysis.**

The City is not currently aware of any municipally owned property that is both suitable for this use and compatible with existing zoning regulations. The City is willing to explore the matter further in consultation with legal counsel, and in coordination with other Nevada County governmental agencies, County partners, and community stakeholders.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 3**

*Local governments should extend the duration of trespass letters obtained from private property*

*owners to one year or longer to enable law enforcement personnel to quickly remove encampments from private property.*

**Response:**

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

The City of Grass Valley has long worked with private property owners to obtain trespass letters that authorize law enforcement to address unauthorized encampments. These letters are valid for one year and have been part of the City's standard enforcement procedures to ensure timely response and compliance with property owner consent.

**RECOMMENDATION 5**

*Local governments should prioritize removing the homeless from the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).*

**Response:**

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

The City of Grass Valley actively collaborates with partnering agencies, including local fire districts and law enforcement, to identify and address encampments and illegal camping within the City's jurisdiction, including areas of the Wildland Urban Interface. This includes proactive outreach, risk assessment, and, where appropriate, removal of individuals and encampments via enforcement of the City's no-camping ordinance(s).

The City of Grass Valley welcomes and appreciates the Grand Jury's interest in the City's operations, as well as the opportunity to respond to the recommendations above.

Sincerely,

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Hilary Hodge, Mayor  
City of Grass Valley