



SAN JOAQUIN
—COUNTY—
Greatness grows here.

Board of Supervisors

Robert Rickman, *Chairman, Fifth District*

Miguel Villapudua, *Vice Chair, First District*

Paul Canepa, *Second District*

Tom Patti, *Third District*

Steven J. Ding, *Fourth District*

Rachél DeBord, *Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*

Honorable Michael D. Coughlan, Presiding Judge
San Joaquin Superior Court
180 E. Weber Avenue, Suite 1306J
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Judge Coughlan:

Responses to 2022-2023 Grand Jury Reports

Pursuant to Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code, attached please find the Board of Supervisors' and departmental responses to the Grand Jury Final Report for the following cases:

New Reports:

- A. *Good Intentions Are Failing San Joaquin County's At-Risk Children (Case #0422)*
(Separate responses to this report have also been submitted by the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department)
- B. *The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority: A Rubik's Cube of Water Management (Case #0622)*
(A separate response to this report has been submitted by the Auditor-Controller's Office)

Follow-up Request:

- C. *Independent Special Districts: Transparency "Not Found" (Case #0220)*

If you have any additional questions regarding these responses, please contact Jay Wilverding, County Administrator, at (209) 468-3203.

Sincerely,

Robert Rickman, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin

Attachments:

- Responses to Grand Jury Reports (3)
- Board Letter
- Board Order

c: Jeff Woltkamp, Auditor-Controller
Pat Withrow, Sheriff-Public Administrator
Steve Jackson, Chief Probation Officer
Chris Woods, Human Services Agency
Fritz Buchman, Public Works
Edward Kiernan, County Counsel



SAN JOAQUIN
—COUNTY—
Greatness grows here.

Office of the County Administrator

Jerome C. Wilverding, County Administrator

Sandra Regalo, Assistant County Administrator

Brandi Hopkins, Assistant County Administrator

August 22, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
Stockton, CA

Dear Board Members:

Approve Responses to 2022-2023 Grand Jury Reports

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Reports; and
2. Authorize and direct the Chairman to sign a letter with attached responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The 2022-2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury issued the following:

New Reports:

- A. *Good Intentions Are Failing San Joaquin County's At-Risk Children (Case #0422)*
(Separate responses to this report have been submitted by the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department)
- B. *The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority: A Rubik's Cube of Water Management (Case #0622)*
(A separate response to this report has been submitted by the Auditor-Controller's Office)

Follow-up Request:

- C. *Independent Special Districts: Transparency "Not Found" (Case #0220)*

California Penal Code (PC) Section 933 requires that specific responses to all findings and recommendations contained in the report be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations within 90 days of issuance. PC Section 933.05 designates responses to findings must be: 1) Agrees with the finding; or 2) Disagrees, wholly or partially with the finding. Responses to recommendations are limited to: 1) Has been implemented; 2) Has not yet been implemented, but will be within a certain timeframe; 3) Requires further analysis and timeframe for further determination within six months; or 4) Will not be implemented, and reasons therefor.

A summary of the departmental responses/actions reflecting the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations are attached.

FISCAL IMPACT

Except for staff time, there is no fiscal impact to approve and submit the responses.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board will submit the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Very truly yours,



Jerome C. Wilverding
County Administrator

Attachments:

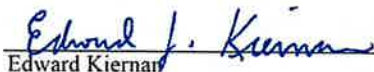
- Responses
- Letter to Presiding Judge w/ Attachments

c: Jeff Woltkamp, Auditor-Controller
Pat Withrow, Sheriff-Public Administrator
Steve Jackson, Chief Probation Officer
Chris Woods, Human Services Agency
Fritz Buchman, Public Works
Edward Kiernan, County Counsel
Board Clerk for 08/22/23 Agenda

BL08-06

JW:SR

Reviewed by County Counsel's Office:



Edward Kiernan

8/15/2023

Before the Board of Supervisors

County of San Joaquin, State of California

B-23-436

Approve Responses to 2022-2023 Grand Jury Reports

THIS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES HEREBY:

