

Nominations for CGJA's Excellence in Reporting Awards

Four nominations were submitted for CGJA's **Best Grand Jury Report** award. One was submitted for the **Best News Media Reporting** award. The five-member EIR subcommittee of the CGJA Awards Committee has rated them. The evaluation criteria can be viewed on our [website](#). The winners will be announced at the [annual membership meeting](#) on October 25. We introduce the nominees here so that you can see how meritorious all are.

BEST GRAND JURY REPORT

ALAMEDA (2019-20) [*Oakland 9-1-1 Communications Center – A Center in Crisis*](#)

Despite agency reports of problems in 2017 and 2018, the grand jury found continuing and lengthy delays in the City of Oakland's emergency response system. These were largely related to understaffing and funding.

SANTA CLARA (2018-19) [*Inquiry into Governance of the Valley Transportation Authority*](#)

The grand jury inquired into long-term problems at the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) focusing on the structure and operation of its board of directors, the effectiveness of the board's oversight of VTA's operating and financial performance, and the board's ability and willingness to make hard strategic decisions and address the agency's increasingly complex challenges.

SAN LUIS OBISPO (2019-20) [*Paso Robles School District: A Cautionary Tale*](#)

Between 2015 and 2018 financial problems resurfaced within the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District. As in 2012, they became subject to a grand jury investigation. The resulting three-part report describes how the district's leadership, financial management and planning failed to meet the district's needs.

HUMBOLDT (2018-19) [*Les Misérables: The Criminalization of the Homeless in the City of Eureka*](#)

The grand jury investigated the effectiveness and impact of the law enforcement tools the City of Eureka put in place to deal with homelessness.

BEST NEWS MEDIA REPORTING

[*New Times*](#), San Luis Obispo weekly, for its two in-depth articles on the grand jury report titled [*Paso Robles School District: A Cautionary Tale*](#).

The nomination materials are retained by the [subcommittee chair](#). A nomination may be resubmitted in 2022 for reports and/or coverage dated 2017 or later (5-year window).

[Click here](#) to view a list of past award recipients.