

MEETING DATE: 9/16/2025

Received  
9/15/2025  
SLO CITY CLERK

**From:** Courtney Leigh Kienow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2025 11:37 AM  
**To:** E-mail Council Website  
**Cc:** Purrington, Teresa; Hermann, Greg  
**Subject:** Corrections: Cal Poly - City of SLO Grand Jury Report  
**Attachments:** FINAL CP Enrollment Housing Fall 2024[4].xlsx

Dear Mayor Stewart and SLO City Council Members,

I hope you're doing well.

I am submitting this email requesting that it be included as agenda correspondence related to the September 16th City Council meeting, Item 7.b; Response to the Grand Jury Report. Cal Poly is not considered an interested party by the Grand Jury in this report. However, due to the data inaccuracies, we submitted the following to the Grand Jury and asked that they make the corrections.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Courtney

### Courtney Kienow

pronouns she/hers ([why is this important?](#))

Director of Community Relations and Economic Development  
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# CAL POLY

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**From:** Courtney Leigh Kienow [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, June 16, 2025 at 9:35 AM  
**To:** Grand Jury <grandjury@co.slo.ca.us>, Reggie Rini [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jennifer L. Haft [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Corrections: Cal Poly - City of SLO Grand Jury Report

Good morning members of the SLO County Grand Jury,

Thank you to you and the entire Grand Jury for your diligent work to put together the report regarding Cal Poly and the City of SLO's efforts to support student's making the best choices possible and ensuring the City's neighborhoods are places where all residents can thrive.

There are a few corrections we would like to submit for your consideration.

1. The report states that: “However, the expansion of the university has led to significant challenges in housing availability, both on and off campus.”

Correction: Over the past two decades, Cal Poly has more than accommodated its enrollment increases by investing nearly a billion dollars in constructing new student beds on campus. In fact, using the year identified in the report (2005), **Cal Poly has about 700 LESS students living off campus/in the community today than we did in 2005.** I’ve attached a spreadsheet that includes greater detail and sources for this information.

There were **14,855** students living off campus in 2005 (the year the Grand Jury used for Cal Poly’s enrollment numbers).

As of Fall 2024, the most current academic year, there were **14,132** students living off campus.

Another important component worth noting is that many students live outside city limits, commute, study abroad, or are part-time distance learners. In fact, a few years ago Cal Poly launched the Local Address Project; a survey asking students to identify where they reside in our local communities. At the time, seventy percent of all students updated their local physical addresses through this effort. From the data collected, we were able to identify that approximately 11% of students were living outside of the City of San Luis Obispo.

In recent years, Cal Poly has housed more students than ever before and the highest percentage of students in its history (37-40%). Cal Poly has the largest housing program in the CSU. In addition, Cal Poly is actively planning to increase on campus student and workforce housing capacity.

Cal Poly’s 10-year, \$1.2 billion Housing Future Plan is actively in motion. This includes replacing North Mountain halls, building on the adjacent parking lots, and adding from 3,300-3,800 new beds — with the first building expected to open its doors for fall 2026. For details: <http://www.housing.calpoly.edu/future-housing>

Another important consideration in this discussion is that we have significantly increased the percentage of our students who are from the local area. In 2015, students from our local service area made up 6% of our total new student population. In fall of 2024, local students made up 12% of our new student population. So, while the percentage of students to the enrollment at Cal Poly has grown by 4%, local students make up a significant amount of that enrollment growth. A major factor in our growth strategy has been to provide additional opportunities for our local students (who are twice as likely to be admitted than non-local students) to earn a Cal Poly degree.

There is also a comment about the negative impact that Cal Poly’s growth is having on the City’s infrastructure. Cal Poly is currently constructing a Water Reclamation Facility project (\$40 million investment) that will dramatically reduce Cal Poly’s impact on the City’s sewer system and treatment facility - reducing it to minimum required flows. It will also reduce our water usage to levels significantly lower than 2005. Once construction is complete, we’ll be using less water, less sewer capacity, and less energy.

2. This statement: “Due to the lack of on-campus student housing, some students must live off-campus” implies that there is an expectation that Cal Poly house all of its students. I

don't believe that is a realistic expectation and ask that it be reframed or removed from the report.

