

California Crime Laboratory Review Task Force
Required Components of Final Report
Pen. Code, § 11062

General Mandate:

The Task Force shall “make recommendations as to how best to configure, fund, and improve the delivery of state and local crime laboratory services in the future.”

I. Organization and Management of Crime Laboratory Services

- A. Whether the existing mix of state and local crime laboratories is the most effective and efficient means to meet California's future needs.
- B. Whether laboratories should be further consolidated.
 - 1. If consolidation occurs, who should have oversight of crime laboratories.
- C. Whether management responsibilities for some laboratories should be transferred.
- D. Whether all laboratories should provide similar services.
- E. How other states have addressed similar issues.

II. Staff and Training

- A. How to address recruiting and retention problems of laboratory staff.
- B. Whether educational and training opportunities are adequate to supply the needs of fully trained forensic criminalists in the future.
- C. Whether continuing education is available to ensure that forensic science personnel are up-to-date in their fields of expertise.
- D. If crime laboratory personnel should be certified, and if so, the appropriate agency to assume this responsibility.
- E. The future educational role, if any, for the University of California or California State University systems.

III. Funding

- A. Whether the current method of funding laboratories is predictable, stable, and adequate to meet future growth demands and to provide accurate and timely testing results.
- B. The adequacy of salary structures to attract and retain competent analysts and examiners.

IV. Performance Standards and Equipment

- A. Whether workload demands are being prioritized properly and whether there are important workload issues not being addressed.
- B. If existing laboratories have the necessary capabilities, staffing, and equipment.
- C. If statewide standards should be developed for the accreditation of forensic laboratories, including minimum staffing levels, and if so, a determination regarding what entity should serve as the sanctioning body.

Appendix

- A. Complete inventory of existing California crime laboratories.
 - 1. Staffing
 - 2. Workload
 - 3. Budget
 - 4. Major instrumentation
 - 5. Organizational placement within the controlling agency