1. Approve the responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Reports; and
2. Authorize and direct the Chairman to sign a letter with attached responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order was passed and adopted on August 22, 2023 by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

MOTION: Canepa/Ding/5-0

AYES: Villapudua, Canepa, Patti, Ding, Rickman

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST: RACHÉL DeBORD
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin
State of California



By: **Rachél DeBord**

ATTACHMENT A

Responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Final Report

NEW REPORT:

San Joaquin County, Case #0422 – “Good Intentions Are Failing San Joaquin County’s At-Risk Children”

Finding F1.1:

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and San Joaquin County Probation Department failed to promptly take expedient measures to keep up with the ever-changing regulatory environment regarding the Juvenile Realignment Act, which created significant deficiencies in available placement options.

Response to Finding F1.1:

Disagree.

(Separate response provided by Probation Department.)

Finding F1.2:

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and San Joaquin County Human Services Agency failed to take timely steps to keep up with the Juvenile Realignment Act’s ever-changing regulatory environment, which created significant deficiencies in available services and placement options.

Response to Finding F1.2:

Disagree.

The State of California made significant changes to the system of care for children and did not create additional placement options for youth with significant barriers or complex care needs. Additionally, while other placement options licensed by the State of California have the ability to deny placement of a youth (reject) or to give notice to a placement agency that they are no longer able to care for the youth (eject), the Mary Graham Children’s Shelter (MGCS) is required to provide care and supervision of any and all youth under 18 years of age who have been removed from their homes as a result of abuse or neglect, or both, as defined in Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. MGCS cannot refuse admittance to any Juvenile Court dependent, regardless of their barriers or care needs. However, by regulation, MGCS is not a placement option for youth on probation, as defined in Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Human Services Agency (HSA) has developed new placement options and will continue to do so within the licensing framework designated by the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division. HSA is working in collaboration

with Aspiranet, Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, and Merced County Human Services Agency to develop new placement options for youth with complex care needs. Additionally, on April 21, 2023, HSA initiated programs with two local community-based organizations, Victor Community Support Services and Alternative Family Services, to identify short-term placements in resource homes that are certified at the Intensive Services Foster Care level.

Finding F1.3:

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and San Joaquin County Human Services Agency and San Joaquin County Probation Department are underutilizing available program options like the San Joaquin County Office of Education's Discovery ChalleNGe Academy, or the Youth Law Center's Quality Parenting Initiative. This deprives children of additional available resources.

Response to Finding F1.3:

Disagree.

While a valuable program serving youth, the San Joaquin County Office of Education Discovery ChalleNGe Academy is not a licensed placement option for youth with complex care needs who fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Dependency Court.

(Separate response provided by Probation Department.)

Finding F1.4:

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and San Joaquin County Human Services Agency and San Joaquin County Probation Department, did not plan or account for the increased number of the most difficult-to-place youth needing placement in congregate care, creating restricted access to services and potential harm to juveniles and communities throughout San Joaquin County.

Response to Finding F1.4:

Partially Agree.

The State of California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) dramatically decreased the number of placement options for youth and sought to greatly restrict placement in congregate care settings. In doing so, Group Homes were required to close or to seek licensure as a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) providing increased services and supportive services. In 2016, the San Joaquin County Human Services Agency (HSA) and Probation Department facilitated a CCR training for all of the Group Home providers in San Joaquin County, along with Group Home providers in surrounding counties, to demonstrate support in helping them to successfully transition from a group home to a STRTP. Additionally, representatives from HSA and the Probation Department wrote letters of support for these providers so they could submit to the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division with their application. Unfortunately, the majority of those group homes were unsuccessful in transitioning due to the high demands of the new State regulations. CCR resulted in a dramatic decrease in placement options throughout the State of California. Further restricting placement options, the State eliminated out-of-state placement options in December 2020. Counties do not have exclusive access to STRTP placements. STRTPs may select which youth to accept regardless of county of origin.

(Separate response provided by Probation Department.)

Finding F2.1:

Human Services Agency, Children's Protective Services, and Mary Graham Children's Shelter are critically and chronically understaffed and fail to provide the level of supervision required for At-Risk-Youth and sheltered children.

