

May 22, 2001

Hon. Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C E. Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

William L. Cathey
Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Gentlemen:

This is the City of Lompoc's Department Head response to your 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report on Emergency Power dated April 13, 2001. The Lompoc City Council, Lompoc City Public Works Department, and the Lompoc City Fire Chief are responsible for responding to Findings 28 through 35, and Recommendations 28 through 35. The City of Lompoc has no Public Works Department, and the traditional public works functions are split between the Community Services Department and the Utility Department. The Utility Department is now responsible for all City generators, which is a recent development in reaction to comments made by your inspectors. We are pleased to respond as follows:

Finding 28:

Referring to a portable emergency generator, your report states that it is not suitable for outdoor use because the flexible electrical conduit and the junction box are not approved for wet locations. This is incorrect. This 300 kWh Caterpillar trailer-mounted portable generator utilizes Type 3-R flexible electrical conduit which is approved for outdoor use, as was confirmed upon subsequent inspection by your Jury Inspectors.

Recommendation 28:

Retrofit of this emergency generator is not required.

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Finding 29:

This finding states that the Corporate Yard emergency generator is coated with oil and grime. It was.

Recommendation 29:

The Utility Department has steam cleaned the generator and it will be kept that way.

Finding 30:

The finding states that the electrical panels at Fire Station No. 1 (115 South G Street) are not labeled. We concur that the electrical panels were not completely labeled.

Recommendation 30:

All electrical panels have been labeled and a panel schedule has been prepared in accordance with your recommendation. The work was completed by the Lompoc City Building Maintenance Division.

Finding 31:

This finding states that the 3-foot rule was violated in Fire Station No. 1 (115 South G Street). The electrical room was being used as storage for audio-visual equipment by the Fire Department, we concur.

Recommendation 31:

Your recommendation to correct all 3-foot rule violations has been implemented.

Finding 32:

This finding states that there is no UPS system for the computers at Fire Station No. 1 (115 South G Street). This is correct.

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Recommendation 32:

You recommend installing a UPS unit for the computers. The City has determined a need for UPS=s in other areas of our operation since your inspection, and is currently purchasing a relatively large number of these devices for use at the Fire Station and elsewhere. We anticipate delivery and installation no later than June 15, 2001.

Finding 33:

This finding states that lighting was insufficient for the generator area at Fire Station No. 1 (115 South G Street). We concur. In addition, the City has determined that the generator itself provides a less than desirable level of service, and it will shortly be replaced with a larger generator which will require an enlarged enclosure, a new transfer switch, a new transformer bank, and additional appurtenances. We anticipate completing this work no later than July 1, 2001.

Recommendation 33:

You recommend installing new lighting for the emergency generator area or that we redirect the existing light fixture. Appropriate lighting will be provided no later than July 1, 2001.

Finding 34:

This finding states that the emergency generator located at Fire Station No. 2 (1100 D Street) is too noisy for this location. The City has determined that this existing generator is also undersized and inappropriate for the level of service desired by the Fire Department. This generator will be replaced and a new transfer switch and fuel tank will be installed. The larger generator will be enclosed in an 8' x 12' wood framed stucco building to match the existing Fire Station. We anticipate this work to be completed no later than July 1, 2001.

Recommendation 34:

You recommend reducing the noise level, which will be accomplished no later than July 1, 2001, upon completion of the generator replacement.

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Finding 35:

This finding states that there is a 3-foot rule violation next to the generator of Fire Station No. 2 (1100 D Street).

Recommendation 35:

You recommend that we correct the 3-foot rule violation. The 3-foot rule violation will be corrected during the installation of the generator and construction of the enlarged enclosure, which is anticipated to be completed no later than July 1, 2001.

We have endeavored to be completely responsive to your findings and recommendations, as they apply to the City of Lompoc. If you find this inadequate, or require additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Ed Casarez
Fire Chief

Gary P. Keefe
Utility Director

cc: Frank L. Priore, City Administrator
Sharon D. Stuart, City Attorney
John Walk, Management Services Director
Marlene Demery, Community Services Director
William Brown, Police Chief