

KERN COUNTY

Final Audit Report

COURT REVENUES

July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023



MALIA M. COHEN

CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER

May 2026



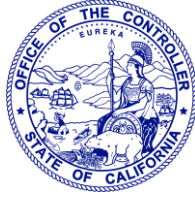
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MALIA M. COHEN
CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER

May 29, 2026

Dear County, Court, City, and College Representatives:

The State Controller's Office audited Kern County's (the county) court revenues for the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023.

Our audit found that a net of \$318,568 in state court revenues was underremitted to the State Treasurer. Specifically, we found that the county underremitted a net of \$270,784 in state court revenues to the State Treasurer because it:

- Underremitted the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (Government Code [GC] section 77205) by \$286,667;
- Overremitted the State Transportation Fund (Penal Code [PC] section 1463.22[b]) by \$2,289;
- Overremitted the State's General Fund (PC section 1463.22[c]) by \$6,303;
- Overremitted the State's Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund (PC section 1203.097) by \$15,619;
- Underremitted the State's Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund (PC section 1203.097) by \$8,328;
- Underremitted the State's DNA Identification Fund (GC section 76104.6) by \$173,838;
- Overremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[b]) by \$173,838;

- Underremitted the State's DNA Identification Fund (GC section 76104.7) by \$2,729,639;
- Overremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70373) by \$2,729,639;
- Underremitted the State's Trial Court Trust Fund (GC section 76000.3) by \$116,973; and
- Overremitted the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) by \$116,973.

In addition, we found that the following entities underremitted a net of \$47,784 in parking surcharges to the State Treasurer via the county:

- The City of Wasco underremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[b]) by \$2,774, underremitted the State's Trial Court Trust Fund (GC section 76000.3) by \$1,848, and underremitted the State's General Fund (Vehicle Code section 40225[d]) by \$27,462.
- The City of Tehachapi underremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[b]) by \$667, underremitted the State's Trial Court Trust Fund (GC section 76000.3) by \$444, and underremitted the State's General Fund (Vehicle Code section 40225[d]) by \$14,589.

In addition, we found that the Superior Court of California, Kern County made incorrect distributions related to speeding and red-light violations with traffic violator school; fish and game, health and safety, and DUI violations; and the prioritization of installment payments. We also found that the City of Taft and Taft College did not collect and remit the required state and county parking surcharges.

On June 18, 2025, the City of Wasco remitted \$32,084 in state and county parking surcharges to the county. On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$32,084 in state parking surcharges to the State Treasurer.

County, Court, City, and College Representatives

May 29, 2026

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On June 25, 2025, the City of Tehachapi remitted \$15,700 in state and county parking surcharges to the county. On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$15,700 in state parking surcharges to the State Treasurer.

On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$270,784 to the State Treasurer via the Report to State Controller of Remittance to State Treasurer (TC-31).

The Tax Programs Unit will calculate interest on the underremitted amounts and bill the county and applicable entities in accordance with GC sections 68085, 70353, and 70377.

If you have questions regarding payments, TC-31s, or interest and penalties, please contact Jennifer Montecinos, Manager, Tax Administration Section, by telephone at 916-324-5961 or email at lgpsdtaxaccounting@sco.ca.gov.

If you have any questions regarding the audit findings, please contact Lisa Kurokawa, Chief, Compliance Audits Bureau, by telephone at 916-327-3138 or email at lkurokawa@sco.ca.gov.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Kimberly A. Tarvin, CPA

Chief, Division of Audits

Attachment—Recipient Addresses

Copy: The Honorable Phillip Peters, Chair

Kern County Board of Supervisors

Joe Meyer, Manager

Office of Audit Services

Judicial Council of California

County, Court, City, and College Representatives

May 29, 2026

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Lynda Gledhill, Executive Officer

California Victim Compensation Board

Andrew Soderborg, Deputy Legislative Analyst

Legislative Analyst's Office

Sandeep Singh, Manager

Local Government Policy Unit

State Controller's Office

Jennifer Montecinos, Manager

Tax Administration Section

State Controller's Office

Recipient Addresses

The Honorable Aimee X. Espinoza, Auditor-Controller

Kern County

1115 Truxtun Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Tara Leal, Court Executive Officer

Superior Court of California, Kern County

1415 Truxtun Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Damon McMinn, Chief

Taft Police Department

320 Commerce Way

Taft, CA 93268

Nick Valsamides, Executive Director

Taft College

29 Cougar Court

Taft, CA 93268

Hamed Jones, Finance Director

City of Tehachapi

115 South Robinson Street

Tehachapi, CA 93561

Rocio Mosqueda, Accounting Manager

City of Wasco

764 E Street

Wasco, CA 93280

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SUMMARY

The State Controller's Office (SCO) audited the propriety of court revenues remitted to the State of California by Kern County (the county) on the Report to State Controller of Remittance to State Treasurer (TC-31) for the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023 (fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 through FY 2022-23).

Our audit found that a net of \$318,568 in state court revenues was underremitted to the State Treasurer. Specifically, we found that the county underremitted \$270,784 in court revenues to the State Treasurer. In addition, we found that the Cities of Wasco and Tehachapi underremitted a total of \$47,784 in parking surcharges to the State Treasurer via the county.

We also found that the Superior Court of California, Kern County (the court) made incorrect distributions related to speeding and red-light violations with traffic violator school (TVS); fish and game, health and safety, and DUI violations; and the prioritization of installment payments. We also found that the City of Taft and Taft College did not collect and remit the required state and county parking surcharges.

BACKGROUND

State statutes govern the distribution of court revenues, which include fines, penalties, assessments, fees, restitutions, bail forfeitures, and parking surcharges. Whenever the State is entitled to receive a portion of such money, the court is required by Government Code (GC) section 68101 to deposit the State's portion of court revenues with the County Treasurer as soon as is practical and provide the County Auditor with a monthly record of collections. This section further requires that the County Auditor transmit the funds and a record of the money collected to the State Treasurer at least once a month.

The SCO publishes the *Trial Court Revenue Distribution Guidelines (Distribution Guidelines)* to provide direction on the distribution of fines, fees, forfeitures, penalties, and assessments. The *Distribution Guidelines* group code sections that share similar exceptions, conditions, or distributions into a series of nine tables.

The Judicial Council of California (JCC) provides forms and worksheets to ensure the proper calculation and distribution of fines, fees, forfeitures, penalties, and assessments. The guidance includes forms used to compute the annual maintenance-of-effort (MOE) calculation and worksheets to verify the more complex revenue distributions.

