



Elevated Mindset for Elevated Action in
Public Safety and Emergency Communications

Kasey Young, Executive Director

TO: The Honorable, Sonny Sandhu, Presiding Judge
Stanislaus County Superior Court

FROM: Kasey Young, Executive Director
Stanislaus Regional 9-1-1

DATE: October 15, 2025

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY 2024-2025 FINAL REPORT

Please find enclosed the Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commissions response to the Civil Grand Jury 2024-2025 Final Report as approved by the Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commissions on September 16, 2025.

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BY: _____



Kasey Young, Executive Director

Vote Required: Yes No

AGENDA DATE: September 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Consideration and Approval of Responses to the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Regarding the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury 2024-2025 Final Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept the response to the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury 2024-2025 Final Report, along with any changes the Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commission members wish to make to the recommended response and authorize the President of the Commission to forward the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by September 23, 2025.
2. Direct the Executive Director of Stanislaus Regional 911 to ensure that any recommended actions by Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commission be followed and completed by Stanislaus Regional 911 and report back to Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commission, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors received the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury (SCCGJ) 2024–2025 Final Report on June 25, 2025. Among the cases investigated, the report includes Case #25-23GJ, “*Computer Assisted Emergency Dispatch in Stanislaus County: Fraught with Divisive Controversy Resulting in Public Safety Vulnerability.*” This case focuses on longstanding conflict surrounding the replacement of the County’s outdated Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, the decision-making process used, and the role of key agencies including the Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commission (CEDAC) and Stanislaus Regional 911 (SR911). The SCCGJ outlined several findings and recommendations regarding the governance structure of SR911, interagency cooperation, oversight responsibilities, and the operational impact of delays and disagreements among stakeholders.

CEDAC was identified as a required respondent to this case and has submitted formal responses to all relevant findings and recommendations pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05. The responses reflect CEDAC’s position on governance roles, collaborative efforts, and operational responsibilities and are attached to this report for CEDAC’s review and transmittal to the Presiding Judge of the Stanislaus County Superior Court.

The recommended responses from CEDAC are as follows:

Case #25-23GJ – Computer Assisted Emergency Dispatch in Stanislaus County (Required Response):

Finding 1: The 1999 SR911 JPA is outdated and lacks adequate content, detail, definitions, and policy necessitating major revisions with input from City of Modesto, Stanislaus County, SR911, plus stakeholders in the law enforcement, fire, and medical first responder community.

Response: The Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commission (CEDAC) disagrees with this finding. The JPA structure was updated on June 4, 2024 and added an agency liaison from both Modesto Police Department and the Sheriff's Office. The Dispatch Director meets regularly with the liaisons to review operational issues and ensure feedback and direction is solicited from both stakeholders.

Finding 2: The Board of Supervisor's letter to Sheriff Jeff Dirkse dated March 11, 2025, is a detailed description of the history and chronology of the emergency dispatch issues in Stanislaus County and is highly consistent with the findings of this investigation. The letter reiterates the steps necessary for the consideration of any future proposal for an alternative dispatch system including response time analysis, the inclusion of subject matter experts and stakeholders' input, fiscal analysis, and review by County Counsel and County Purchasing Agent.

Response: The CEDAC agrees with the finding.

Finding 3: The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office is the outlier among all of the other stakeholders in the emergency dispatch controversy. Political tactics, threats of litigation, personal attacks, refusal to work with key operatives, and the appearance of intimidation by the Sheriff's Office faction in this dispute has damaged both personal and working relationships with interrelated government agencies and personnel.

Response: The CEDAC disagrees with this finding. While the Sheriff's Office was the outlier in regards to the selected Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, the CEDAC and SR911 collaborated with all stakeholders to identify alternate models. The CEDAC values the input and feedback from all user agencies served by SR911 with the shared mission of providing the highest level of quality service to both the Emergency Responders as well as the communities they serve.

Finding 4: Stanislaus County-based oversight of the Sheriff's Office is inadequate given the potential impact its policies and the actions taken could have on the communities it serves. Opportunities exist to improve accountability, transparency, understanding, tolerance, and trust between all parties. The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors has the option under Government Code §25303.7 to establish a Sheriff's Oversight Board consisting of citizens appointed by the Board of Supervisors and/or an Office of Inspector General to assist in overseeing the Sheriff's Office to enhance the Sheriff's Office accountability and transparency.

