

January 23, 2026

Automated Regional Justice Information Systems (ARJIS) 101

Overview

The Automated Regional Justice Information Systems (ARJIS) is a Joint Power Authority established in 1980 to serve as the regional hub for criminal justice information sharing in San Diego County. ARJIS provides secure, standardized access to critical public safety data for 65 local, state, and federal partner agencies and supports thousands of sworn personnel, analysts, and investigators across the region.

Through a single, secure access point, ARJIS enables state and federally certified agencies to access countywide crime data, arrests, traffic collisions, warrants, office safety notifications, and both state and federal systems. ARJIS also supports mandated National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) crime reporting to the California Department of Justice, regional crime statistics, and public-facing crime data through the SANDAG Open Data Portal and ARJIS Crime Statistics Portal.

The ARJIS 101 presentation is intended to provide the Board of Directors with a high-level overview of ARJIS's mission, core systems, governance, governing documents, data-sharing role, and value to the region, including how ARJIS supports public safety operations, regional collaboration, and data-driven decision-making.

Key Considerations

ARJIS is a data service provider which serves as the public-safety and information-sharing backbone for the region. ARJIS provides over 5,000 users with secure, centralized access to more than 25 local, state, and federal criminal justice applications. ARJIS enables law enforcement officers, investigators and crime analysts to efficiently obtain critical information needed to support investigations, officer safety, and operational decision-making across jurisdictions.

ARJIS operates a highly secure, regulated law-enforcement network that meets the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) and the state Department of Justice's California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) requirements. It is actively protected 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to allow officers to do their jobs safely and responsibly. Individuals authorized to access ARJIS data and interfaces must undergo rigorous background checks and annual specialized training to ensure the security, confidentiality, and integrity of Criminal Justice Information (CJI). Access is strictly limited to authorized personnel, including police officers, probation officers, and designated staff with the right and need to know about the specific the cases they are accessing.

ARJIS receives and standardizes crime data from 11 local law enforcement agencies and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office. By supporting more than 50 data interfaces and maintaining extensive validation tables, ARJIS ensures that information entered by different agencies is translated into consistent, standardized outputs across all platforms and applications. This process improves data quality, enhances interoperability, and enables accurate regional crime reporting and analysis.

Action: Information

ARJIS staff will present an overview of its mission, governance, funding, programs, services, applications and regional benefits.

Fiscal Impact:

None. ARJIS has an annual operating budget of \$8,589,408, which is funded through annual membership dues from local, state and federal law enforcement and public safety agencies.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

None.

ARJIS provides significant operational and officer safety benefits through tools that support real-time officer notifications, regional “Be On the Lookout” (BOLO) distribution, investigative link analysis, and access to critical records such as warrants, booking photos, and offender information. These capabilities allow agencies to identify connections, share time-sensitive information, and enhance situational awareness in both routine and high-risk encounters.

Governance and Oversight

Governance and oversight of ARJIS are guided by SANDAG Board Policy Nos. 002 and 26, as well as the [ARJIS Joint Powers Agreement \(JPA\)](#), the [ARJIS Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#), the [California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System Policies, Practices and Procedures \(CLETS PPP\)](#) and the [Criminal Justice Information Services \(CJIS\) Security Policy](#). Additionally, ARJIS can develop Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs) to guide the use and development of each technology or program. These documents are subject to periodic review and can be amended as needed. ARJIS also reports all major milestones, budgets, purchases, and policy actions to several governing committees: the Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s Management Committee which is comprised of the regional Chiefs of Police and the Sheriff, the SANDAG Public Safety Committee which is comprised of local elected officials and advisory law enforcement members, and the SANDAG Board of Directors. This governance structure ensures that ARJIS operations remain aligned with regional priorities, legal requirements, and best practices for criminal justice information sharing, while maintaining accountability and transparency.

Funding

ARJIS is funded through annual membership dues from local, state, and federal law enforcement and public safety agencies. These agencies provide funds to ARJIS to pay for the ARJIS staff, office space, data systems, network, software, and all other products and services provided. ARJIS staff also typically apply for \$1-2 million dollars in grant funds annually for special projects.

By delivering shared systems and centralized services, ARJIS provides measurable value to the region through cost efficiencies and operational savings for member agencies. The consolidation of technology, infrastructure, and data-sharing services reduces duplication of effort and supports resource optimization, allowing agencies to focus on their core public safety missions.

Anthony Ray, Director of ARJIS