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**MADERA COUNTY GRAND JURY  
2019-2020 FINAL REPORT  
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## **Madera County Grand Jury**

### **2019-2020 Madera County Grand Jury Final Report**

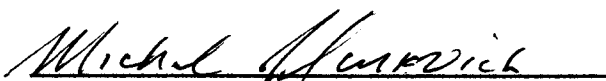
**With signatures below this document becomes**

**The Final Report of the  
2019-2020 Madera County Grand Jury  
July 1, 2019-December 31, 2020**

**Approved by the Grand Jury:**

  
**Nina Zarucchi-Mize, Foreperson  
2019-2020 Madera County Grand Jury**

**Accepted for Filing:**

  
**Honorable Michael Jurkovich,  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury, Madera Superior Court**



# SUPERIOR COURT

COUNTY OF MADERA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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DALE BLEA  
PRESIDING JUDGE

ERNEST J. LICALSI  
ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE

ADRIENNE CALIP  
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 9, 2020

Re: 2019 – 2020 Grand Jury

To the Citizens of Madera County:

As the supervising judge of your Madera County Grand Jury, it is my privilege to report to you at the conclusion of the 2019 – 2020 grand jury term. Your grand jury is a part of the judicial branch of government. However, neither I nor the court provide direction to the grand jury on what matters or agencies should be investigated. As such, your grand jury is truly independent.

The grand jury is comprised of citizens of Madera County. Each grand jury term is typically for one year (the beginning of July to the end of June, each year). However, this has been anything but a typical year. The global COVID – 19 pandemic has touched the lives of your grand jurors just as it has all of us. Under the authority granted this court by the penal code, and with the consent of the Madera County Board of Supervisors, this grand jury term has been extended six months to December 31, 2020. This extension has permitted your grand jury to complete its work. This means most of the grand jurors have been in your service for the last eighteen months – with some serving an additional year.

The grand jury exists to serve as an independent examining and investigative body charged with monitoring the operation of state and local government. These investigations assist your government in operating more effectively and efficiently. We all benefit from their work. Grand jurors do not perform this service for public acclaim. Quite to the contrary, their work often places them at odds with elected officials, public employees, as well as other members of the community.

Prior to their selection, I personally interviewed each prospective grand jury member. I can assure you each is motivated by one reason - community service. The grand jury members are a diverse group, with diverse backgrounds. It is this diversity which makes for such an effective body. This diversity is also why no grand jury is quite the same. This is also a benefit to the citizens of Madera County.

Each juror who served on the grand jury during the 2019 – 2020 term did so without complaint – notwithstanding how difficult this term has been in light of the pandemic. The grand jury has produced

detailed reports. These reports also contain recommendations. We all benefit from the work of the grand jury.

In conclusion, I wanted to personally thank each member of the 2019-2020 grand jury for selflessly devoting to your community so much of your personal time during this grand jury term. I also wanted to specifically thank this year's foreperson, Nina Zarucchi-Mize, for her steady hand during this especially challenging grand jury term.

Respectfully yours,



Michael J. Jurkovich  
Supervising Judge  
2019 – 2020 Madera County Grand Jury