Response to Finding F2.1:

Disagree.

Finding F2.2:

Human Services Agency, Children's Protective Services, and Mary Graham Children's Shelter training has been inconsistent and inadequate to meet regulatory requirements that are critical for the staff to maintain the welfare of At-Risk Youth and sheltered children.

Response to Finding F2.2:

Agree.

Finding F2.3:

Mary Graham Children's Shelter employees lack clear and concise guidance for handling disruptive behaviors, which creates an environment where the safety of children and staff is compromised.

Response to Finding F2.3:

Partially Agree.

Finding F3.1:

The absence of the Sheriff's Office from participation in the development of the System of Care Memorandum of Understanding was a significant omission by the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and the San Joaquin County Human Services Agency, which failed to capitalize on law enforcement experience when developing the MOU.

Response to Finding F3.1:

Disagree.

Assembly Bill 2083 did not identify the Sheriff's Office as a required or suggested partner in the MOU. However, Assembly Bill 2083 does require Probation as a partner, and they were included and provided their law enforcement experience when developing the MOU.

Further, the California Children and Youth System of Care State Team (CYSOCST) reviewed MOUs from across the State to identify examples of exceptional System of Care practices. CYSOCST selected three MOUs for including best practices that improve and promote collaboration and communication throughout the System of Care: Sacramento, San Diego, and Yolo. None of the MOUs from these counties included the Sheriff's Office or any law enforcement agency other than Probation.

Finding F3.2:

Substantial issues in managing the care for At-Risk Youth in the County were due to a lack of meaningful interagency cooperation, which missed an opportunity to leverage and gain sustainable support from other agencies.

Response to Finding F3.2:

Partially Agree.

(Separate responses provided by Sheriff and Probation Departments.)

Finding F3.3:

The Sheriff's Office has failed to meaningfully collaborate with the other agencies charged with the care of At-Risk Youth, leaving those agencies more vulnerable to threats and challenges.

Response to Finding F3.3: (Response provided by Sheriff.)

Recommendation R1.1:

By December 31, 2023, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and San Joaquin County Probation Department, through collaboration with Human Services Agency, Children's Protective Services, Behavioral Health Services develop, adopt, and implement appropriate alternative housing placement options (e.g., transitional housing placement program, small family homes, group homes, and/or short-term residential therapeutic programs).

Response to Recommendation R1.1:

Has been implemented.

The Human Services Agency (HSA) has developed new placement options and will continue to do so within the licensing framework designated by the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division. HSA is working in collaboration with Aspiranet, Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, and Merced County Human Services Agency to develop new placement options for youth with complex care needs. Additionally, on April 21, 2023, HSA initiated programs with two local community-based organizations, Victor Community Support Services and Alternative Family Services, to identify short-term placements in resource homes that are certified at the Intensive Services Foster Care level.

(Separate response provided by Probation Department.)

Recommendation R1.2:

By December 31, 2023, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and Human Services Agency, through collaboration with the Behavioral Health Services, San Joaquin County Probation Department, San Joaquin County Office of Education, and all San Joaquin County Law Enforcement Agencies, develop, adopt, and implement appropriate programs for justice-involved youth, as listed in Finding 1.3.

Response to Recommendation R1.2:

Has been implemented.

The Human Services Agency (HSA) will continue to pursue additional resources to better serve the County's youth who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Dependency Court. This effort will continue beyond December 31, 2023, and includes a partnership with Aspiranet, San Joaquin County Human Services Agency, Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, and Merced County Human Services Agency to develop new placement options for youth with complex care needs. Mary Graham Children's Shelter is not a placement option for youth on probation, as defined in Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. On April 21, 2023, HSA initiated programs with two local community-based organizations, Victor Community Support Services and Alternative Family Services, to identify short-term placements in resource homes that are certified at the Intensive Services Foster Care level.

(Separate response provided by Probation Department.)

Recommendation R1.3:

By December 31, 2023, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, through collaboration with Human Services Agency, Probation, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, develop plans for the increased utilization of programs such as the San Joaquin County Office of Education's Discovery ChalleNGe Academy or the Youth Law Center's Quality Parenting Initiative.

