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2012-2013 GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND COMPLIANCE WITH BROWN ACT

(Stockton, CA) The San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District (the District) has again come under the scrutiny of the San Joaquin County Grand Jury.

The 2012-2013 San Joaquin County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) received two complaints from a citizen alleging a lack of transparency and violations of the California Brown Act pertaining to actions taken by the Board of Trustees. Through observation, review of documents and sworn testimony the Grand Jury identified the following three areas of concern:

1. The Grand Jury discovered violations of the Brown Act regarding the District Board's failure to conduct its public business in an open and transparent manner.
2. The Grand Jury found that Trustees failed to understand the health benefit resolutions on which they voted. Further, several Trustees lacked a basic understanding the District's finances.
3. The Grand Jury investigation raised concerns pertaining to the appointment of Trustees and the sense of entitlement to the positions held by some Trustees of the Board.

In view of these findings, the Grand Jury recommends the District institute open meetings and allow the public greater access to the District's meeting agendas and reports as stipulated in the Brown Act. Also, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and all City Councils within the County request appropriate authorizing bodies to consider adopting term limits for the District Board Trustees to ensure that fresh ideas and more current trustee leadership are brought to district governance.

The Grand Jury has respect for the employees of the District in keeping the County safe from mosquito and vector carried diseases. In light of the District Board's current and prior issues, it does have concerns about whether having a separate district with a separate board is the most effective structure for the present and future vector control needs of the County.

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A copy of the Report can be accessed by visiting: <http://stocktoncourt.org/grandjury/>