AUDIT AUTHORITY

We conducted this audit in accordance with GC section 68103, which authorizes the SCO to review the county's reports and records to ensure that all fines and forfeitures have been transmitted. In addition, GC section 68104 authorizes the SCO to examine records maintained by the court. Furthermore, GC section 12410 provides the SCO with general audit authority to superintend the fiscal concerns of the State.

OBJECTIVE, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

Our audit objective was to determine the propriety of the court revenues remitted to the State Treasurer pursuant to the TC-31 process during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023. To achieve our objective, we performed the following procedures.

General

- We gained an understanding of the county and the court's revenue collection and reporting processes, and of the criteria that were significant to our audit objective.

- We interviewed the county's personnel regarding the monthly TC-31 remittance process, the revenue distribution process, and the MOE calculation.
- We interviewed the court's personnel regarding the revenue distribution process and the case management system (CMS).
- We reviewed documents supporting the transaction flow.
- We scheduled monthly TC-31 remittances prepared by the county and the court showing court revenue distributions to the State.
- We performed a review of the complete TC-31 remittance process for revenues collected and distributed by the county and the court.
- We assessed the reliability of data from the CMS based on interviews and our review of documents supporting the transaction flow. We determined that the data was sufficiently reliable for purposes of this report.

Cash Collections

- We scheduled monthly cash disbursements prepared by the county and the court showing court revenue distributions to the State, the county, and cities for all fiscal years in the audit period.
- We performed analytical procedures using ratio analysis for the State's and the county's revenues to assess the reasonableness of the revenue distributions based on statutory requirements.
- We recomputed the annual MOE calculation for all fiscal years in the audit period to verify the accuracy and completeness of the 50 percent excess of qualified revenues remitted to the State.

Distribution Testing

- We assessed the priority of installment payments by haphazardly selecting a non-statistical sample of four installment payments to verify priority. Errors found were not projected to the intended (total) population.
- We scheduled parking surcharge revenues collected from entities that issue parking citations within the county to ensure that revenues were correct, complete, and remitted in accordance with state statutory requirements. We contacted entities that did not remit the required parking surcharges and reviewed their required distributions.
- We performed a risk evaluation of the county and the court, and identified violation types that are prone to errors, due to either their complexity or statutory changes during the audit period.

Based on the risk evaluation, we haphazardly selected a non-statistical sample of 44 cases for 11 violation types. We were not able to identify the case population due to the inconsistent timing of when tickets were issued versus when they were paid, and the multitude of entities that remit collections to the county for remittance to the State. Errors found were not projected to the intended (total) population. We tested the sample as follows:

- We recomputed the sample case distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.
- We calculated the total dollar amount of significant underremittances and overremittances to the State and the county.

We did not review any court revenue remittances that the county or the court may be required to make under GC sections 70353 and 77201.1(b), included in the TC-31.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain

sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.

CONCLUSION

As a result of performing the audit procedures, we found instances of noncompliance with the requirements described in our audit objective. We found that a net of \$318,568 in state court revenues was underremitted to the State Treasurer. Specifically, we found that the county underremitted a net of \$270,784 in state court revenues to the State Treasurer because it:

- Underremitted the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (GC section 77205) by \$286,667;
- Overremitted the State Transportation Fund (Penal Code [PC] section 1463.22[b]) by \$2,289;
- Overremitted the State's General Fund (PC section 1463.22[c]) by \$6,303;
- Overremitted the State's Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund (PC section 1203.097) by \$15,619;
- Underremitted the State's Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund (PC section 1203.097) by \$8,328;
- Underremitted the State's DNA Identification Fund (GC section 76104.6) by \$173,838;
- Overremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[b]) by \$173,838;
- Underremitted the State's DNA Identification Fund (GC section 76104.7) by \$2,729,639;

- Overremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70373) by \$2,729,639;
- Underremitted the State's Trial Court Trust Fund (GC section 76000.3) by \$116,973; and
- Overremitted the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) by \$116,973.

In addition, our audit found that the following entities underremitted a total of \$47,784 in parking surcharges to the State Treasurer via the county:

- The City of Wasco underremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[b]) by \$2,774, underremitted the State's Trial Court Trust Fund (GC section 76000.3) by \$1,848, and underremitted the State's General Fund (Vehicle Code [VC] section 40225[d]) by \$27,462.
- The City of Tehachapi underremitted the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[b]) by \$667, underremitted the State's Trial Court Trust Fund (GC section 76000.3) by \$444, and underremitted the State's General Fund (VC section 40225[d]) by \$14,589.

These instances of noncompliance are quantified in the Schedule and described in the Findings and Recommendations section.

In addition, we found that the court made incorrect distributions related to speeding and red-light violations with TVS; fish and game, health and safety, and DUI violations; and the prioritization of installment payments. We also found that the City of Taft and Taft College did not collect and remit the required state and county parking surcharges. These instances of noncompliance are non-monetary; they are described in the Findings and Recommendations section.

On June 18, 2025, the City of Wasco remitted \$32,084 in state and county parking surcharges to the county. On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$32,084 in state parking surcharges to the State Treasurer.

On June 25, 2025, the City of Tehachapi remitted \$15,700 in state and county parking surcharges to the county. On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$15,700 in state parking surcharges to the State Treasurer.

On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$270,784 to the State Treasurer via the TC-31.

FOLLOW-UP ON PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

The county has satisfactorily resolved the findings noted in our prior audit report for the period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019, issued on September 16, 2021, with the exception of Findings 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 13 of this audit report. The implementation status of corrective actions is described in the Appendix.

VIEWS OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

We discussed our audit results with representatives of the county, the court, and the City of Wasco during an exit conference conducted on December 11, 2025. At the exit conference, the representatives agreed with the audit results. The county representative responded by email on December 22, 2025, requesting to bypass the draft audit report. The court, City of Wasco, and City of Tehachapi representatives responded by email on December 19, 2025, requesting to bypass the draft audit report. The county representative responded by letter on January 9, 2026, agreeing with the audit results with the exception of Finding 1. The court representative responded by letter on January 6, 2026, agreeing with the audit results. This final report includes the county and the court's responses as Attachments A and B.

RESTRICTED USE

This report is solely for the information and use of the county, the court, the City of Taft, Taft College, the City of Tehachapi, the City of Wasco, the JCC, and the SCO; it is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record and is available on the SCO website at www.sco.ca.gov.

