

2024-2025 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY



KERN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DIVISION

Release Date

March 25, 2025

KERN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DIVISION

POTHoles THAT REINCARNATE THEMSELVES

SUMMARY:

Potholes are a common, yet hazardous road issue. Potholes are formed primarily due to water seeping into cracks in the pavement and weakening the soil beneath. Over time, as the asphalt ages, it becomes more susceptible to cracking, allowing more water infiltration, and subsequent pothole development. They can cause vehicle damage such as, flat tires, broken A-frames, wheel misalignments, and in some cases can break windshields. These problems can cause a financial distress to a vehicle owner.



Photo - www.cdllife.com

The Roads Division 2024-2025 Recommended Budget Report states:

Roads is a division of the Kern County Public Works Department. The Roads Division plans, designs, constructs, and maintains public roads, bridges, streets, and traffic-control devices in the County, except for State-maintained highways and bridges. The division provides engineering design for all transportation projects (and related requests from other departments), including preparation of studies to determine project scope and constraints, preparation of detailed construction plans and specifications, and the administration of construction contracts.

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

California Penal Code §925 and 925(a) authorizes the 2024-2025 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) to investigate and report on the operation and management of the Kern County Public Works Roads Division (Roads Division).

METHODOLOGY:

The Grand Jury conducted interviews with staff from the Kern County Public Works Roads Division and General Services Human Resources Division, attended a Civil Service Commission meeting, a New Employee Orientation (NEO) and conducted internet research. The Grand Jury visited the Patton Yard of the Kern County Public Works Roads Division and General Services Human Resources Division. The Grand Jury also conducted a test on the timing of pothole repairs, to ascertain the effectiveness of the system.

DISCUSSION OF FACTS:

- A. Kern County Public Works Roads Division is responsible for over 3,315 miles of roadways.
- B. Roads Division has a budget of \$173,538,123.
- C. Roads Division has 104 budgeted positions.
- D. Area Roads Supervisors inspect road conditions every October and issue a Paser Report. The roads are rated from 1 to 10 with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best. (Appendix A)
- E. Blade sealing is the application of hot mix, cold mix, or premix to areas of pavement distress, by motor grader or spreader box, without removing existing pavement.
- F. Maintenance work is 85% reactive and 15% proactive.
- G. Roads Division staff works ten hours per day, four days per week April through September: then five 8-hour day work weeks October through March.
- H. As of the writing of this report, out of 104 budgeted positions there are only two vacancies. Due to planned retirements of approximately 12 positions, the Roads Division is proactively recruiting to fill the projected vacancies. However, the hiring process for new employees currently takes approximately 55 days.
- I. All Roads Division employees are required to have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED with no exceptions.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Grand Jury investigated the process of reporting a problem on road conditions. It was discovered that the public can easily go to Kern County Public Works website, then to the Services tab to report a problem.
- F2. The Grand Jury found that 85% of maintenance work is reactive, and 15% proactive. This ratio leads to potholes developing sooner.
- F3. The Grand Jury found that an increase in blade sealing would decrease the need to refill the reincarnated potholes.
- F4. Due to staffing shortages within the General Services Human Resources Division the workload has increased for the remaining Human Resources staff. This could be the cause of the lengthy hiring process within the Roads Division.

COMMENTS:

There has been improvement in the staffing levels and work repairs completed since the inception of this investigation. The Grand Jury would like to thank the staff of Kern County Public Works Roads Division and General Services Human Resources Division for their cooperation and for providing information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The 2024-2025 Kern County Grand Jury recommends that:

- R1. By June 1, 2025, Kern County Public Works Roads Division and General Services Human Resources Division have regularly scheduled meetings to communicate and better comprehend what is necessary to shorten the hiring process and to better inform applicants of the job requirements. (Findings #4)
- R2. By July 1, 2027, Roads Division increase blade sealing by a minimum of 10%. (Finding #3)
- R3. By July 1, 2027, proactive maintenance work should be increased from 15% to 25% and reactive decreased from 85% to 75%. (Finding #2)

NOTES:

- The Kern County Public Works Roads Division should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public view.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at <https://www.kerncounty.com/government/other-agencies/grand-jury>
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website <https://www.kerncounty.com/government/other-agencies/grand-jury>

RESPONSE DEADLINE:

- **REQUIRED WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM:**

Kern County Public Work Roads Division
Findings #1 through #4
Recommendations #1 through #3

RESPONSES ARE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE §§933(c) AND 933.05

- **PRESIDING JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF KERN
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**
- **FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Cal. Penal Code §929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.
--

APPENDIX A:

