



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Court Special Services  
Department No.:  
For Agenda Of: April 5, 2022  
Placement: Administrative Agenda  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Superior Court Darrel E. Parker (805) 614-6636  
Executive  
Officer  
Contact Info: Darrel E. Parker (805) 614-6636

**SUBJECT: Request to Change Term of Civil Grand Jury from Calendar Year**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: CEO

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A.** Pursuant to Penal Code section 905.5, approve and adopt, “*A Resolution Modifying the Term of the Civil Grand Jury from Calendar Year to Fiscal Year.*”
- B.** Determine that adoption of the Resolution is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) because the action is not a project since it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara is requesting the County to change the term of service for the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury from a calendar year back to the traditional fiscal year schedule. If the Board approves this action a new Grand Jury would be sworn in effective July 1, 2022 for fiscal year 2022-2023.

**Background:**

The Civil Grand Jury in Santa Barbara County has traditionally been impaneled and served during the fiscal year. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all residents to heed the State Public Health Officer’s Stay-at-Home order which required all residents to

stay at home except for work in critical infrastructure sectors. The Grand Jury continued to operate using teleconferencing.

In 2020 the Court sought to change the term of the Grand Jury from a fiscal year to a calendar year, in part, to adapt to a changing work environment resulting from the proliferation of COVID-19. The Grand Jury adapted to social distancing and other restrictions and adopted technological meeting platforms. Additionally, in support of changing the Grand Jury's term, the Court previously noted the challenges in empaneling a new Grand Jury during a busy time at the end of a fiscal year and managing a jury across separate terms of different presiding judges. Operating the Grand Jury during a calendar year led to the publication of final Grand Jury Reports in the waning months of 2021. The outgoing Grand Jury found the difficulties in publishing its final reports during end of year holidays more onerous than those difficulties noted in seeking to change the Grand Jury's term previously. The Court now seeks to return the empanelment and service of the next Grand Jury to a fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Article 1 § 23 of the California Constitution requires that there be at least one Grand Jury in every county in every year. The 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury concluded their term December 31, 2021. If the Board approves this resolution, a Grand Jury will be convened for the newly established term of fiscal year 2022.

The Board has the authority to act on the request of the Superior Court. The Grand Jurors and the citizens of Santa Barbara County would be better served with the modification indicated in the proposed resolution.

**Performance Measure:**

Past performance measures for the Grand Jury included the number of reports published, though no minimum number is required. The only required investigations of the Grand Jury is into the conditions of the jails and any death in the jail. Nothing in the requested change conflicts with the new Grand Jury meeting this obligation.

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

There are no contract renewals associated with this request.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:** Narrative:

The current budget for the 2021-2022 Grand Jury is \$211,600. If the Board adopts the attached resolution, there will be a potential savings in the fiscal year of \$105,800 as there will not be a Grand Jury to undertake any investigations or attend meetings from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

**Staffing Impacts:** The Grand Jury is administered through the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara. There are no Santa Barbara County employees associated with the operation of the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury. The Grand Jurors are all volunteers who are reimbursed with a stipend for attending meetings and mileage. There are no employees associated with the operation of the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury and therefore there are no staffing impacts.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email one (1) complete executed resolution and one (1) minute order to [dparker@sbcourts.org](mailto:dparker@sbcourts.org) and [tperez@sbcourts.org](mailto:tperez@sbcourts.org).

**Attachments:**

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Resolution

**Authored by:**

Darrel E. Parker  
Court Executive Officer/Jury Commissioner  
Superior Court of California  
County of Santa Barbara

**cc:**