



2025-2026 Grand Jury

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Hall of Justice
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655
(650) 261-5066; Fax (650) 261-5147
grandjury@sanmateocourt.org

For Information Contact:

Michael Kovalich, Foreperson
Liz Figueroa, Foreperson Pro Tem
grandjury@sanmateocourt.org

PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CIVIL GRAND JURY CALLS ON SAN MATEO COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO STRENGTHEN OVERSIGHT OF AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER PROGRAMS

Report finds significant progress on data-sharing controls while identifying gaps in policy documentation, audits, and oversight practices

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. August 3, 2026 — The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury today released a report examining how law enforcement agencies across the County operate Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems and whether those programs comply with California law and agency policies.

The report, “Is Our Flock of ALPR Cameras Properly Tended?” reviewed all 17 San Mateo County law enforcement agencies operating ALPR systems, representing more than 580 cameras countywide. The Grand Jury found that agencies have made meaningful progress over the past year, particularly in eliminating out-of-state data sharing, but identified continuing deficiencies in policy maintenance, audit practices, and oversight of in-state data-sharing relationships.

The report notes that Flock Safety, the primary ALPR platform provider used in San Mateo County, implemented significant changes during 2025 that improved compliance with California law, including eliminating new out-of-state sharing relationships. The Grand Jury also recognized agencies that demonstrated strong transparency and audit practices, including Atherton, Belmont, Pacifica, and Woodside.

“This report presents findings and recommendations to San Mateo County law enforcement agencies to help them maintain the support of their local communities by transparently operating their Automated License Plate Readers to meet community expectations for both public safety and privacy.”

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The full report is available on the San Mateo County Superior Court/Grand Jury website at <https://sanmateo.courts.ca.gov/divisions/civil-grand-jury>.

About the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is an independent investigative body created by the California State Constitution. Composed of nineteen citizens, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury serves as a "watchdog for citizens of the county." The jury may receive and investigate complaints by individuals regarding the actions or performances of county or public officials. Empowered by the state judicial system, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury submits meaningful solutions to a wide range of problems. More information about the Civil Grand Jury can be found at <https://sanmateo.courts.ca.gov/divisions/civil-grand-jury>.