The Honorable Stephanie E. Hulsey
Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Monterey
240 Church Street
Salinas, CA 93901

August 25, 2020

Re: Overdue Responses to the 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Hulsey,

This letter is written in response to the June 29, 2020 Monterey Civil Grand Jury Final Report – Overdue Responses to the 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury Report, and shall serve as the City’s response pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05. The responses contained in this correspondence were approved by the City of Del Rey Oaks City Council at its regular meeting of August 25, 2020.

The City of Del Rey Oaks understands its responsibility in responding promptly to Civil Grand Jury report findings and recommendations. The recent report regarding overdue responses to the 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury report maintained that the City of Del Rey Oaks did not respond promptly to the 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury Report – Rape Kit Processing in Monterey County (the “Report”). The City’s comments follow in the order that they were presented in the Report. The Report’s findings and recommendations are displayed in bold type. The Report’s only finding, numbered F3, is as follows:

F3. The City of Del Rey Oaks prepared a timely response but failed to follow-through by mailing out the duly approved response and letter in a timely manner.

DISAGREE. While the Civil Grand Jury advised that they did not receive a response in a timely manner, the City contends that it did respond promptly by mailing a response shortly after the Del Rey Oaks City Council approved its response at its August 19, 2019 City Council meeting.

The Grand Jury also required the City of Del Rey Oaks respond to the following recommendation made in the report:

R3. The City of Del Rey Oaks should develop and implement new procedures (if none currently exist), and review existing procedures for responding to the Civil Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations to ensure the City’s response is delivered to the presiding judge on or before the due date. These procedures should be developed and implemented within 90 days of the publication of this report.

This recommendation has been implemented. The City of Del Rey Oaks has long-standing
procedures for processing actions that are approved by the City Council, including responses to Civil Grand Jury reports. This process consists of an action item list prepared by the City Clerk’s Office after City Council meetings. These action items are then executed by the proper staff within the necessary timelines required. These procedures were reviewed with the City Clerk’s Office staff and it was determined they were adequate for timely response purposes.

Respectfully,

Alison Kerr
Mayor