Response to Recommendation R1.3:

Will not be implemented.

The youth system of care is challenged Statewide with a shortage of appropriate placement options for youth with the most complex care needs. Although the Discovery ChalleNGe Academy is a valuable program, it does not offer the supports and services offered by a licensed Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). The Human Services Agency will continue to present Discovery ChalleNGe Academy as a voluntary option to youth in care when appropriate. The youth will individually decide participation levels.

(Separate response provided by Probation Department.)

Recommendation R1.4:

By December 31, 2023, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, through collaboration with the Human Services Agency and the San Joaquin County Probation Department, develop, adopt, and implement a type of alternative placement for the most difficult-to-place youth.

Response to Recommendation R1.4:

Will be implemented.

As the child welfare system was significantly changed by the State of California, with very little notice to prepare and no additional system created, the ability of a County to meet the needs of youth was diminished. Placement types are limited to those licensed by the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and any alternative placement would be required to fit within the licensing criteria set forth by the State. As such, the ability of any County to create new types of alternative placements is limited to those that fit within the licensing criteria. The available alternative placement referenced above is the Mary Graham Children's Shelter (MGCS). The Human Services Agency (HSA) has engaged with the California Department of Social Services through the Plan of Correction process to review and enhance the Plan of Operation for MGCS. This targeted engagement began in November 2022, was finalized in December 2022, and will continue through November 2024.

HSA has developed new placement options and will continue to do so within the licensing framework designated by the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division. HSA is working in collaboration with Aspiranet, Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, and Merced County Human Services Agency to develop new placement options for youth with complex care needs. Additionally, on April 21, 2023, HSA initiated programs with two local community-based organizations, Victor Community Support Services and Alternative Family Services, to identify short-term placements in resource homes that are certified at the Intensive Services Foster Care level.

Recommendation R2.1:

By December 31, 2023, Human Services Agency implement an ongoing recruitment plan utilizing the services of a third-party recruiter.

Response to Recommendation R2.1:

Will not be implemented.

The County Board of Supervisors has approved an additional 28 full-time positions for Mary Graham Children's Shelter since July 2022; this is an increase of 58% for full-time positions. These additional positions have been and will continue to be recruited for. Mary Graham Children's Shelter has 42 allocated full-time Shelter Counselor positions and 35 incumbents. The shelter has made seven conditional offers to fill the remaining vacancies, and those applicants are undergoing background checks. The enhanced full-time staffing levels, coupled with part-time staffing, has provided for supervision of youth at a ratio of two youth per one direct care staff member (2:1 ratio) in accordance with the Plan of Correction dated December 22, 2022, which exceeds the Temporary Shelter Care Facility regulations staffing ratio of 4:1.

Recommendation R2.2:

By December 31, 2023, Human Services Agency and Mary Graham Children's Shelter develop and implement a regular training schedule for all levels of employees and administrators, and provide accurate documentation that all required training has been completed.

Response to Recommendation R2.2:

Implemented.

Upon review with the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division, the Human Services Agency Leadership team has ensured that appropriate trainings are completed and refresher trainings are appropriately scheduled to avoid any lapses. Per the Plan of Correction dated December 22, 2022, all Mary Graham Children's Shelter staff were required to participate in the following trainings: Practical Skills for Supporting Youth with Intellectual/Development Disabilities, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), Services Currently Available to Children and Youth, Trauma-Informed Care Training, Regional Center Training, Dual Diagnosis Training, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Hyper-sexualized Behaviors, Emergency Intervention Plan Training, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), Substance Abuse and Adverse Childhood Experiences Assessments. All trainings were completed by staff as of March 2023, with a few make-up sessions that were held in April 2023. All newly hired staff will complete onboarding training during their first 2½ weeks. All training records are tracked and retained, along with copies of sign-in sheets.

Recommendation R2.3:

By December 31, 2023, Human Services Agency requests clear and concise written guidance from the California Care Licensing Department concerning how to deal with disruptive behaviors by youth.

Response to Recommendation R2.3:

Implemented.

