



CITY OF ESCALON

September 18, 2018

Honorable Linda L. Lofthus, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin
180 West Weber Avenue Suite 1306J
Stockton CA 95202

RE: **Response to the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury Report titled “San Joaquin County Municipality Ethics Policies 2017-2018 Case #0917”**

Dear Judge Lothus,

The City of Escalon has reviewed the report of the 2017-2018 San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury Case #0917, regarding the investigation of ethics policies of San Joaquin County and the cities within its boundaries. The Council has considered Grand Jury findings F1.1 along with the Grand Jury’s recommendations applicable to the City of Escalon. The following Council’s comments were approved at the Council’s regularly scheduled meeting of September 17, 2018 as required by Penal Code section 933(c).

Findings pertaining to City of Escalon:

- *Escalon F1.1 - The City of Escalon does not have an ethics policy for its elected and appointed officials and senior staff such as the city administrator, city attorney, city clerk and their subordinate employees not represented by a bargaining unit. Failure to have an ethics policy could lead to poor judgement, public misconception and lack of trust.*

The City agrees with the findings made by the Grand Jury regarding the lack of an ethics policy and its importance. It has been the practice that biennial training of AB 1234 is applied to all elected officials and executive management.

Recommendations:

- *Escalon R1.1- By October 31, 2018, the Escalon City Council develop and adopt an ethics policy that governs the behavior of its elected appointed officials.*

Response by the City:

The City of Escalon has included in their fiscal year budget of 2018-2019 an allocation for the assistance of a consultant to review its personnel rules and policies including the

formalization of the required biennial training of AB 1234 to be required biennially of elected, appointed officials and senior staff. Due to the comprehensive review of all policies the City is anticipating that all should be completed no later than June 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Alcantor, City Manager
City of Escalon

cc: Mayor Jeff Laugero