

June 19, 2006

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Attention: Foreman
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear 2005-2006 Civil Grand Jury Members,

The City of Lompoc has received the report of the 2005-2006 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury. We are encouraged by the fact that the Civil Grand Jury chose to address disaster preparedness. Governmental agencies and emergency services providers can never be too prepared for natural disasters, pandemic, or other chemical or biological events resulting from terrorist acts.

The men and women of the City of Lompoc are proud to serve our community and hold sacred the public trust that has been bestowed upon each member. Our staff dedicate themselves to providing services at the highest level possible within the means of our existing resources

In the face of Y2K, the Lompoc Police, Fire and Utility Departments led the Lompoc Valley in preparing our community for the potential for widespread disruption of public services. We currently participate in disaster and homeland security planning on a county-wide board, as well as serve on the planning task force for the potential impact of an Avian Influenza pandemic.

On behalf of the City of Lompoc, I am pleased to respond to the findings and recommendations pertaining to our City issued under the "Emergency Public Information" heading by the 2005-2006 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury.

City of Lompoc Response to Finding / Recommendation 3

The City of Lompoc is pleased to have purchased a *Reverse 911* emergency notification system through a grant provided by the Department of Homeland Security. The emergency notification system is programed only with telephone numbers located within the City of Lompoc. Therefore, the public safety dispatch center would not have the ability to conduct community notification for other jurisdictions. However, the Lompoc Police Department has an agreement with Santa Barbara County that would allow the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office to utilize our eight dedicated telephone lines in addition to their dedicated telephone lines to expedite emergency notification to the public. The community notification system also has a "mass call" feature that allows Santa Barbara County to utilize 10,000 telephone lines simultaneously should a large disaster occur county-wide.

We concur with the recommendation that each jurisdiction in Santa Barbara County should

obtain their own community notification system.

City of Lompoc Response to Finding / Recommendation 4

The City of Lompoc has considered the use of a “Low-Power Radio Emergency Alert System” and consulted radio technicians regarding this proposal. We have determined that the unique topography of the Lompoc Valley would necessitate the use of several repeaters and result in a system that would be difficult to maintain. However, the City of Lompoc will continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a dedicated radio station for emergency notification purposes.

City of Lompoc Response to Finding / Recommendation 8

The City of Lompoc has always been committed to providing the highest level of preparation, communication and emergency services coordination for its citizens. We have participated in all County-wide disaster planning workshops, task forces and training sessions. The Lompoc Police Department has a long standing partnership with ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), a local private shortwave radio group. We have participated in the Santa Barbara 211 system, through the web-site and telephone referrals, for individual incidents and city wide events. We will certainly support the efforts of the Emergency Information Communicators Group to improve emergency public information in the Lompoc Valley.

The City of Lompoc exists to serve its citizens. We continually strive to provide the highest level of services possible given our existing resources. Our commitment to preparation and quality response remains resolute.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations of the 2005-2006 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Gary Keefe
City Administrator
City of Lompoc

Attachment: Computer disc containing electronic version of this response.