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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2020

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2019-2020 SAN JOAQUIN GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON ILLEGAL DUMPING IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Yesterday, the San Joaquin County 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury released its [report](#) investigating illegal dumping in San Joaquin County. The Grand Jury opened an investigation into illegal dumping after receiving complaints of neglect and harmful environmental concerns. It is the Civil Grand Jury's duty to address citizens' concerns regarding the operation of local government entities.

In the course of the Grand Jury's investigation, various personnel from departmental offices throughout the county, including CalRecycle, City of Stockton Public Works, and Code Enforcement, District Attorney's Office, Public Works and Sheriff's Office for the County of San Joaquin were interviewed. Personnel acknowledged the illegal dumping problem is becoming progressively worse. The Grand Jury found that each department has specific guidelines and restrictions on where and what they are allowed to do regarding illegal trash removal, but departmental regulations inhibit interdepartmental coordination as evidenced by employees ignoring trash rather than picking it up while on another assignment. San Joaquin County is lacking an interdepartmental approach. Moreover, the Grand Jury found that the public is unaware of the various projects and resources available regarding garbage disposal and drop-off services, green waste/composting programs, recycling programs, and neighborhood/city clean-up programs, which leads to the underutilization of these valuable programs.

In its report, the Grand Jury outlined several recommendations, including a county-wide task force be formed amongst County and city departments and other agencies, which will allow them to work together on goals and strategies to address illegal dumping cleanup issues. The Task Force should also develop and implement a county-wide educational program including billboards, buses, and bus stop shelters advertising to include information about free drop-off services. The Grand Jury believes through collaboration and communication, along with a dedicated, proactive action plan with follow-thru can aid in the recovery of our environment throughout the County.

The public is encouraged to read the complete report by visiting the [Grand Jury's website](#).

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