



The Superior Court
THIRD FLOOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95202

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FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
March 11, 2003

• • NEWS RELEASE • • NEWS RELEASE • •

**2002-2003 GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON
COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

(Stockton, CA)—The San Joaquin County Grand Jury released today a report based on an investigation of an issued at the San Joaquin County Office of Education. The 2001-2002 Grand Jury initially received the complaint from the District Attorney's Office in 2001. The citizen complaint alleged misappropriation of funds, theft of equipment, and irregularities in record keeping at the County Office of Education. The complaint was carried over to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury, who found no evidence of a criminal act. The Grand Jury did make a recommendation regarding inventory practices, however, to assist in tracking equipment.

The Grand Jury report "recommend[s] that an single item valued at \$100.00 or more be tracked as to location and responsible party. This will allow a determination of acquisition, utilization, and disposal of all valuable equipment used in the Office of Education." The current Office of Education property inventory practices manual policy is to inventory items "valued at \$300.00 or greater . . .", although it was reported by the head of Business Services that the actual threshold used had been increased to \$500.00.

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San Joaquin County Grand Jury
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The Grand Jury evaluated the file information on the case with respect to each of the allegations presented in the complaint and investigated those items that were deemed by the District Attorney's Office to be civil in nature. The Grand Jury stated that, "Given the extended period of time that this investigation has spanned, it is difficult, if not impossible, to completely substantiate or refute the allegations." They did note that the Office of Education "has adopted an Employee Handbook as of July 1, 2002.

The County Office of Education is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days of the publication of the report as to each finding and recommendation.

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(Copy of report attached)



Grand Jury
County of San Joaquin
Courthouse
222 East Weber Avenue-Room 303
Stockton, California 95202
(209)468-3855

ASSESSOR RECORDER
COUNTY CLERK
GARY W. FREEMAN

03 MAR 11 AM 9:01

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

BY *[Signature]*
DEPUTY
FINAL REPORT

CASE #0401 SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

A citizen complaint alleging misappropriation of funds, theft of equipment, and irregularities in record keeping was received by the 2001-2002 San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury (SCCGJ) and carried over to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County Office of Education is a regional agency whose mission is to provide educational leadership, resources, and service to assist school districts to be effective facilities of learning for all pupils.

The case was originally submitted from the District Attorney's office in September of 2001. The District Attorney's Office originally received the case as a complaint from an employee of the San Joaquin County Office of Education. Then it was referred to the Grand Jury.

The 2001-2002 SJCCGJ investigation determined that there was no evidence of wrongdoing. They recommended that the case be referred to the Attorney General's Office.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

Representatives of the Attorney General's Office met with the 2002-2003 SJCCGJ, and advised to separate the case into two parts: criminal, which should be submitted to the District Attorney's Office with all supporting evidence; and civil, (i.e., the Employee Handbook, Property Management, and Record Keeping) which should be handled by this year's SJCCGJ.

Reviewed the files provided from the 2001-2002 SJCCGJ.

Evaluated the file information with respect to each of the allegations presented in the complaint.

Met with last year's committee members.

Interviewed Greg Clark, the head of Business Services

Requested current copy of Employee Handbook

FINDINGS:

1. After a thorough review of the case records, no evidence of a criminal act was discovered. Given the extended period of time that this investigation has spanned, it is difficult, if not impossible, to completely substantiate or refute the allegations.

2. Subsequent to the prior SJCCGJ investigation, the Office of Education has adopted an Employee Handbook as of July 1, 2002.
3. We reviewed a detailed copy of the office's property inventory practices manual. According to the manual the only items inventoried are those valued at \$300.00 or greater, but it was reported by the head of Business Services that this threshold has been increased to \$500.00.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Regarding the inventory practices, we recommend that any single item valued at \$100.00 or more be tracked as to location and responsible party. This will allow a determination of acquisition, utilization, and disposal of all valuable equipment used in the Office of Education.

RESPONSE REQUIRED:

Pursuant to Section 933.05 of the Penal Code:

The County Office of Education shall report to the Presiding Judge of the San Joaquin Superior Court, in writing and within 90 days of publication of this report, with a response as follows:

As to each finding in the report a response indicating one of the following:

- a. The respondent agrees with the finding.
- b. The respondent disagrees with the finding, with an explanation of the reasons therefore.

As to each recommendation, a response indicating one of the following:

- a. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary of the action taken.
- b. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be with a time frame for implementation.
- c. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation of the scope of the analysis and a time frame not to exceed (6) six months.
- d. The recommendation will not be implemented, with an explanation therefore.