Response: The CEDAC disagrees with this finding. While improving transparency and driving improvements is always desirable, the CEDAC has no oversight of the Sheriff's Office or the Sheriff.

Recommendation 1a: The SR911 CEDAC in a leadership role should assemble a multidisciplinary task force from the City of Modesto, Stanislaus County, and include members of the emergency response community in Stanislaus County to comprehensively update the SR911 JPA. This revision task force should be formed by October 31, 2025, with a target completion date for the JPA revisions of April 30, 2026.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The CEDAC is not responsible for the development of the JPA.

Recommendation 1b: The JPA revision task force should make necessary revisions, including but not limited to detailed policy for the role and authority of the SR911 Director by April 30, 2026.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The CEDAC is not responsible for the development of the JPA.

Recommendation 1c: The JPA revision task force, with assistance from the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County legal and purchasing departments, should develop their own comprehensive, detailed RFP process for future use when making major purchases by April 30, 2026.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The CEDAC supports the utilization of each member agency's existing procurement processes.

Recommendation 1d: The JPA revision task force and the Sheriff's Office should address and develop written policy concerning the responsibility for maintaining compliance with CLETS regulations including designating responsibility for performing recurring required audits of security of the CLETS information by April 30, 2026.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The CEDAC has no authority to audit, maintain, or oversee the Department of Justice's (DOJ) CLETS.

Recommendation 2a: It is recommended that both the Sheriff's Office and County Officials strictly adhere to the requirements included in the letter of March 11, 2025, going forward in order to prevent any further misunderstandings or miscommunications that have resulted in delays in the past.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The CEDAC has no legal authority over the Sheriff's Office or County Officials to compel adherence to the March 11, 2025, letter.

Recommendation 2b: It is recommended that the Sheriff's Office adhere to usual and customary practices requested by county officials for providing information in advance of public meetings so that information can be reviewed by officials and the public prior to meetings.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The CEDAC has no legal authority over the Sheriff's Office to compel adherence to the usual and customary practices requested of county officials for providing information in advance of public meetings.

Recommendation 3a: Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, and the Sheriff's Office officials should utilize independent outside intervention in the form of professional mediators and/or subject matter experts to process interpersonal damages in working relationships of key figures and to provide unbiased information related to product efficacy. The use of outside professional mediators and subject matter experts should commence by October 31, 2025.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The CEDAC's approval of the Central Square CAD was based on feedback from multiple stakeholders within the County considered to be subject matter experts. The CEDAC has no authority over the Sheriff's Office but encourages all parties to work collaboratively to ensure an effective and efficient public safety communications system.

Recommendation 3b: The Sheriff's Office needs to take a lead role in reconciliation with the other stakeholders and acknowledge that it is only one county department among many with competing interests and must function in a more cooperative, collaborative manner.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. As the Sheriff is an elected county officer, the CEDAC has no authority over the Sheriff's Office. The CEDAC supports cooperation and collaboration between SR911's user agencies as that are in the best interest of the public and conducive to providing high quality service.

Recommendation 4: The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors should initiate action to create a Stanislaus County Sheriff's Oversight Commission and/or an Office of Inspector General pursuant to Government Code §25303.7. This can be accomplished by either an action by the Board of Supervisors or through a vote of county residents. This recommendation should be accomplished by December 31, 2025.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. This recommendation relates to Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Office.

POLICY ISSUE:

The SCCGJ studies and investigates citizen complaints and the operations of selected public agencies, publishing its findings, conclusions, and recommendations at the end of each fiscal year. Pursuant to California Penal Code §933 (c), every elected county officer or agency head for which the grand jury has responsibility identified as the subjects of these investigations, are invited or required to respond to the findings and Page 8 of 8 recommendations to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 60 days after the final report is submitted with an information copy of the response sent to CEDAC. CEDAC, identified as the governing body of SR911, is invited or required to respond no later than 90 days after the final report is submitted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with acceptance of the SCCGJ 2024-2025 Final Report and the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

CONTACT PERSON: Kasey Young, Executive Director
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ATTACHMENTS: A-1: 2024-2025 SCCGJ Final Report (130 pages)

Motion of Commissioner Condit, Seconded by Commissioner Grewal.
Approved as recommended. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

ATTEST: Melissa Parikh, Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Agency Commission
Clerk.