The Human Services Agency (HSA) has been engaged with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) since November 2022. As each situation with youth is unique, HSA has been discussing scenarios with CDSS and the appropriate methods to preserve all the health and safety of all parties. HSA has received significant support from the CDSS and will continue to seek guidance from the Community Care Licensing Division of CDSS. Per the Plan of Correction dated December 22, 2022, Mary Graham Children's Shelter (MGCS) staff have completed multiple trainings related to youth behaviors. MGCS staff conducts an evaluation on each youth's behaviors, risk, and strengths every 24 hours until the youth is discharged. This helps to provide appropriate services to the youth. There are more structured indoor and outdoor activities for youth to participate in during their stay at MGCS. In addition, there has been an increased staffing ratio of 2:1, which exceeds the Temporary Shelter Care Facility regulations staffing ratio of 4:1.

Recommendation R3.1:

By December 31, 2023, San Joaquin County Human Services Agency prepare an addendum to the System of Care MOU that includes the participation of the Sheriff's Office.

Response to Recommendation R3.1:

Will not be implemented.

The San Joaquin County Human Services Agency (HSA) and the Sheriff's Office will continue to engage and collaborate in service to youth residing at the Mary Graham Children's Shelter. This engagement includes open communication between the Sheriff and the HSA Director. Also, staff from HSA, Mary Graham Children's Shelter, and the Sheriff's Office meet to determine how to serve the youth. HSA will further seek the collaboration of other law enforcement agencies in San Joaquin County who are interested in serving youth under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Dependency Court.

Recommendation R3.2:

By December 31, 2023, San Joaquin County Human Services Agency establish and utilize a multiagency task force to focus on managing the care for At-Risk Youth in the County.

Response to Recommendation R3.2:

Has been implemented.

There has been substantial collaboration centered around At-Risk Youth in the County. These partners include the Human Services Agency (HSA), Probation, Behavioral Health Services, Sheriff's Office, County Administrator's Office, and the Board of Supervisors. HSA will continue to engage with partners to focus on the care for At-Risk Youth in the County.

The Children's Services Coordinating Commission was established by the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors in 1986, in compliance with the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18982 – 18982.4, whose primary purpose is to coordinate community efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse. The Children's Services Coordinating Commission consists of representatives from multiple agencies and partners in San Joaquin County, including HSA, Probation, Behavioral Health Services, District Attorney's Office, County Office of Education, Office of the Medical Examiner, Licensing Agency, Medical Services, five supervisory district representatives, Religious Community, Community Volunteers/Consumer, and community-based organizations.

(Separate responses provided by Sheriff and Probation Departments.)

Recommendation R3.3:

By October 1, 2023, the Sheriff's Office designate a permanent liaison to collaborate with the other agencies charged with the care of At-Risk Youth.

Response to Recommendation R3.3 (Response provided by Sheriff.)



ATTACHMENT B

Responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Final Report

NEW REPORT:

San Joaquin County, Case #0622 – “The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority: A Rubik’s Cube of Water Management”

Finding F2.2.2:

Important Zone 2 financial information is not readily available on the San Joaquin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District’s website, therefore does not meet the public’s need for transparency.

Response to Finding F2.2.2:

Disagree.

Detailed budget narratives describing planned Zone 2 funding allocations and expenditures have been available on the County’s website for many years (County Proposed Budget document and Board package for the annual Special District Budget Hearing). However, it is noted that having more detailed financial information available through the Flood Control and Water Conservation website will facilitate access to this information.

Finding F4.1:

San Joaquin County and Cal Water allowed their Memorandum of Agreement to automatically terminate in December 2021 and failed to renew it until November 2022, which undermines public confidence in the County’s governance and due diligence in tracking all legal agreements.

Response to Finding F4.1:

Partially Disagree.