3. "However, due to changes in policies, Cal Poly stopped assisting the city, stating privacy concerns, and revised their AB 524 report to remove some of the addresses that were previously provided in the document." p. 10

Clarification: While it is true that addresses are no longer available due to privacy complaints from students and in alignment with many other CSUs, Cal Poly continues work with the City of SLO on these issues through regular meetings and communication with Community Development, Code Enforcement, and SLOPD as recently as this week. Several outcomes have come from these meetings including:

1. Coordination of City officials to speak directly with students and groups about a variety of topics including noise, neighbor relations, understanding their CUPs, and an overview of how to engage with City government.
2. Preparation of students who are seeking new CUPs or responding to reviews of their CUPs by both the Planning Commission and City Council.
3. Cal Poly now has a copy of existing CUPs and is able to assist with the onboarding process for new student leadership for each organization.
4. The City of SLO now sends noise violation information to Cal Poly for review and we have engaged the Interfraternity Council in a process for peer accountability.
5. Cal Poly has also offered to consult on language for new CUPs as appropriate and provide a review of existing CUPs for accuracy (several are attributed to the wrong organization, the wrong address, non-existent organizations, and unrecognized organizations).

Again, thank you for the time and effort put into this report. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on our suggested changes to the report.

Gratefully,

Courtney

Courtney Kienow

pronouns she/hers ([why is this important?](#))

Director of Community Relations and Economic Development

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA

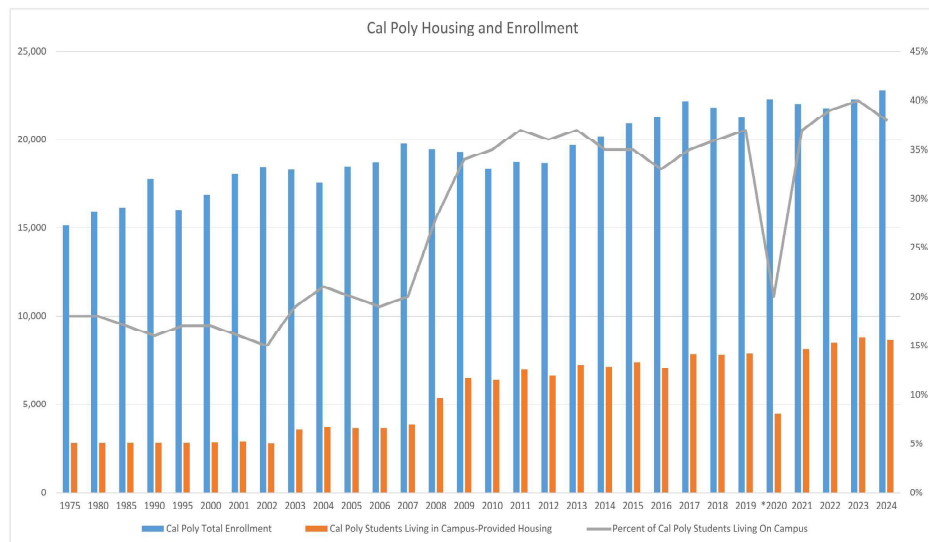
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Year	Cal Poly Total Enrollment	Cal Poly Students Living in Campus Provided Housing	Percent of Cal Poly Students Living On Campus
1975	15,158	2,793	18%
1980	15,943	2,793	18%
1985	16,140	2,795	17%
1990	17,756	2,795	16%
1995	16,022	2,796	17%
2000	16,877	2,816	17%
2001	18,079	2,934	16%
2002	18,453	2,775	15%
2003	18,303	3,551	19%
2004	17,582	3,680	21%
2005	18,475	3,620	20%
2006	18,722	3,621	19%
2007	19,777	3,872	20%
2008	19,471	5,362	28%
2009	19,325	6,493	34%
2010	18,360	6,395	35%
2011	18,762	6,959	37%
2012	18,679	6,657	36%
2013	19,703	7,241	37%
2014	20,186	7,150	35%
2015	20,944	7,377	35%
2016	21,306	7,074	33%
2017	22,188	7,807	35%
2018	21,812	7,774	36%
2019	21,242	7,839	37%
*2020	22,287	4,468	20%
2021	22,022	8,130	37%
2022	21,778	8,513	39%
2023	22,279	8,801	40%
2024	22,785	8,653	38%



\*2020 - Unknown but estimated significant percentage of students studied remotely and did not reside in San Luis Obispo.

**Sourcing:** Enrollment data was obtained through the Institutional Research website (<https://ir.calpoly.edu/content/index>) and through IR staff and Cal Poly Fact Books: [https://ir.calpoly.edu/content/publications\\_reports/factbook/index](https://ir.calpoly.edu/content/publications_reports/factbook/index). Housing data was sourced from Cal Poly University Housing staff: <http://www.housing.calpoly.edu/>

**Fall quarter** (the point in time that we use as a baseline across the years) tends to be the highest in terms of enrollment which is also the timing of the census. Numbers tend to drop throughout the year as students graduate at the end of each term, engage in study abroad programs, or participate in off-campus internships, among many other reasons.