Original signed by

Kimberly A. Tarvin, CPA
Chief, Division of Audits

May 29, 2026

SCHEDULE—SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS AFFECTING REMITTANCES TO THE STATE TREASURER

July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023

The following table provides a summary of the audit findings affecting remittances to the State Treasurer:

Finding	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Total
Finding 1 – Underremitted 50 percent excess of qualified revenues State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund – GC section 77205	\$286,126	\$239	\$204	\$98	\$286,667
Finding 2 – Underremitted parking surcharges – City of Wasco State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70372(b)	707	923	797	347	2,774
State – Trial Court Trust Fund – GC section 76000.3	471	615	531	231	1,848
State – General Fund – VC section 40225(d)	8,338	6,688	9,103	3,333	27,462
Total Finding 2	9,516	8,226	10,431	3,911	32,084
Finding 3 – Underremitted parking surcharges – City of Tehachapi State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70372(b)	297	153	122	95	667
State – Trial Court Trust Fund – GC section 76000.3	198	102	81	63	444
State – General Fund – VC section 40225(d)	5,091	3,386	3,081	3,031	14,589
Total Finding 3	5,586	3,641	3,284	3,189	15,700
Finding 4 – Incorrect distribution of PC section 1463.22 revenues State Transportation Fund – PC section 1463.22(b)	-434	-796	-577	-482	-2,289

Finding	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Total
State – General Fund – PC section 1463.22(c)	-1,222	-2,378	-1,738	-965	-6,303
Total Finding 4	-1,656	-3,174	-2,315	-1,447	-8,592
Finding 5 – Incorrect distribution of domestic violence fees					
State – Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund – PC section 1203.097	-714	-1,129	-10,365	-3,411	-15,619
State – Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund – PC section 1203.097	-714	-266	8,006	1,302	8,328
Total Finding 5	-1,428	-1,395	-2,359	-2,109	-7,291
Finding 6 – Incorrect reporting of revenues on the TC-31					
State – DNA Identification Fund – GC section 76104.6	0	24,195	134,400	15,243	173,838
State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70372(b)	0	-24,195	-134,400	-15,243	-173,838
State – DNA Identification Fund – GC section 76104.7	0	882,879	1,523,529	323,231	2,729,639
State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70373	0	-882,879	-1,523,529	-323,231	-2,729,639
State – Trial Court Trust Fund – GC section 76000.3	46,872	16,731	25,965	27,405	116,973
State – General Fund – PC section 1465.7	-46,872	-16,731	-25,965	-27,405	-116,973
Total Finding 6	0	0	0	0	0
Total net amount underremitted to the State Treasurer	\$298,144	\$7,537	\$9,245	\$3,642	\$318,568

The identification of state revenue account titles should be used to ensure proper recording when preparing the TC-31.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1—Underremitted the 50 Percent Excess of Qualified Revenues (Repeat Finding)

During our recalculation of the 50 percent excess of qualified revenues, we found that the county had used incorrect qualified revenue amounts in its calculation for each fiscal year. These errors resulted in the county underremitting the 50 percent excess of qualified revenues by \$286,667 during the audit period. The 50 percent excess of qualified revenues was incorrectly calculated because the county misinterpreted the required calculations.

The county provided support for its calculation of the 50 percent excess of qualified revenues during the audit period. We reviewed the county's calculation and reconciled the qualified revenues to revenue collection reports.

We recalculated the county's qualified revenues based on actual court revenues collected for each fiscal year. After our recalculation, we found that the county had understated qualified revenues by a net of \$573,334 for the audit period.

The county understated qualified revenues because it incorrectly excluded the following revenues from its calculation of the TVS fee (VC section 42007):

- City base fines (VC section 42007[c]), resulting in an understatement of \$234,947;
- The Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104), resulting in an understatement of \$160,409;
- The Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5), resulting in an understatement of \$160,409; and

- The county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 76101; \$1 per TVS case), resulting in an understatement of \$16,041.

In addition, as noted in Finding 2, the City of Wasco did not remit parking surcharges to the county. The error resulted in an understatement of \$1,232 in qualified revenues for the county's general fund line item (GC section 76000[c]).

In addition, as noted in Finding 3, the City of Tehachapi did not remit parking surcharges to the county. The error resulted in an understatement of \$296 in qualified revenues for the county's general fund line item (GC section 76000[c]).

The following table shows the audit adjustments to qualified revenues:

Revenue Analysis	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Total
Qualified revenues reported	\$7,577,394	\$7,308,300	\$6,352,981	\$5,902,492	\$27,141,167
Audit adjustments:					
VC section 42007 understatements	234,947	0	0	0	234,947
GC section 76104 understatements	160,409	0	0	0	160,409
GC section 76000.5 understatements	160,409	0	0	0	160,409
GC section 76101 understatements	16,041	0	0	0	16,041
GC section 76000(c) understatements (City of Wasco)	314	410	354	154	1,232
GC section 76000(c) understatements (City of Tehachapi)	132	68	54	42	296
Total audit adjustments	572,252	478	408	196	573,334
Adjusted qualified revenues	\$8,149,646	\$7,308,778	\$6,353,389	\$5,902,688	\$27,714,501

As a result of miscalculating the qualified revenues, the county underremitted the 50 percent excess of qualified revenues by \$286,667 for the audit period. The following table shows the excess qualified revenues, and—by comparing the 50 percent excess amount due to the State to the county’s actual remittances—the county’s underremittance to the State Treasurer.

Fiscal Year	Qualifying Revenues	Base Amount	Excess Amount Above the Base	50 Percent Excess Amount Due the State	County Remittance to the State Treasurer	County Under-remittance to the State Treasurer
2019-20	\$8,149,646	\$5,530,972	\$2,618,674	\$1,309,337	\$1,023,211	\$286,126
2020-21	7,308,778	5,530,972	1,777,806	888,903	888,664	239
2021-22	6,353,389	5,530,972	822,417	411,209	411,005	204
2022-23	5,902,688	5,530,972	371,716	185,858	185,760	98
Total						<u>\$286,667</u>

On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$286,667 to the State Treasurer.

As discussed in Finding 1 of our prior audit report dated September 16, 2021, the county used incorrect qualified revenue amounts in its calculation of the 50 percent excess of qualified revenues. This is a repeat finding, as the county did not correct the errors noted in our prior audit report.

Criteria

GC section 77205(a) requires the county to remit 50 percent of the qualified revenues that exceed the amount specified in GC section 77201.1(b)(2) for FY 1998-99, and each fiscal year thereafter, to the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund.

