

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Is the County Neglecting Emergency Preparedness?

SUMMARY

Santa Barbara County (County) ranks in the top one percent for overall risk out of 3,144 counties nationwide.¹ Since 2014, the County has experienced over 40 disasters resulting in proclamations and Emergency Operation Center (EOC) activations. Disasters can strike at any moment. The professionals at the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (SBCOEM) stand at the forefront of disaster planning, preparedness, and response to protect life, property, and the environment.

The 2025-2026 Grand Jury finds that SBCOEM, a critically important agency with a countywide mission to protect the residents of the community, is currently understaffed and underfunded. Discussions at recent Board of Supervisors (BOS) Budget Workshop hearings indicated to the Grand Jury that value of SBCOEM is not fully appreciated.

Current staffing for SBCOEM consists of only seven capable and dedicated employees, yet their countywide program responsibilities are far-reaching and essential to protecting the community.

The Grand Jury investigated several aspects of SBCOEM, including staffing levels, funding, and their organizational move from the County Executive Office (CEO) to become a division of the County Fire Department. Each of these factors significantly hinder SBCOEM in their effort to meet their vital mission to protect the lives of the County's residents.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors recognize SBCOEM as the critical department it is, increase staffing, and provide full and dedicated executive support to the Director of SBCOEM. The safety and protection of County residents depend on it.

BACKGROUND

Santa Barbara County has a long history of local disasters, from wildfires and coastal flooding to debris flows, earthquakes, and oil spills. The southern portion of the County from Goleta to

¹ <https://riskbycounty.com/california/santa-barbara-county>, accessed June 9, 2026.

Carpinteria is a community of unique risks that is nestled along the California central coast, squeezed between the Santa Ynez Mountain range and the Pacific Ocean. This geographic positioning, along with significant housing development within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)², increase the risk of disaster. The narrow winding roads and a highway that provide only one way in and one way out, increase risk to the community by making mass evacuation of residents a challenging proposition.

In 1990 the wind-driven Painted Cave Fire killed two and destroyed over 427 homes in just a few hours. More recent local disasters include the Zaca Fire in 2007, that burned 40,000 acres of wildland, and the Gap Fire in 2008, burning 9,000 acres. The 2008 Tea Fire destroyed 210 homes in Montecito, and the 2009 Jesusita Fire burned 8,000 acres and 80 structures. The 2018 Montecito Debris Flow, following the 2017 Thomas Fire, killed 23 residents (19 of whom were under a "voluntary evacuation" order). It damaged or destroyed approximately 400 structures causing insurance losses over \$420 million. Emergency response and subsequent clean-up costs alone exceeded \$46 million.³

Wildfires and severe weather events aren't the only disasters that Santa Barbara County faces. The community has also endured drought emergencies, power outages, the Refugio Oil Spill, extreme heat events, Tsunami alerts, and cyber security attacks.

According to analysis by Riskbycounty.com, based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Risk Index data, Santa Barbara County ranks in the "Relatively High" risk category. By contrast, while Sonoma County has an equally high-risk index, its County Department of Emergency Management has more than double the staffing of SBCOEM. It is also a stand-alone department and reports directly to the Sonoma County CEO. In addition, the Monterey County Department of Emergency Management (MCDDEM), serving an equally high-risk community, consists of 10 full-time positions. It is a stand-alone department and reports directly to the County Administrative Officer.

