

Grand jury continues to take a look at CCWD procedures

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / June 20, 2025

The Calaveras County Water District once again came under the microscope of Calaveras County's civil grand jury.

The 2023-24 grand jury received more than 170 written complaints related to the five-year water and wastewater rate increases imposed by the district and found the price hikes were flawed with residential customers "paying more than their fair share."

The county's 2024-25 civil grand jury on Monday announced it has come out with a report titled "The Cost of Water," which examines how CCWD develops and determines the various rates imposed on its stakeholders.

The report focuses on a review of various water rates imposed by other water districts of similar size as CCWD and the process involved in considering and implementing revised water rates.

In terms of how CCWD water rates compare to similar districts, the jury stated in the report, "current rates established by CCWD are not inconsistent with other counties reviewed."

The jury also reviewed the public outreach efforts and programs implemented by CCWD and whether those efforts could be improved upon.

The 2024-25 jury voiced satisfaction CCWD communicated its planned rate changes and conducted public meetings according to the requirements of Proposition 218.

However, "although CCWD has taken steps to improve its public outreach efforts, additional improvements could be made."

The report recommends that CCWD should "continue to evaluate and improve its public outreach efforts. Such efforts should be reviewed annually, at minimum, the first annual review being conducted by Dec. 31, 2025."

The recommendation calls for a response from the CCWD Board of Directors.

The report, in its entirety, can be found on the civil grand jury's website at <https://grand-jury.calaverasgov.us/>.

Monday's announcement indicated this will be the jury's final report with its term concluding at the end of this month.

The Superior Court of Calaveras County annually appoints 19 county residents as civil grand jurors to serve as citizen watchdogs over local government. The 2025-26 jury should be impaneled soon.

The jury encourages the public to share concerns about county, municipal, school, and special-district operations by writing to Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA. 95249