Recommendation

We recommend that the county ensure that the proper accounts are included in the calculations of each line item on the 50-50 Excess Split Revenue Computation Form.

County's Response

. . . the county does not agree with the State Controller's Office (SCO) finding and recommendation. SCO states that the County under-remitted qualified revenues related to Traffic Violator School (TVS) court cases: Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 76101), Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104), Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5), and City base fines (VC section 42007(c)). These revenues are all distributed to non-General Fund accounts. If we include these TVS revenues in the 50 [percent] excess calculation, the County will be required to pay the State Treasurer for monies that the [county's] General Fund did not receive or benefit from. The only source available for this payment is unrestricted locally generated funds. Furthermore, the County cannot confirm that the amount of revenue that was transferred from the courts is correct.

While we do not agree with the under-remittance, the county adopted the prior audit recommendation starting in fiscal year 2020-21 and continued for the audit period. We sent payment of \$286,667 to the State Treasurer on August 31, 2025, for the prior audit period.

SCO Comment

Our finding and recommendation remain unchanged.

As stated in Finding 1, GC section 77205 requires the county to remit 50 percent of the qualified revenues that exceed the amount specified in GC section 77201.1(b)(2) for FY 1998-99, and each fiscal year thereafter, to the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund. GC section 77205 also specifies that the qualified revenues are based on the amount that would have been deposited in the General Fund pursuant to how the applicable sections read as of December 31, 1997.

In its annual memorandum, the JCC provides instructions for counties to calculate the amount of excess revenues that must be remitted to the State. The instructions during the audit period stated that the VC section 42007 TVS fees should not be reduced by distributions to the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund, Courthouse Construction Fund, Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund, or to cities.

Finding 2—Underremitted Parking Surcharges – City of Wasco

During our analysis of parking surcharges remitted to the county, we found that the City of Wasco had collected parking surcharges, but had not remitted the parking surcharges to the county. As a result, \$32,084 was underremitted to the State. The error occurred because the City of Wasco was unaware of the statutory requirements relating to parking surcharges.

External parking agencies are required to collect revenues for parking violations and remit the revenues to the county. Revenues are remitted to the county on a monthly basis and collection reports are included to support the remitted revenues. During our analysis of the collection reports, we found that the City of Wasco had collected state and county parking surcharges and penalties for registration and equipment violations, but had not remitted the resulting revenues to the county.

The following table summarizes the effect of the underremitted parking surcharges:

Account Title	Underremitted / Overremitted
State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70372(b)	\$2,774
State – Trial Court Trust Fund – GC section 76000.3	1,848
State – General Fund – VC section 40225(d)	27,462
Total underremittance to the State Treasurer	32,084
County – General Fund – GC section 76000(c)	1,232
County – Courthouse Construction Fund – GC section 76000(b)	473
County – Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 76000(b)	926
Total adjustments	2,631
City of Wasco	-\$34,715

On June 18, 2025, the City of Wasco remitted \$34,715 to the county. On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$32,084 to the State Treasurer.

Criteria

GC section 76000(b) requires, provided that the board of supervisors has adopted a resolution stating that the implementation of this subdivision is necessary to the county, that for each authorized fund established pursuant to GC section 76100 or 76101, for every parking offense where a parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture is imposed, an added penalty of \$2.50 be included in the total penalty, fine, or forfeiture.

GC section 76000(c) requires the county treasurer to deposit \$1.00 of every \$2.50 collected for the county's Courthouse Construction Fund and the county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund into the county's general fund.

GC section 76000(d) states that, upon the transfer of responsibility for court facilities from the county to the JCC, authority to impose the \$2.50 penalty from the county's Courthouse Construction Fund shall be reduced to \$1.00, except as money is needed to pay for construction provided for in GC section 76100.

GC section 70372(b) requires the issuing agencies to collect a state surcharge of \$4.50 for every parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture, for deposit in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund.

During the audit period, GC section 70372(f) required that one-third of the \$4.50 be deposited in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund and two-thirds be deposited in the Immediate and Critical Needs Account. Statutes of 2021, Chapter 79 abolished the Immediate and Critical Needs Account and made various changes to existing law.

GC section 76000.3 requires that parking agencies pay to the State Treasurer a state surcharge of \$3.00 on each parking violation, for deposit in the State's Trial Court Trust Fund.

VC section 40225(d) requires 50 percent of any penalty collected on registration or equipment violations to be paid to the county for remittance to the State Treasurer.

Recommendation

We recommend that the City of Wasco remit the required state and county parking surcharges to the county on a monthly basis.

Finding 3—Underremitted Parking Surcharges – City of Tehachapi

During our analysis of parking surcharges remitted to the county, we found that the City of Tehachapi had collected parking surcharges, but had not remitted the parking surcharges to the county. As a result, \$15,700 was underremitted to the State. The error occurred because the City of Tehachapi was unaware of the statutory requirements relating to parking surcharges.

External parking agencies are required to collect revenues for parking violations and remit the revenues to the county. Revenues are remitted to the county on a monthly basis and collection reports are included to support the remitted revenues. During our analysis of the collection reports, we found that the City of Tehachapi had collected state and county parking surcharges and penalties for registration and equipment violations, but had not remitted the resulting revenues to the county.

The following table summarizes the effect of the underremitted parking surcharges:

Account Title	Underremitted/ Overremitted
State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70372(b)	\$667
State – Trial Court Trust Fund – GC section 76000.3	444
State – General Fund – VC section 40225	14,589
Total underremittance to the State Treasurer	15,700
County – General Fund – GC section 76000(c)	296
County – Courthouse Construction Fund – GC section 76000(b)	98

Account Title	Underremitted/ Overremitted
County – Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 76000(b)	223
Total adjustments	617
City of Tehachapi	<u><u>-\$16,317</u></u>

On June 25, 2025, the City of Tehachapi remitted \$16,317 to the county. On August 31, 2025, the county remitted \$15,700 to the State Treasurer.

Criteria

GC section 76000(b) requires, provided that the board of supervisors has adopted a resolution stating that the implementation of this subdivision is necessary to the county, that for each authorized fund established pursuant to GC section 76100 or 76101, for every parking offense where a parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture is imposed, an added penalty of \$2.50 be included in the total penalty, fine, or forfeiture.

GC section 76000(c) requires the county treasurer to deposit \$1.00 of every \$2.50 collected for the county's Courthouse Construction Fund and the county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund into the county's general fund.