ARVIN												
ROAD NO	ROAD NAME	FROM NUMBER AND NAME	TO NUMBER AND NAME	LENGTH	ROAD YARD	MAP NO	COORD	PASER RATING				2024 SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE
								YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	
								2021	2022	2023	2024	INCLUDE PROPOSE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE, OTHER NOTES
314AG	A ST	314BG ROSE ST	END	1.22	ARVIN	12S51	10F	3	3	5	5	Blade sealed/ AC cut outs 2023
375V	ADOBE RD	SH 223	280F TEALE RD	5.00	ARVIN	12S31	02D	3	3	6	6	Blade sealed/ AC cut outs 2023
375V	ADOBE RD	280F TEALE RD	S292F DAVID RD	2.97	ARVIN	12S41	05D	3	5	6	5	Blade sealed/ AC cut outs 2023
375V	ADOBE RD	S252F BUENA VISTA BLVD	SH 223	2.00	ARVIN	12S31	02D	3	5	5	4	
12G034	ALDEN ST	12G35 RALPH AVE	12G36 PARISH AVE	0.17	ARVIN	12S31	02J	5	5	5	5	
12G045	ALICANTE AVE	END	SH184	0.07	ARVIN	12S21	09J	5	5	5	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
12F137	APPLE ST	12F131 MORRO AVE	END	0.12	ARVIN	12S11	09H	5	4	4	4	
13G029	BARBARA ST	13G27 RUSSELL AVE	256G SUNSET BLVD	0.50	ARVIN	12S32	03H	4	3	5	4	Blade sealed 2023
246 G	BEAR MTN WINERY RD	403V COMANCHE DR	END	0.51	ARVIN	12S22	09F	4	5	4	3	
222 F	BELLE TERRACE	371X COTTONWOOD RD	END	0.08	ARVIN	12S11	09B	6	6	6	6	Curnow area
13F030	BENGSTON AVE	SH184	13F028 MARY ELLEN ST	0.34	ARVIN	12S11	10J	5	4	6	6	Blade sealed 2023
13G008	BERNARD AVE	SH184	387AV MYRTLE AVE	0.26	ARVIN	12S21	09J	5	5	5	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
13F008	BERTAL ST	SH184	13F11 CARNATION AVE	0.25	ARVIN	12S21	08J	5	5	6	5	Proposed slurry seal 2025
13F029	BIG AL AVE	13F027 EMMY DR	END	0.25	ARVIN	12S11	10J	5	4	6	6	Blade sealed 2023
13F015	BLACKBURN ST	SH184	END	0.10	ARVIN	12S21	04J	4	4	4	4	
12F198	BLAIR DR	12F200 DI MILLER DR	END	0.09	ARVIN	12S11	09J	6	5	5	5	
12F168	BONANZA DR	12F140 CINDY DR	END	0.28	ARVIN	12S11	10J	5	4	4	4	Proposed blade seal 2025
S 244AG	BONITA RD	SH184	S389V HABECKER RD	0.52	ARVIN	12S21	09J	5	5	6	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
12G050	BRETT AVE	12G007 SAN EMIDIO ST	12G009 SAN GORGONIO	0.13	ARVIN	12S21	10H	5	5	5	5	Proposed Slurry seal 2025
252 G	BUENA VISTA BLVD	403V COMANCHE DR	5178	4.15	ARVIN	12S32	02F	5	5	5	4	
S 252 G	BUENA VISTA BLVD	SH184	403V COMANCHE DR	4.00	ARVIN	12S31	02J	4	4	4	3	In need of Reconstruction
S 252F	BUENA VISTA BLVD	COTTONWOOD RD	SH184	3.00	ARVIN	12S35	02K	4	5	4	3	In need of Reconstruction
12G044	BURGER WAY	12G08 SAN FERNANDO	12G10 SAN DIEGO ST	0.14	ARVIN	12S21	09H	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
12G048	BURGUNDY AVE	385AV SAN DIEGO ST	12G016STOBAUGH ST	0.18	ARVIN	12S21	09J	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
13G046	BUZZ ST	13G045 ORVIS WAY	13G041 FOG WAY	0.16	ARVIN	12S21	09K	7	7	9	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
13G026	CAMPBELL DR	END	252F BUENA VISTA BLV	0.13	ARVIN	12S31	02J	4	4	4	3	
