

CALIFORNIA CRIME LABORATORY TASK FORCE

Vision Statement

Providing forensic science service that is timely and of the highest possible quality is essential to the effective prosecution of criminal cases, to protecting the rights of criminal defendants, and to the safety of the citizens of California.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Crime Laboratory Task Force to meet the mandate of AB 1079 by reporting to the Legislature on the status of the state, county, and local crime laboratories and to make recommendations on how best to ensure the timely and effective delivery of the highest quality forensic services. To carry out this mission the Task Force will:

1. survey government crime laboratories in order to inventory their staffing, workload, budget, major instrumentation, and organizational placement within the controlling agency;
2. survey client agencies and other stakeholders as the operation of government crime laboratories and suggestions for improvement of forensic science services;
3. identify through presentations and information from external subject matter experts the most appropriate means of addressing the forensic science needs of California;
4. identify specific areas in criminal laboratory organization and management, staff and training, funding, and performance standards where improvements could be made;
5. work as a team in an open and transparent manner to ensure that the perspectives of all stakeholders, including prosecutors, defense counsel, law enforcement, and the public are heard and considered in completing the Task Force report and recommendations;
6. complete and submit a final report of its findings on or before July 1, 2009, as required by AB 1079.