GC section 76000(d) states that, upon the transfer of responsibility for court facilities from the county to the JCC, authority to impose the \$2.50 penalty from the county's Courthouse Construction Fund shall be reduced to \$1.00, except as money is needed to pay for construction provided for in GC section 76100.

GC section 70372(b) requires the issuing agencies to collect a state surcharge of \$4.50 for every parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture, for deposit in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund.

During the audit period, GC section 70372(f) required that one-third of the \$4.50 be deposited in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund and two-thirds be deposited in the Immediate

and Critical Needs Account. Statutes of 2021, Chapter 79 abolished the Immediate and Critical Needs Account and made various changes to existing law.

GC section 76000.3 requires that parking agencies pay to the State Treasurer a state surcharge of \$3.00 on each parking violation, for deposit in the State's Trial Court Trust Fund.

VC section 40225(d) requires 50 percent of any penalty collected on registration or equipment violations to be paid to the county for remittance to the State Treasurer.

Recommendation

We recommend that the City of Tehachapi remit the required state and county parking surcharges to the county on a monthly basis.

Finding 4—Incorrect Distribution of Penal Code Section 1463.22 Revenues

During our analysis of court collections, we found that the court had not properly distributed revenues to the State Transportation Fund (PC section 1463.22[b]), the State's General Fund (PC section 1463.22[c]), or the county's special uninsured motorist account (PC section 1463.22[a]), resulting in an overremittance to the State of \$8,592. The error occurred because the court misinterpreted the *Distribution Guidelines*.

During our analysis of court collections, we found that the court had incorrectly distributed 48 percent of the revenues collected in accordance with PC section 1463.22(a), PC section 1463.22(b), and PC section 1463.22(c) to the State Transportation Fund (PC section 1463.22[b]) and State's General Fund (PC section 1463.22[c]) instead of distributing the required 43 percent to the State.

The following table summarizes the effect of the incorrect distributions:

Account Title	Underremitted/ Overremitted
State Transportation Fund – PC section 1463.22(b)	-\$2,289
State – General Fund – PC section 1463.22(c)	-6,303
Total overremittance to the State Treasurer	-8,592
County – special uninsured motorists account – PC section 1463.22(a)	\$8,592

Criteria

PC section 1463.22(a) requires the county to deposit \$17.50 of the money deposited with the county pursuant to PC section 1463 for each conviction of VC section 16028 into a special account and allocated to defray court costs of the municipal and superior courts incurred in administering cases related to proof of financial responsibility.

PC section 1463.22(b) requires the county to remit \$3.00 of the money deposited with the county pursuant to PC section 1463 for each conviction of VC section 16028 to the SCO for deposit in the Motor Vehicle Account of the State Transportation Fund.

PC section 1463.22(c) requires the county to remit \$10.00 of the money deposited with the county pursuant to PC section 1463 for each conviction of VC section 16028 to the SCO for deposit in the State's General Fund.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court reduce subsequent remittances to the State Treasurer by \$8,592 and report on the TC-31 a decrease of \$2,289 to the State Transportation Fund (PC section 1463.22[b]) and a decrease of \$6,303 to the State's General Fund (PC section 1463.22[c]).

Finding 5—Incorrect Distribution of Revenues from the Domestic Violence Fee

During our analysis of court collections, we found that the court had not properly distributed the domestic violence fee, resulting in an overremittance to the State of \$7,291. The error occurred because the court misinterpreted the *Distribution Guidelines*.

During our analysis of court collections, we found that the court had incorrectly distributed 37 percent of the domestic violence fee to the State’s Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund (PC section 1203.097) and the State’s Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund (PC section 1203.097) instead of distributing the required one-third to the State.

The following table summarizes the effect of the incorrect distributions:

Account Title	Underremitted / Overremitted
State – Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund – PC section 1203.097	-\$15,619
State – Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund – PC section 1203.097	8,328
Total overremittance to the State Treasurer	-7,291
County – domestic violence programs special fund – PC section 1203.097	\$7,291

Criteria

PC section 1203.097(a)(5) requires that two-thirds of the domestic violence fee collected be posted to the county’s domestic violence programs special fund. This section further requires that the remaining one-third be transferred, once a month, to the SCO for deposit in equal amounts in the State’s Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund and the State’s Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court reduce subsequent remittances to the State Treasurer by \$7,291 and report on the TC-31 a decrease of \$15,619 to the State’s Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund (PC section 1203.097[a][5]) and an increase of \$8,328 to the State’s Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund (PC section 1203.097[a][5]).

Finding 6—Incorrect Reporting of Revenues on the TC-31 Form

During our reconciliation of TC-31 revenues, we found that the county had not properly reported revenues on the TC-31 form. The error occurred because the county inadvertently reported revenues on incorrect line items of the TC-31.

We compared the actual revenues collected by the court and parking entities to the revenues reported by the county on the TC-31s. During our reconciliation, we found the following errors on the TC-31:

- The county incorrectly reported the State’s DNA Identification Fund (GC section 76104.6) revenues on the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[b]) line item.
- The county incorrectly reported the State’s DNA Identification Fund (GC section 76104.7) revenues on the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70373) line item.
- The county incorrectly reported the State’s Trial Court Trust Fund (GC section 76000.3) revenues on the State’s General Fund (PC section 1465.7) line item.

The following table summarizes the effect of the incorrect distributions:

Account Title	Underremitted/ Overremitted
State – DNA Identification Fund – GC section 76104.6	\$173,838
State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70372(b)	-173,838

Account Title	Underremitted/ Overremitted
State – DNA Identification Fund – GC section 76104.7	2,729,639
State Court Facilities Construction Fund – GC section 70373	-2,729,639
State – Trial Court Trust Fund – GC section 76000.3	116,973
State – General Fund – PC section 1465.7	-116,973
Total adjustments	\$0

On December 5, 2025, the county submitted revised TC-31 forms with the required adjustments to the State Treasurer.

Criteria

PC section 1463.001 requires the state penalties and county penalties imposed under PC section 1214.1 to be transferred to the proper funds as required by law.

Recommendation

We recommend that the county ensure that revenues are reported on the correct line items on TC-31 forms.

Finding 7—Incorrect Distribution of Revenues from Speeding Violations with Traffic Violator School (Repeat Finding)

During our testing of speeding with TVS cases, we found that the court had not properly distributed the related revenues. The error occurred due to inadequacies in the court's CMS.

We verified, on a sample basis, distributions made by the court using its CMS. For each sample case, we recomputed the distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.