The County and Cal Water entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in May 2017. The MOA provides in pertinent part that Cal Water is a representative of County of San Joaquin GSA – Eastern San Joaquin 2 (Cal Water-County GSA) and has limited voting rights on the Board of Directors of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA), a joint powers authority. In addition, Cal Water assumed certain financial obligations under the MOA, including payment of the Cal Water-County GSA’s proportional share of administrative costs incurred by ESJGWA. The terms of the original MOA provide that the agreement will automatically end when the ESJGWA adopts its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) unless the parties agree to an extension of up to a two-year period. In addition, the MOA provides that the parties may enter into a subsequent agreement for the implementation and/or amendment of the GSP.

Upon initial adoption of the GSP on December 17, 2019, the parties agreed to extend the MOA for an additional two years. After that two-year period concluded on or about December 17, 2021, the parties continued to exercise their obligations under the MOA, including payment of expenses and participation in ESJGWA board meetings, wherein revisions to the

GSP and GSP implementation were discussed. Accordingly, the parties have mutually agreed that the terms and conditions of the original MOA remain in force and effect by way of the Agreement denoted as A-22-484, entered on or about November 29, 2022. However, due to an administrative oversight, the parties did not memorialize their agreement in a punctual manner. The County notes that it would be inappropriate for Public Works staff members to opine on the legal effect of these facts. With that said, the factual history with respect to A-22-484 and the parties' intentions could be stated more clearly in A-22-484. Accordingly, within the next six months, the County will seek to amend A-22-484 for the purpose of avoiding any confusion to third parties and/or members of the public.

Recommendation R2.2.2:

By November 1, 2023, the County Board of Supervisors modify the Flood Control & Water Conservation District's website to provide the public clear and convenient access to financial and project information related to the use of Zone 2 funds, including prior year actuals and services provided each year.

Response to Recommendation R2.2.2:

Has been implemented.

Links to a detailed budget narrative, a current year budget summary, and a detailed breakdown of prior year and projected expenditures have been added to the Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Zone 2 web page.

Recommendation R4.1:

By November 1, 2023, the San Joaquin Board of Supervisors develop, adopt, and implement a methodology for reviewing Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority governance and contractual documents regularly to ensure that any that are approaching expiration can be acted upon promptly.

Response to Recommendation R4.1:

Will not be implemented.

Members of County staff presently have an administrative system in place to track contract terms, including expiration dates. The delay in approving the November 2022 Cal Water-County MOA was the result of an isolated administrative oversight. Accordingly, Board adoption of additional procedures is unnecessary. However, the County will seek to amend A-22-484 to clarify this factual history and the parties' intentions for the purpose of avoiding any confusion to third parties and/or members of the public.

ATTACHMENT C

Responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Final Report

FOLLOW-UP:

San Joaquin County, Case #0220 – “Independent Special Districts: Transparency ‘Not Found’”

2022-2023 Grand Jury Finding F2.1:

The Boggs Tract Fire District has no board of directors, thereby leaving the 284 property owners within the district with absolutely no accountability or transparency for how their taxpayer dollars are allocated.

Response to Finding F2.1:

Partially agree.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) agrees positions on the Boggs Tract Fire District Board of Directors are vacant. However, the Board disagrees there is no accountability or transparency. Since 1992, fire services have been provided by the City of Stockton (City). The San Joaquin County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk (Assessor) provides the City with annual property valuations associated with the district. The City determines the fee in accordance with the Fire Protection Contract dated July 1, 1992 (Contract) and invoices the San Joaquin County Auditor-Controller (Auditor) on a monthly basis pursuant to the Contract. The Assessor and Auditor are both elected officials accountable to San Joaquin County constituents, including those within the Boggs Tract Fire District boundaries. Both the County and the City, as public agencies, conduct their business in an open and transparent manner.

2022-2023 Grand Jury Recommendation R2.1:

By November 1, 2023, the Board of Supervisors appoint three board members to the Boggs Tract Fire District following the guidelines that two of the three must live within the fire district.

Response to Recommendation R2.1:

Requires further analysis.

Since fire protection services are provided by the City of Stockton, the duties of the Boggs Tract Fire District Board of Directors is extremely limited. Finding qualified applicants to apply for the positions may be challenging and outside the control of the Board of Supervisors (“Board”). By November 1, 2023, the Board will consider appointment options that will most effectively serve the district until such time as the area is annexed into the City.

