

June 27, 2006

Honorable Rodney S. Melville
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear Honorable Judge Melville and Grand Jury Foreperson Ted Stern:

The City Council, at their regular meeting held June 26, 2006, reviewed the 2005-2006 County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Disaster Preparedness Are we really ready?" specifically as it relates to the City of Carpinteria and approved the following responses to each of the specific findings and recommendations of the Report:

Responses to each Finding and Recommendation are as follows:

Finding 3, page 7

"Only the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the Lompoc Police Department Dispatch Centers have a Reverse 911 Notification System. These dispatch centers could be greatly impacted by large populated cities like Santa Maria and Santa Barbara requesting the use of their systems in a County-wide emergency."

Response

The City of Carpinteria concurs with Finding 3.

Finding 4, page 7

"Based upon results, the Low-Power Radio Emergency Alert System presently utilized by residents of Painted Cave is an excellent means of notifying people of emergencies occurring in their area. Presently this system is only used in the Highway 154 Painted Cave area."

Response

The City of Carpinteria concurs with Finding 4.

Finding 8, page 7

“In late 2005, representatives of agencies in Santa Barbara County that are responsible for providing the public with emergency information formed a public information group (EPIC), with the goal to address problems relating to the collection, verification and dissemination of accurate emergency information.”

Response

The City of Carpinteria concurs with Finding 8.

Recommendation 3, page 8

“Within Santa Barbara County, each city and special fire district dispatch center should establish its own independent Reverse 911 Emergency Notification System. This will reduce the possibility of overloading the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department and Lompoc Police Department Dispatch Center in the event of a County-wide Major disaster.”

Response

The Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Reverse 911 should be based at the Dispatch Center at the Sheriff’s Office, and it should have capacity to cover all. The City of Carpinteria and Carpinteria-Summerland Fire District contract for dispatch services through the Sheriff’s Department. Therefore, it is most efficient and effective for Reverse 911 to be based out of the Dispatch Center. It is the City’s expectation that the County have sufficient capacity in the Reverse 911 System.

Recommendation 4, page 8

“All areas within Santa Barbara County that have the unique topography and vulnerability to wildfires or flooding should install a Low-Power Radio Emergency Alert System to warn their residents.”

Response

The City of Carpinteria intends to pursue this Recommendation. Within the next 12 months, the City will have researched such a system and determined it’s feasibility including setup and operating costs. Subsequently, a recommendation will be made to the City Council.

Recommendation 8, page 8

“All participating agencies should continue to support the efforts of the Emergency Public Information Communicators Group (EPIC), which is

dedicated to improving the emergency public information system throughout Santa Barbara County.”

The City of Carpinteria thanks the Grand Jury for its work.

Should you need any additional information please contact me at (805) 684-5405 extension 400.

Sincerely,

Dave Durflinger
City Manager