In two of the four speeding with TVS cases tested, we found that the revenues collected for the city base fines (VC section 42007[c]) and the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) were overstated; and that the revenues collected for the Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC

section 76104), the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5), and the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[a]) were understated.

We performed an analysis of the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (VC section 42007.1) revenues collected by the court to determine the fiscal effect of the distribution errors. Upon completion of our analysis, we found that the errors did not have a material impact on the revenues remitted to the State.

As discussed in Finding 2 of our prior audit report dated September 16, 2021, the court did not properly distribute revenues from speeding violations with TVS. This is a repeat finding, as the court did not correct the distribution errors noted in our prior audit report.

Criteria

PC section 1463.001 requires the state and county penalties imposed under PC section 1214.1 to be transferred to the proper funds as required by law.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court:

- Correct its CMS to ensure that revenues are distributed in accordance with statutory requirements; and
- Periodically verify the accuracy of its distributions using the JCC's testing sheets:

Finding 8—Incorrect Distribution of Revenues from Red-Light Violations with Traffic Violator School

During our testing of red-light with TVS cases, we found that the court had not properly distributed the related revenues. The error occurred due to inadequacies in the court's CMS.

We verified, on a sample basis, distributions made by the court using its CMS. For each sample case, we recomputed the distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.

In two of the four cases tested, we found the following errors:

- For a FY 2022-23 county case, we found that the revenues collected for the TVS fee (VC section 42007) were overstated; and that the revenues collected for the Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104), the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5), the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[a]), and the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) were understated.
- For a FY 2022-23 city case, we found that the revenues collected for the TVS fee (VC section 42007) were overstated; and that the revenues collected for the city base fines (VC section 42007[c]), the Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104), the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5), the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[a]), and the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) were understated.

We performed an analysis of the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (VC section 42007.1) revenues collected by the court to determine the fiscal effect of the distribution errors. Upon completion of our analysis, we found that the errors did not have a material impact on the revenues remitted to the State.

Criteria

PC section 1463.001 requires the state and county penalties imposed under PC section 1214.1 to be transferred to the proper funds as required by law.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court:

- Correct its CMS to ensure that revenues are distributed in accordance with statutory requirements; and
- Periodically verify the accuracy of its distributions using the JCC's testing sheets.

Finding 9—Incorrect Distribution of Revenues from Fish and Game Violations (Repeat Finding)

During our testing of fish and game cases, we found that the court had not properly distributed the related revenues. The error occurred due to inadequacies in the court's CMS.

We verified, on a sample basis, distributions made by the court using its CMS. For each sample case, we recomputed the distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.

In two of the four fish and game cases tested, we found that the revenues collected for the State's Fish and Game Preservation Fund (Fish and Game Code [FGC] section 13003), the county's fish and wildlife propagation fund (FGC section 13003), and the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) were understated. The revenues collected for the following funds were overstated:

- The State Penalty Fund (PC section 1464);
- The State's DNA Identification Funds (GC sections 76104.6 and 76104.7);
- The county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 76101);
- The county's Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104);

- The county's Automated Fingerprint Identification and Digital Image Photographic Suspect Booking Identification System Fund (GC section 76102);
- The county's Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5); and
- The State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[a]).

We performed an analysis of the State's Fish and Game Preservation Fund (FGC section 13003) revenues collected by the court to determine the fiscal effect of the distribution errors. Upon completion of our analysis, we found that the errors did not have a material impact on the revenues remitted to the State.

As discussed in Finding 3 of our prior audit report dated September 16, 2021, the court did not properly distribute the revenues from fish and game violations. This is a repeat finding, as the court did not correct the distribution errors noted in our prior audit report.

Criteria

PC section 1463.001 requires the state and county penalties imposed under PC section 1214.1 to be transferred to the proper funds as required by law.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court:

- Correct its CMS to ensure that revenues are distributed in accordance with statutory requirements; and
- Periodically verify the accuracy of its distributions using the JCC's testing sheets.

Finding 10—Incorrect Distribution of Revenues from Health and Safety Violations (Repeat Finding)

During our testing of health and safety cases, we found that the court had not properly distributed the related revenues. The error occurred due to inadequacies in the court's CMS.

We verified, on a sample basis, distributions made by the court using its CMS. For each sample case, we recomputed the distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.

In four of the four health and safety cases tested, we found that the revenues collected for the State's General Fund (Health and Safety Code [HSC] section 11502), the county's general fund (HSC section 11502), and the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) were understated. We also found that the revenues collected for the following funds were overstated:

- The State Penalty Fund (PC section 1464);
- The State's DNA Identification Funds (GC sections 76104.6 and 76104.7);
- The county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 76101);
- The county's Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104);
- The county's Automated Fingerprint Identification and Digital Image Photographic Suspect Booking Identification System Fund (GC section 76102);
- The county's Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5); and
- The State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[a]).

We performed an analysis of the drug program fee (HSC section 11372.7) revenues collected by the court to determine the fiscal effect of the distribution errors. Upon completion of our

analysis, we found that the errors did not have a material impact on the revenues remitted to the State.

As discussed in Finding 3 of our prior audit report dated September 16, 2021, the court did not properly distribute the revenues from health and safety violations. This is a repeat finding, as the court did not correct the distribution errors noted in our prior audit report.

Criteria

PC section 1463.001 requires the state and county penalties imposed under PC section 1214.1 to be transferred to the proper funds as required by law.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court:

- Correct its CMS to ensure that revenues are distributed in accordance with statutory requirements; and
- Periodically verify the accuracy of its distributions using the JCC's testing sheets.

Finding 11—Incorrect Distribution of Revenues from DUI Violations

During our testing of DUI cases, we found that the court had not properly distributed the related revenues. The error occurred due to inadequacies in the court's CMS.

We verified, on a sample basis, distributions made by the court using its CMS. For each sample case, we recomputed the distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.

In two of the four cases tested, we found the following errors:

- For a FY 2022-23 county case, we found that the revenues collected for the county base fines (PC section 1463.001) and the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) were understated. We also found that the revenues collected for the following funds were overstated:
 - The State Penalty Fund (PC section 1464);
 - The State's DNA Identification Funds (GC sections 76104.6 and 76104.7);
 - The county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 76101);
 - The county's Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104);
 - The county's Automated Fingerprint Identification and Digital Image Photographic Suspect Booking Identification System Fund (GC section 76102);
 - The county's Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5); and
 - The State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[a]).
- For a FY 2022-23 city case, we found that the revenues collected for the county base fines (PC section 1463.001), city base fines (PC section 1463.002), and the State's General Fund (PC section 1465.7) were understated. We also found that the revenues collected for the following funds were overstated:
 - The State Penalty Fund (PC section 1464);
 - The State's DNA Identification Funds (GC sections 76104.6 and 76104.7);
 - The county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 76101);
 - The county's Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104);

- The county's Automated Fingerprint Identification and Digital Image Photographic Suspect Booking Identification System Fund (GC section 76102);
- The county's Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5); and
- The State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 70372[a]).

