



OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNSEL

COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
44 NORTH SAN JOAQUIN STREET, SUITE 679
STOCKTON, CA 95202-2931
TELEPHONE: (209) 468-2980
FAX: (209) 468-0315

DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL:

MATTHEW P. DACEY
KIMBERLY D. JOHNSON
JASON R. MORRISH
QUENDRITH L. MACEDO
ROBERT E. O'ROURKE
LISA S. RIBEIRO
ZAYANTE (ZOEY) P. MERRILL
ERIN H. SAKATA
KIRIN K. VIRK

**CHILD PROTECTIVE
SERVICES COUNSEL:**

(209) 468-1330
DANIELLE DUNHAM-RAMIREZ
SHANN S. KENNEDY
ALISTAIR SHEAFFER
MARK GABRIEL R. DORONIO

J. MARK MYLES
COUNTY COUNSEL
RICHARD M. FLORES
ASSISTANT COUNTY COUNSEL
KRISTEN M. HEGGE
CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL

March 31, 2020

Via e-mail: raylutz@citizenoversight.org

Mr. Ray Lutz
Citizens Oversight
771 Jamacha Rd 148
El Cajon, CA 92019

Re: California Public Records Act Request received March 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Lutz:

The following constitutes the initial response of the County of San Joaquin (hereinafter "County") to the above-referenced request for records made under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 6250 et seq.) which was received by San Joaquin County on March 22, 2020. The purpose of this initial response is to inform you that the County will be responding to your request with all practicable speed.

Gov. Code § 6253(c) provides that an agency, "upon a request for a copy of records, shall, within 10 days from receipt of the request, determine whether the request, in whole or in part, seeks copies of disclosable public records of the agency," unless there are "unusual circumstances" which warrant an extension of up to fourteen (14) additional days. The term "unusual circumstances" includes the following criteria which are applicable to your request: (1) the need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request; (2) the need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records that are demanded in a single request; and (3) the need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having substantial subject matter interest therein. *See Gov. Code § 6253(c).*

Please note that in light of the rapidly evolving and unprecedented emergency situation concerning the spread of the COVID 19 virus, the County has implemented the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect the health and safety of County employees and residents, and is following, and will continue to follow, all orders issued by federal, State, and local officials.

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Furthermore, pursuant to Executive Order N-34-20, the Governor provided that Registrars of Voters may have difficulty meeting statutory deadlines.

In short, for the foreseeable future all available County staff is focused on providing essential services to County residents. When time allows, our office will work with Department staff to locate documents that are potentially responsive to your request, and then determine if the documents are public records, exempt from public disclosure, and/or whether exempt information can be redacted. At this time we do not know when that will be.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Kristen M. Hegge
Chief Deputy County Counsel

c: Registrar of Voters