S 387AV	CARNATION AVE	13F7 COLLISON ST	S244G PANAMA RD	0.25	ARVIN	12S21	08K	5	6	5	5	Proposed slurry seal 2025
13G049	CAMINO ESTRELLA	389 V HABECKER ROAD	13G051 CAMINO OSO	0.13	ARVIN	12S21	09K	8	8	8	8	
13G050	CAMINO LA JOLLA	389 V HABECKER ROAD	13G051 CAMINO OSO	0.12	ARVIN	12S21	09K	8	8	8	8	
13G051	CAMINO OSO	13G049 CAMINO ESTREL	13G050 CAMINO LA JOLLA	0.05	ARVIN	12S21	09K	8	8	8	8	
5122	CENTER ST	12G37 MAY ST	12G24 WOOD ST	0.06	ARVIN	12S21		0	0	0	0	
12G018	CENTER ST	12G24 WOOD ST	12G21 PIERCE DR	0.19	ARVIN	12S21	10H	6	6	6	6	
13F024	CHERYL ST	242G MC KEE RD	13F023 THOMAS WY	0.18	ARVIN	12S21	08J	4	6	5	5	Proposed slurry seal 2025
13F006	CHOATE ST	SH184	END	0.10	ARVIN	12S21	01J	5	4	4	4	
12F140	CINDY DR	END	224F RED BANK RD	0.21	ARVIN	12S11	10H	5	4	4	4	Proposed blade seal 2025
12F169	CISCO ST	12F168 BONANZA DR	END	0.04	ARVIN	12S11	10J	5	5	5	5	Proposed slurry seal 2025
12F184	CITATION LN	12F183 REYNOLDS AVE	END	0.28	ARVIN	12S21	06J	5	5	5	5	Proposed slurry seal 2025
S 242AG	COLLISON ST	S387AV CARNATION ST	SH184	0.25	ARVIN	12S21	08J	5	6	6	5	Proposed slurry seal 2025
13G025	COLUMBINE AVE	244G PANAMA RD	13G2 BONITA RD	0.22	ARVIN	12S21	08K	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
S 403 V	COMANCHE DR	ARVIN	ARVIN UL	0.05	ARVIN	12S32	05F	5	5	5	5	
S 403 V	COMANCHE DR	ARVIN UL	236G PANAMA RD	3.91	ARVIN	12S32	05F	5	5	5	4	
S 403 X	COMANCHE DR	S236G PANAMA LN	S214BG EDISON HWY	3.10	ARVIN	12S22	05F	5	5	5	4	
S 403 X	COMANCHE DR	PANAMA RD	S236G PANAMA LN	2.00	ARVIN	12S22	08F	4	4	4	6	Blade sealed in 2024
276G	COMANCHE POINT RD	M407V TEJON HWY	435	11.72	ARVIN	12S	07D	0	0	0	0	Surface graded six miles
13F018	COPE LN	END	13F017 FULLER DR	0.10	ARVIN	12S21	04J	5	5	5	5	
13G005	COPPER AVE	13G14 VELMA AVE	387AV MYRTLE AVE	0.18	ARVIN	12S21	09J	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
12F199	COX AVE	12F203 ROOSTER DR	12F202 MANWELL BLVD	0.11	ARVIN	12S11	09J	6	5	5	5	
288 F	CRIDER RD	END	387V WHEELER RDG	0.25	ARVIN	12S41	08J	5	5	5	4	
393 V	CUDA DR	SH223	256G SUNSET BL	1.01	ARVIN	12S32	05B	4	4	4	4	
292 G	DAVID RD	S401V RANCHO DR	401T RANCHO RD	0.22	ARVIN	12S	08D	4	5	5	4	
S 292 F	DAVID RD	SH099	387V WHEELER RIDGE F	3.50	ARVIN	12S41	09C	4	4	4	4	
S 292 G	DAVID RD	387V WHEELER RIDGE R	401V RANCHO RD	3.50	ARVIN	12S41	09K	4	5	4	4	
13G042	DECOY CT	13G047 LENORE ST	END	0.09	ARVIN	12S21	09K	4	5	9	9	Slurry sealed in 2023
12G042	DELIGHT AVE	12G7 SAN EMIDIO ST	12G10 SAN DIEGO ST	0.18	ARVIN	12S21	08H	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
12F200	DI MILLER DR	12F196 BLAIR DR	SH184	0.32	ARVIN	12S11	09J	5	4	6	6	Blade sealed/ AC cut outs 2023
248 G	DIGIORGIO RD	407V TEJON HWY	5178	3.05	ARVIN	12S22	10H	4	4	4	4	
S 248 F	DIGIORGIO RD	383V SO FAIRFAX RD	S387AV MYRTLE AVE	1.26	ARVIN	12S21	10G	4	6	6	6	Ready for chip seal 2024
S 248 F	DIGIORGIO RD	COTTONWOOD RD	FAIRFAX RD	3.00	ARVIN	11S25	10K	4	6	5	4	Ready for Chip seal 2024
S 248 G	DIGIORGIO RD	VINELAND RD	COMMANCHE DR	3.00	ARVIN	12S21	10K	8	8	7	6	