We performed an analysis of the State's Restitution Fund (PC section 1463.18) revenues collected by the court to determine the fiscal effect of the distribution errors. Upon completion of our analysis, we found that the errors did not have a material impact on the revenues remitted to the State.

Criteria

PC section 1463.001 requires the state and county penalties imposed under PC section 1214.1 to be transferred to the proper funds as required by law.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court:

- Correct its CMS to ensure that revenues are distributed in accordance with statutory requirements; and
- Periodically verify the accuracy of its distributions using the JCC's testing sheets.

Finding 12—Failure to Treat the Criminal Laboratory Analysis Fee as a Fine (Repeat Finding)

During our testing of health and safety cases, we noted that the court had not treated the criminal laboratory analysis fee (HSC section 11372.5) as a fine. The error occurred due to inadequacies in the court's CMS.

We verified, on a sample basis, distributions made by the court using its CMS. For each sample case, we recomputed the distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.

In four of the four cases tested, we found that the court did not program the criminal laboratory analysis fee (HSC section 11372.5) as a fine subject to State and county penalty assessments and the 20 percent state surcharge.

We did not determine the effect of the error because it cannot be reversed, as the court cannot retroactively assess the fee or recalculate the base fine enhancements.

As discussed in Finding 3 of our prior audit report dated September 16, 2021, the court did not properly distribute the revenues from health and safety violations. This is a repeat finding, as the court did not correct the distribution errors noted in our prior audit report.

Criteria

HSC section 11372.5(a) requires defendants convicted of violating specific Health and Safety Code sections regulating controlled substances to pay a \$50 criminal laboratory analysis fee for each separate offense, and requires the court to increase the total fine as necessary to include the increment.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court:

- Correct its CMS to ensure that revenues are distributed in accordance with statutory requirements; and
- Periodically verify the accuracy of its distributions using the JCC's testing sheets.

Finding 13—Incorrect Priority of Installment Payments (Repeat Finding)

During our testing of court cases, we found that the court had not properly distributed revenues in accordance with the order of priority stated in PC section 1203.1d, subparagraph (b). The error occurred due to inadequacies in the court's CMS.

We verified, on a sample basis, distributions made by the court using its CMS. For each sample case, we recomputed the distributions and compared them to the actual distributions.

In four of the four cases tested, we found that the court had incorrectly programmed "other reimbursable costs" as priority-three distributions instead of programming them as priority-four distributions.

We did not measure the effect of the error because it would be impractical and difficult to redistribute revenues on every case involving installment payments.

As discussed in Finding 5 of our prior audit report dated September 16, 2021, the court incorrectly prioritized distributions of installment payments. This is a repeat finding, as the court did not correct the distribution errors noted in our prior audit report.

Criteria

PC section 1203.1d, subparagraph (b) requires that installment payments be disbursed in the following order of priority:

1. Restitution ordered to victims (PC section 1202.4[f]);
2. State surcharge (PC section 1465.7);
3. Fines, penalty assessments, and restitution fines (PC section 1202.4[b]); and
4. Other reimbursable costs.

Recommendation

We recommend that the court correct its CMS to ensure that installment payments are distributed in accordance with the statutory priority requirements.

Finding 14—Underremitted Parking Surcharges – City of Taft

During our analysis of parking surcharges remitted to the county, we found that the City of Taft had not collected the required state and county parking surcharges. The error occurred because the City of Taft was unaware of the statutory requirements relating to parking surcharges.

External parking agencies are required to collect revenues for parking violations and remit the revenues to the county. Revenues are remitted to the county on a monthly basis and collection reports are included to support the remitted revenues. During our analysis of the collection reports, we found that the City of Taft had not collected the required state and county parking surcharges.

We performed a revenue analysis of the parking revenues and determined that the errors did not result in material underremittances to the State.

Criteria

GC section 76000(b) requires, provided that the board of supervisors has adopted a resolution stating that the implementation of this subdivision is necessary to the county, that for each authorized fund established pursuant to GC section 76100 or 76101, for every parking offense where a parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture is imposed, an added penalty of \$2.50 be included in the total penalty, fine, or forfeiture.

GC section 76000(c) requires the county treasurer to deposit \$1.00 of every \$2.50 collected for the county's Courthouse Construction Fund and the county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund into the county's general fund.

GC section 76000(d) states that, upon the transfer of responsibility for court facilities from the county to the JCC, authority to impose the \$2.50 penalty from the county's Courthouse Construction Fund shall be reduced to \$1.00, except as money is needed to pay for construction provided for in GC section 76100.

GC section 70372(b) requires the issuing agencies to collect a state surcharge of \$4.50 for every parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture, for deposit in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund.

During the audit period, GC section 70372(f) required that one-third of the \$4.50 be deposited in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund and two-thirds be deposited in the Immediate and Critical Needs Account. Statutes of 2021, Chapter 79 abolished the Immediate and Critical Needs Account and made various changes to existing law.

GC section 76000.3 requires that parking agencies pay to the State Treasurer a state surcharge of \$3.00 on each parking violation, for deposit in the State's Trial Court Trust Fund.

VC section 40225(d) requires 50 percent of any penalty collected on registration or equipment violations to be paid to the county for remittance to the State Treasurer.

Recommendation

We recommend that the City of Taft collect and remit the required state and county parking surcharges, totaling \$11 per infraction, to the county on a monthly basis.

Finding 15—Underremitted Parking Surcharges – Taft College

During our analysis of parking surcharges remitted to the county, we found that Taft College had not collected the required state and county parking surcharges. The error occurred because Taft College was unaware of the statutory requirements relating to parking surcharges.

External parking agencies are required to collect revenues for parking violations and remit the revenues to the county. Revenues are remitted to the county on a monthly basis and collection reports are included to support the remitted revenues. During our analysis of the collection reports, we found that Taft College had not collected the required state and county parking surcharges.

We performed a revenue analysis of the parking revenues and determined that the errors did not result in material underremittances to the State.

