**In the matter of a proclamation recognizing February 2020 as Civil Grand Jury Awareness month in Calaveras County.**

**Whereas,** every year in each of California’s 58 counties, 19 ordinary citizens take an oath to voluntarily serve a term of one year as Grand Jurors; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Jury system was brought to the United States with the colonists, and the first Grand Jury in America was impaneled in 1635; and

**Whereas,** Calaveras County, one of the original 27 counties of the State, was organized at the 1849-1850 session of the California State Legislature; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Jury is truly an independent investigative body, operationally separate from the entities and officials they investigate and who are officers of the court under the guidance of the Calaveras County Superior Court Presiding Judge; and

**Whereas,** certain responsibilities of the Grand Jury are mandated by State law, and the Grand Jury has jurisdictional rights to investigate City and County departments, school districts, and special districts; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Jury is composed of 19 citizens who will represent the citizens of the county in making recommendations for improvements to our local government; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Jury, decides what areas of local government they are going to investigate or review during the year. One of the most important functions of the Grand Jury is to review the operations of the officers, departments and agencies of local government and special districts; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Jury receives and reviews complaints from citizens within the county; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Jury’s investigative process may or may not result in reports. Those fact-finding reports identify specific problems and provide specific recommendations for governmental improvement and/or identify commendations; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Jury is recognized for their dedicated service and their dedicated time volunteering to make Calaveras County governmental and special district entities more efficient for the best interest of the community.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors proclaim February 2020 as Grand Jury Month in Calaveras County on February ??, 2020 in order to bring better awareness to the Grand Jury’s responsibility and to encourage citizen participation in the Grand Jury process.