S 248 G	DIGIORGIO RD	13G20 MYRTLE AVE	VINELAND RD	0.74	ARVIN	12S21	10K	8	8	7	6	
S 248 G	DIGIORGIO RD	403V COMANCHE DR	407V TEJON HWY	1.00	ARVIN	12S22	10F	8	8	7	6	
12F166	DONEY ST	END	SH184	0.14	ARVIN	12S21	02J	5	4	4	6	Blade sealed in 2024
397 V	DUNCAN ST	SH223	256G SUNSET BL	1.00	ARVIN	12S32	05D	1	1	1	1	
12G020	DUNNSMERE ST	SH184	END	0.17	ARVIN	12S21	10J	5	5	5	4	
S 395 V	EDISON RD	SH223	DI GIORGIO RD	3.00	ARVIN	12S32	05C	4	10	10	10	
S 395V	EDISON RD	DI GIORGIO RD	PANAMA RD	1.00	ARVIN			4	4	10	10	Reconstructed 2023
S395V	EDISON RD	SH223	DAVID RD	8.00	ARVIN			4	4	4	6	Blade sealed in 2024
S 395 X	EDISON RD	232G HERMOSA	S214BG EDISON HWY	2.72	ARVIN	12S22	03C	6	6	6	6	
S 395 X	EDISON RD	S244G PANAMA RD	232 G HERMOSA	3.00	ARVIN	12S22	08C	4	4	10	10	Reconstructed 2023
13G016	ELMCO AVE	244G PANAMA RD	246G HALL RD	0.48	ARVIN	12S21	08J	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
13F027	EMMY DR	226G E WILSON RD	END	0.38	ARVIN	12S21	01J	5	4	6	6	Blade sealed 2023
12G046	EMPEROR AVE	385AV SAN DIEGO ST	12G015HOWARD ST	0.12	ARVIN	12S21	09J	5	5	5	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
13G039	FAR HILLS AVE	13G23 WACO AVE	389V HABECKER RD	0.13	ARVIN	12S21	10K	5	5	5	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
13F012	FARMERS LN	SH184	END	0.25	ARVIN	12S21	04J	6	6	6	6	
12F201	FELIPE CT	12F203 ROOSTER DR	END	0.09	ARVIN	12S11	09J	6	6	6	6	
12G026	FIELD ST	248F DIGIORGIO RD	END	0.17	ARVIN	12S21	10J	5	5	5	5	
314CG	FIRST ST	END	387T WHEELER RDG RD	0.52	ARVIN	12S51	10F	3	3	5	5	Blade sealed/ AC cut outs 2023
12G032	FLORENCE ST	12G35 RALPH AVE	12G36 PARISH AVE	0.17	ARVIN	12S31	02J	5	5	5	4	
13G041	FOG WAY	13G046 BUZZ ST	13G047 LENORE ST	0.05	ARVIN	12S21	09K	8	8	9	9	Slurry sealed in 2023
13F017	FULLER DR	SH184	END	0.40	ARVIN	12S21	04J	5	6	6	6	
13G004	GAIL MARIE DR	13G23 WACO AVE	SH184	0.39	ARVIN	12S21	09K	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
423 X	GENERAL BEALE RD	SH058	END	0.04	ARVIN	12S	04E	6	6	6	6	
S 423 X	GENERAL BEALE RD	244G PANAMA RD	SH058	1.78	ARVIN	12S	04E	5	5	5	5	
12G054	GEORGETOWN AVE	END	END	0.17	ARVIN	12S21	10J	6	6	6	6	
12G014	GILBERT ST	12G46 EMPEROR AVE	S244F PANAMA RD	0.12	ARVIN	12S21	08J	5	5	7	8	Slurry sealed in 2023
13G017	GLENCOE PL	246AG SEGRUE RD	13G11 LENARK WAY	0.12	ARVIN	12S21	10K	5	5	4	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
13G033	GREGORY AVE	387AV MYRTLE AVE	13G23 WACO AVE	0.13	ARVIN	12S21	10K	5	5	4	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
389 V	HABECKER RD	13G39 FAR HILLS AVE	S13G10 SEGRUE RD	0.10	ARVIN	12S21	10K	4	6	6	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
S 389 V	HABECKER RD	13G10 SEGRUE RD	244G PANAMA RD	0.78	ARVIN	12S21	09K	5	6	6	8	Slurry sealed in 2024
S 246 F	HALL RD	S385AV SAN DIEGO ST	SH184	0.25	ARVIN	12S21	09J	4	4	4	6	Blade sealed in 2024
S 246 F	HALL RD	END	S385AV SAN DIEGO ST	0.26	ARVIN	12S21	09J	4	4	4	6	Blade sealed in 2024