Criteria

GC section 76000(b) requires, provided that the board of supervisors has adopted a resolution stating that the implementation of this subdivision is necessary to the county, that for each authorized fund established pursuant to GC section 76100 or 76101, for every parking offense where a parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture is imposed, an added penalty of \$2.50 be included in the total penalty, fine, or forfeiture.

GC section 76000(c) requires the county treasurer to deposit \$1.00 of every \$2.50 collected for the county's Courthouse Construction Fund and the county's Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund into the county's general fund.

GC section 76000(d) states that, upon the transfer of responsibility for court facilities from the county to the JCC, authority to impose the \$2.50 penalty from the county's Courthouse Construction Fund shall be reduced to \$1.00, except as money is needed to pay for construction provided for in GC section 76100.

GC section 70372(b) requires the issuing agencies to collect a state surcharge of \$4.50 for every parking penalty, fine, or forfeiture, for deposit in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund.

During the audit period, GC section 70372(f) required that one-third of the \$4.50 be deposited in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund and two-thirds be deposited in the Immediate and Critical Needs Account. Statutes of 2021, Chapter 79 abolished the Immediate and Critical Needs Account and made various changes to existing law.

GC section 76000.3 requires that parking agencies pay to the State Treasurer a state surcharge of \$3.00 on each parking violation, for deposit in the State's Trial Court Trust Fund.

VC section 40225(d) requires 50 percent of any penalty collected on registration or equipment violations to be paid to the county for remittance to the State Treasurer.

Recommendation

We recommend that Taft College collect and remit the required state and county parking surcharges, totaling \$11 per infraction, to the county on a monthly basis.

APPENDIX—SUMMARY OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

The following table shows the implementation status of Kern County’s corrective actions related to the findings contained in our prior audit report dated September 16, 2021.

Prior Audit Finding	Status
Finding 1— Underremitted 50 percent excess of qualified fines, fees, and penalties	Not implemented; see Finding 1
Finding 2— Incorrect distribution of revenues from speeding traffic violation school violations	Not implemented; see Finding 7
Finding 3— Incorrect distribution of judge-ordered total fines	Not implemented; see Findings 9, 10, and 12
Finding 4— Incorrect distribution of parking surcharges	Fully implemented
Finding 5— Incorrect prioritization of installment payments	Not implemented; see Finding 13
Observation— Incorrect collection of parking surcharges	Fully implemented

ATTACHMENT A—KERN COUNTY’S RESPONSE TO FINDINGS



January 9, 2026

Lisa Kurokawa, Chief
State Controller’s Office
Division of Audits
PO Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250

Dear Ms. Kurokawa,

This is our response for the County findings in the draft audit report dated 12/17/25.

The County of Kern concurs with **Finding #6**, “County did not properly report revenues on the TC-31.” The recommendations provided by SCO will be adopted by the County.

Regarding **Finding #1**, “Under-remitted 50% Excess of Qualified Revenues”, the county does not agree with the State Controller’s Office (SCO) finding and recommendation. SCO states that the County under-remitted qualified revenues related to Traffic Violator School (TVS) court cases: Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund (GC section 76101), Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76104), Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund (GC section 76000.5), and City base fines (VC section 42007(c)). These revenues are all distributed to non-General Fund accounts. If we include these TVS revenues in the 50% excess calculation, the County will be required to pay the State Treasurer for monies that the General Fund did not receive or benefit from. The only source available for this payment is unrestricted locally generated funds. Furthermore, the County cannot confirm that the amount of revenue that was transferred from the courts is correct.

While we do not agree with the under-remittance, the county adopted the prior audit recommendation starting in fiscal year 2020/21 and continued for the audit period. We sent payment of \$286,667 to the State Treasurer on August 31, 2025 for the prior audit period.

We appreciate the opportunity to address the proposed findings. If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Aimee X. Espinoza,
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk

AXE/JA/mo

GROUND  BOUNDLESS

1115 Truxtun Ave, 2nd Floor. Bakersfield, CA. 93301 | 661.868.3599 | www.kerncounty.com

ATTACHMENT B—SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, KERN COUNTY’S RESPONSE TO FINDINGS



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF KERN

JUDGES

Kenneth C. Twisselman II
 John D. Oglesby
 John R. Brownlee
 Judith K. Dulcich
 Raymonda Burnham Marquez
 J. Eric Bradshaw
 Charles R. Brehmer
 Bryan K. Stainfield
 Susan M. Gill
 Jose R. Benavides
 John W. Lua
 Thomas S. Clark
 Brian M. McNamara
 David R. Zulfa
 Marcos R. Camacho
 David Wolf
 Kenneth R. Green Jr.
 Tiffany Organ-Bowles
 Gloria J. Cannon
 Gregory A. Pulskamp
 Chad A. Louie
 Jason W. Webster
 Bernard C. Barmann, Jr.
 Wendy Avila
 Lisa Pacione
 Elizabet Rodriguez
 Andrew B. Kendall
 Christie Canales Norris
 Michael A. Caves
 T. Mark Smith
 Dawn Bittleston
 Stephanie R. Childers
 Marcus Cuper
 Tanya R. Richard
 Bradley King
 Donald B. Griffith
 Keenan Perkins
 Cole McKnight
 William J. Schlaerth
 Sally Ackerknecht

COURT COMMISSIONERS

Gina M. Cervantes
 Murray Robertson
 Brett V. Myers
 Kevin Moran
 James B. Green
 Samantha K. G. Allen
 Thurman Owen
 Cynthia Espinosa

**COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE COURT**

Tara Leal

Superior Court of California
 County of Kern
 1415 Truxtun Avenue
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January 6, 2026

Lisa Kurokawa
 Chief
 Compliance Audits Bureau
 Division of Audits
 State Controller’s Office
 Post Office Box 942850
 Sacramento, California 94250

Lisa Kurokawa,

The court agrees with the findings of this audit.

As noted in the report, underlying limitations within the court’s previous case management system have been at the foundation of the findings that were presented in this audit report. Secondary manual entry and calculation practices, which were required because of the system limitations, resulted in the minor discrepancies that were discovered and noted in Finding 4 and Finding 5.

The court will be submitting a special audit TC-31 report as support for the remittance adjustments that will be made in accordance with the recommendations provided in the audit report for Finding 4 and Finding 5.

During the period that this audit review was active, the court converted to a new case management system. The court has made a concentrated effort to work collaboratively with the system developer to resolve all issues that have been noted in the report, and to prevent the issues from occurring in the future.

Thank you for the time and commitment that you and your team have dedicated throughout the completion of this audit.

Sincerely,

Tara Leal
 Court Executive Officer