FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 26, 2018

2017-2018 SAN JOAQUIN GRAND JURY
RELEASES REPORT ON
CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS

Today, the San Joaquin County 2017-2018 Civil Grand Jury released its report investigating the various code enforcements departments within San Joaquin County. The scope of the inquiry involved identifying the various departments and determining the level of enforcement. The Grand Jury determined that the areas that fall under code enforcement, including blight, abandoned vehicles, structural hazards, and illegal commercial truck parking have a direct effect on the quality of life for residents of San Joaquin County.

The decision to investigate code enforcement agencies in San Joaquin County grew out of early discussions among the grand jurors questioning how effectively the agencies functioned and if their work improved the quality of life for residents in San Joaquin County.

The Grand Jury found that several code enforcement departments are still experiencing the effect of the housing crash of 2008 and the subsequent budget and staff reductions. Stockton and some of the surrounding areas were deeply impacted by the city's bankruptcy declaration in 2012. Many agencies still function with minimal staff, employees serve in multiple roles, and volunteers fill needed vacancies. Agencies must work to generate voluntary compliance in creative and cost-effective ways.

The Grand Jury recommends that the agencies explore budget options, use of volunteers, and possible grant funding to improve code enforcement.

The City Councils of Escalon, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Tracy and Lathrop, the Mountain House Board of Directors and the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors are required to submit a response to the Presiding Judge of San Joaquin County Superior Court within 90 days as to each finding and recommendation contained in the Grand Jury's report.

# # # #