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**2017-2018 SAN JOAQUIN GRAND JURY
RELEASES REPORT ON
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

Today, the San Joaquin County 2017-2018 Civil Grand Jury released its report investigating the Office of Emergency Services (OES). The Civil Grand Jury's duty is to address citizens' concerns regarding the operation of local government entities. The Grand Jury was initially concerned with the level of emergency outreach efforts in the county. After the Grand Jury learned of the existence of an outside consultant's report on the Emergency Operations Plan, the focus of the investigation expanded to include the deficiencies found in it.

As part of the investigation, the Grand Jury conducted interviews with the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, current and retired administrators, and San Joaquin County staff. Materials were reviewed and analyzed, including reports, brochures, websites, PowerPoint briefings, and surveys.

During the investigation, the Grand Jury found that the OES is one of the most important departments in the San Joaquin County government. In the case of a county disaster, OES is essential for the coordination of emergency, relief, and recovery services.

If an emergency event were to occur, providing many essential services may be a challenge for OES. Many vital services are without agency agreements to provide emergency services. The Emergency Operations Plan and its supplementary documents are incomplete, expired, or written in a confusing, non-standard format. In addition to the risk for life and property, consequences may include jeopardizing recovery reimbursement from government agencies such as FEMA.

The Grand Jury made a number of recommendations to improve the work of the office. An effective OES and Emergency Operations Plan are vital tools for protecting infrastructure and ensuring the safety, lives, and property of all San Joaquin County citizens.

The San Joaquin Board of Supervisors is required to submit a response to the Presiding Judge of San Joaquin County Superior Court within 90 days as to each finding and recommendation contained in the Grand Jury's report.