MERCED COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Equal Opportunity Employer

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The Honorable Stephanie Jamieson
Presiding Judge of the Civil Grand Jury
Superior Court of California, County of Merced
2260 N. Street
Merced, CA 95340

RE: Merced County Board of Supervisors Response to the 2025–2026 Civil Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Jamieson,

The Merced County Board of Supervisors values and appreciates the Merced County Civil Grand Jury's commitment to public safety, community well-being, and effective local government. The County recognizes the importance of carefully reviewing the Civil Grand Jury's findings and recommendations and appreciates the opportunity to respond to the concerns identified in its report.

The County has reviewed the findings and recommendations related to mandated inspections and has considered appropriate operational, outreach, and communication measures. The County's responses are provided below.

Recommendation #1
Bring more awareness by publicizing and distributing the "How to Spot Unpermitted Food Vendors" postcards from the Merced County Department of Environmental Health to a wider audience. In addition to having the postcards available at local street fairs and events, any food preparation classes, including schools, need to be included.

Response:
The Merced County Community and Economic Development Department- Division of Environmental Health has taken proactive steps to increase public awareness regarding unpermitted food vendors. The Department has increased the printing and distribution of informational postcards and other educational materials for distribution at vendor events, street fairs, and other community gatherings.

Department staff have also participated in local vendor fairs and community events by providing informational booths and visual displays. These efforts allow staff to distribute educational materials, answer questions, and engage directly with members of the public regarding food safety and permitting requirements.

The Department will continue to identify appropriate opportunities to expand the distribution of these materials, including outreach through community events and educational settings where food preparation and food safety are addressed.

Recommendation #2
Display the postcards on all local government channels, such as 96 on the Xfinity lineup, social media pages and websites.

Response:
The Merced County Department of Community and Economic Development- Division of Environmental Health has utilized various County and departmental communication channels to increase public awareness of food safety and permitting requirements. Informational content has been shared through social media platforms, including departmental and broader County pages, to reach a wider segment of the community.

The Department will continue to evaluate additional opportunities to utilize County communication channels and digital platforms to disseminate educational materials and information concerning permitted food vendors and food safety.

The Merced County Board of Supervisors appreciates the Civil Grand Jury's efforts to promote public safety and accountability throughout Merced County. The County remains committed to reviewing recommendations thoughtfully and implementing appropriate measures to strengthen public education, regulatory compliance, and the delivery of County services.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for your continued commitment to serving the residents of Merced County.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Mimms II
Director of Merced County Department
of Community and Economic Development-
Division of Environmental Health