

City Council

ENDORSED FILED

YUBA CITY

September 11, 2025

SEP 24 2025

David I Ashby, Presiding Judge
Sutter County Superior Court
1175 Civic Center Boulevard
Yuba City, CA 95993

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2025

RE: Response to 2024-2025 Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER

Honorable Judge Ashby,

This letter is the official consolidated response of the City of Yuba City (City) regarding the Grand Jury Report entitled, "Safer Streets – Safer Kids."

Grand Jury Recommendations:

R2: *The Sutter County Grand Jury recommends that the Yuba City Council instruct the Yuba City Police Chief to increase enforcement of traffic and off-street parking violations along Butte House Road and Villa Avenue, bordering Tierra Buena Elementary School to the north and east respectively, that occur during the school's drop-off and pick-up times. A warning may be first issued to parents of the school's students, but traffic and parking violation enforcement should begin by the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.*

City Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. The Yuba City Police Department communicates well with Yuba City Unified School District as well as independent schools to regularly target traffic related problems at all the schools (14 total, excluding preschools) in our jurisdiction. The Yuba City Police Department has two School Resource Officers assigned to the schools that also assist our Traffic and Patrol Units with this effort. The Police Department has a Student Driver Awareness Program that is run early in the school year, which targets student drivers near the High Schools. If a student is stopped and cited for a violation near the school, they have the option to attend an educational class in lieu of the citation going to the courts.

Since the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, efforts have been put towards Tierra Buena School and the issues surrounding it, as staff time allows with our limited resources. Villa Ave. to the north and Butte House Rd. on the north side of Tierra Buena School lie in the Sutter County Sheriff's Department jurisdiction. City Municipal Codes do not apply in these areas. California Vehicle Code sections violated in these areas, however, can be enforced.

R4: *The Sutter County Grand Jury recommends the Sutter County Board of Supervisors and Yuba City Council adhere to and update relevant local traffic codes to include standardized traffic signage for all schools, including upgrading low-visibility signs to solar-powered warning signs placed for oncoming traffic by January 1, 2026.*

City Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented as it is not warranted. The City does not create local traffic codes for standardized school signage or other locations. The City designs improvement projects based on the most current version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD). The CA MUTCD is the State's standard for traffic signs, road markings, and traffic signals. It is developed by California

City Council



Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and is based on the national MUTCD but tailored for California's specific needs.

Further, the City cannot commit to upgrading all standard school signs to solar-powered warning signs by January 1, 2026. The cost of materials is nearly \$3,000 per sign (not including design and installation) and the City does not currently have a Capital Improvement Project programmed to fund such improvements. The City can commit to continual pursuit of grants which would provide funding for safety improvements (as warranted) at area schools, and creating upgrades as funding becomes available. Further, the City has multiple grant-funded projects which will create safety improvements in 2025.

The City's "Citywide Sign Audit and Upgrade Project" utilized the City's Systemic Safety Analysis Report (SSAR) to acquire grant funding from the Highway Safety Improvements Program (HSIP) for improvements. This project audited all City-owned signs within City limits in 2024. Through the audit project it was determined that 2,000 signs in City limits are out of compliance with CA MUTCD. The project will replace the out-of-compliance signs. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-to-late 2025.

The City's "Pedestrian Safety Crosswalk Upgrades Project" also utilized the City's SSAR to apply for HSIP Funding for improvements. This project will install 1.59 miles of crosswalk striping, 2 miles of traffic striping, and upgrade 42 curb ramps to ADA compliance. Most of these improvements will be in school zones. School areas to receive improvements include April Lane Elementary, King Avenue Elementary, Gray Avenue Middle School, River Valley High School, Park Avenue Elementary, and Yuba City High School.

R5: *The Sutter County Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors and the Yuba City Council to direct the Sutter County Development Services and Yuba City Public Works respectively to update maintenance procedures for solar powered school traffic signs to include regular foliage trimming which blocks solar panels used for solar-powered signs by January 1, 2026.*

City Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The City has limited maintenance staff for sign and electrical maintenance. Additionally, some of the locations have foliage from private properties covering the subject panels.

As such, the City will provide maintenance and repairs on an as-needed basis, on signs within City right-of-way when staff are available to perform the work. In the case which foliage from private properties is blocking panels, staff will coordinate with the property owners to have foliage trimmed in a reasonable timeline

R7: The Sutter County Grand Jury recommends that the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, and the Yuba City Council direct the Sutter County Development Services and Yuba City Public Works Director respectively, to conduct and complete "Blue Zone" studies for Yuba City Unified and Sutter County Schools to improve community health surrounding those schools by 2027.

City Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Yuba City's Public Works Department has previously developed multiple plans which have goals of improving community safety, accessibility and promoting active transportation. These plans include: 2011 Bicycle Master Plan, 2012 ADA Transition Plan, 2020 Systemic Safety Analysis Report, 2020 Safe Routes to School Plan, and the 2023 Local Roadway Safety Plan. Further, the City is currently working with a consultant to develop an Active Transportation Plan, which will be a holistic plan that recommends safety and connectivity improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. All the aforementioned plans have been adopted by City Council and have been utilized by City staff to pursue eligible grant funds, construct safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, which ultimately would promote healthier and safer travel options for pedestrians, cyclists, and other modes of transportation within the City.

With respect to Blue Zones: In pursuit of the aforementioned grant funds, the City will typically request and receive support letters of Support from Blue Zones. The City has met with Blue Zones and will gladly collaborate with them on their future efforts to further improve health and safety in the City.


The City Council will also direct that a copy of this response be placed on file with the City Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Shaw (Sep 12, 2025 29:27:38 GMT-7)

Dave Shaw, Mayor
District 1



Marc Boomgaarden (Sep 12, 2025 10:12:19 PDT)

Marc Boomgaarden, Vice Mayor
District 2



Michael Pasquale, Councilmember
District 3



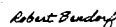
Wade Kirchner (Sep 11, 2025 11:05:42 PDT)

Wade Kirchner, Councilmember
District 4

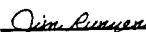


Toni Cole (Sep 12, 2025 09:46:28 PDT)

Toni Cole, Councilmember
District 5

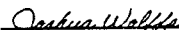


Robert Bendorf
Interim City Manager



Jim Runyen (Sep 12, 2025 07:21:25 PDT)

Jim Runyen
Chief of Police



Joshua Wolfe (Sep 11, 2025 7:04:41 PDT)

Josh Wolfe
Public Works Director