

# COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

An important function of California Grand Juries is to consider bona fide complaints concerning local government operations submitted by members of the public. In San Bernardino County, complaints must be submitted in writing using the Grand Jury's standard complaint form.

As the Grand Jury has no assigned staff of investigators, public input is of vital importance if government oversight is to be effective. The identity of the complainant, the actions taken by the complainant to solve the problem, the subject and target of the complaint, and supporting data and information

are essential if the Grand Jury is to investigate properly and recommend appropriate actions. All complaints are handled in the strictest confidence as required by the law.

The 1999-2000 Grand Jury received 21 complaints. Each complaint was reviewed by the Complaints Committee for the appropriate action to be taken by the Grand Jury. There were nine complaints that were determined not to be within the jurisdiction of the Grand Jury. A letter was sent to each complainant informing him or her of that fact. There were five complaints that fell within the jurisdiction of the Grand Jury and those complaints were forwarded to the appropriate committee for action.

The assigned Grand Jury committee investigated each complaint received from the Complaints Committee and may have included the results of its investigation in its final report. The fact that the investigation was based on a complaint will remain confidential, as well as the source of the complaint.

There were seven complaints that were returned to the complainants stating that the Grand Jury would take no action; usually this was because the complainants may not have provided enough supporting data.