

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MARCH 2025 AS CIVIL GRAND JURY AWARENESS MONTH
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, every year in each of California's fifty-eight counties, nineteen (or 11 based on county size) ordinary citizens take an oath to voluntarily serve a term of one year as civil grand jurors; and

WHEREAS, grand juries have been in existence since the adoption of California's original Constitution in 1849-1850; and

WHEREAS, civil grand juries conduct their investigations under the auspices of the Superior Court of California and have broad access to public officials, employees, records, and information. One of the most important functions of a civil grand jury is to review the operations of the officers, departments, and agencies of local government; and

WHEREAS, civil grand juries are charged with investigating and reporting on local governmental operations to assure that their responsibilities are being fulfilled legally, efficiently, honestly and in the best interest of the public. Civil grand juries serve as a watchdog authority and are well suited to the effective investigation of local governments because they are independent bodies, operationally separate from the entities and officials they investigate; and

WHEREAS, the civil grand jury's fact-finding efforts result in reports that contain specific recommendations aimed at identifying problems and offering ways to improve government operations and enhance responsiveness; and

WHEREAS, the hard work done by civil grand juries has a great effect on our communities and makes California a better place to live, and it is important to recognize the efforts of those jurors, both past and present, who have volunteered their time and service to the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim the month of March 2025 to be Civil Grand Jury Awareness Month in Santa Cruz County, recognize those who volunteer for service on a grand jury, encourage all residents to learn about the great role of the civil grand jury in our system of government, and applaud those who have made the civil grand jury a successful institution.




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

February 17, 2025
Date