



**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**
VERN PIERSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 26, 2020

Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court
1354 Johnson Blvd, Suite 2
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

RE: District Attorney Response to 2019-2010 Grand Jury Finding re Drone Policy

We have reviewed the June 8, 2020 El Dorado County Grand Jury findings concerning Case 19-09 regarding County Drone Use.

We agree with the Grand Jury finding F2 that "The District Attorney has no written policy on drone use." Further, we will implement the Grand Jury recommendation R1 that "The District Attorney should consider developing a written policy establishing guidelines for their use of drones."

The District Attorney's Office only uses a drone for a very specific purpose: to occasionally assist in gathering evidence at crime scenes. As noted in the Grand Jury report, our office was one of the first in California to use drones in presenting cases to juries. These drones are capable of collecting evidence in high resolution video and are remarkably effective and helpful during jury trials and documenting crime scenes. As also noted in the Grand Jury report, evidence gathered from a drone can be so compelling that occasionally the accused pleads guilty at an earlier stage in the proceedings, thus lowering prosecution and trial costs.

Consistent with these occasional uses, we are currently in the process of developing a written drone use policy for our office.

Yours Very Truly,

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EL DORADO COUNTY

VERN R. PIERSON
District Attorney

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