² The WUI is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

³ https://lompocrecord.com/news/local/county-s-costs-from-fire-debris-flow-at-46m-and-rising-future-revenue-will-also/article_aa5f9357-ab95-5801-9ef3-de0354c7d081.html, accessed June 9, 2026

METHODOLOGY

In conducting this investigation, the Grand Jury interviewed staff from the following entities:

- County Executive Office
- County Office of Emergency Management
- County Fire Department
- County Sheriff's Department
- County Planning and Development Department
- City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Service
- City of Santa Maria Office of Emergency Services
- Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club

In addition, the Grand Jury visited the following sites:

- The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services, Main Office
- The Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Center

The Grand Jury reviewed several documents, including:

Code of the County of Santa Barbara, Chapter 12 - Emergency Management

- SBCOEM Planning documents:
- Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Plan
- Santa Barbara Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Santa Barbara County Area Oil & Gas Industry Emergency Response Plan

Industry Mutual Aid Plan March 2007

Santa Barbara Operational Area Oil Spill Contingency Plan Draft (April 2019)

Professional Consultant Reports:

- KMPG Report (Klynveld, Peat, Marwick, Goerdeler) - Improving Performance to Better Serve Our County Residents (2019)
- James Lee Witt Associates / Orfalea Foundation - Strengthening Emergency Preparedness in Santa Barbara County: Development of Priorities and Recommendations for a Granting Strategy (2007)

Post-Incident After Action / Improvement Plan (AAR / IP)

- 2007 Zaca Fire
- 2008 Gap Fire
- 2008 Tea Fire
- 2009 Jesusita Fire
- 2017 Thomas Fire / 2018 Montecito Debris Flow
- 2015 Refugio Oil Spill
- 2019 Conception Boat Incident
- 2019 Covid-19
- 2023 Winter Storms
- 2024 Winter Storms
- 2024 Lake Fire

Additional post-incident reports:

- Lahaina Fire Incident Analysis Report, 9/13/2024
- Sonoma County October 2017 Complex Fires
- Emergency Operations Center After Action Report & Improvement Plan, June 2018
- Maui Emergency Management Agency - Maui Wildfires 2023 After Action Report
- Camp Fire After Action / Improvement Plan, 2018

DISCUSSION

SBCOEM is an important organization that works behind the scenes and, in conjunction with local, state, and federal agencies, endeavors to create a countywide collaborative effort when disaster strikes. The organization performs a crucial function by ensuring the safety and well-being of communities during times of crisis. SBCOEM staff serve as the guiding force in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters of all kinds, from natural calamities like wildfires and earthquakes to human-made crises such as oil spills or terrorist attacks. Some key responsibilities of SBCOEM before disaster strikes include:

1. Strategic Planning and Risk Assessment: A significant part of SBCOEM's efforts involve identifying potential risks and hazards. It continually assesses vulnerabilities and develops strategic plans.
2. Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships: SBCOEM builds and sustains relationships with various stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. These relationships are crucial for successful collaboration during emergencies.
3. Alert and Warning: SBCOEM is responsible for implementing and maintaining a countywide emergency alerting system that can warn residents before and during local disasters.
4. Resource Management: SBCOEM is responsible for the procurement and management of resources needed during an emergency. This requires a thorough understanding of what resources are needed and the ability to manage strategic resource acquisition and allocation.
5. Training and Exercises: Designing and implementing training programs for SBCOEM staff and other County staff that may be assigned to the EOC, first responders, and volunteers is an ongoing task. SBCOEM is the lead agency for simulated emergency exercises that evaluate the effectiveness of emergency plans and identify areas for improvement.
6. Public Education: SBCOEM is responsible for educating the public about potential risks and what to do in an emergency. This involves creating and disseminating educational materials and conducting community workshops and presentations.
7. Policy Development and Compliance: SBCOEM is involved in the creation of policies related to emergency management. This can include ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations and staying informed about any changes to laws or standards.

SBCOEM is an “Umbrella Organization

“In accordance with California’s Emergency Services Act and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), emergency managers at SBCOEM are the official governmental link between local, municipal government and the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) during local disasters. When there is a Presidential Declaration of Emergency, SBCOEM becomes a representative to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on behalf of both county government as well as the local municipalities. This role is important before, during, and after disaster strikes. As an umbrella organization, SBCOEM works with several local, state, and Federal partners in the areas of emergency planning, training, exercises, response, and recovery.

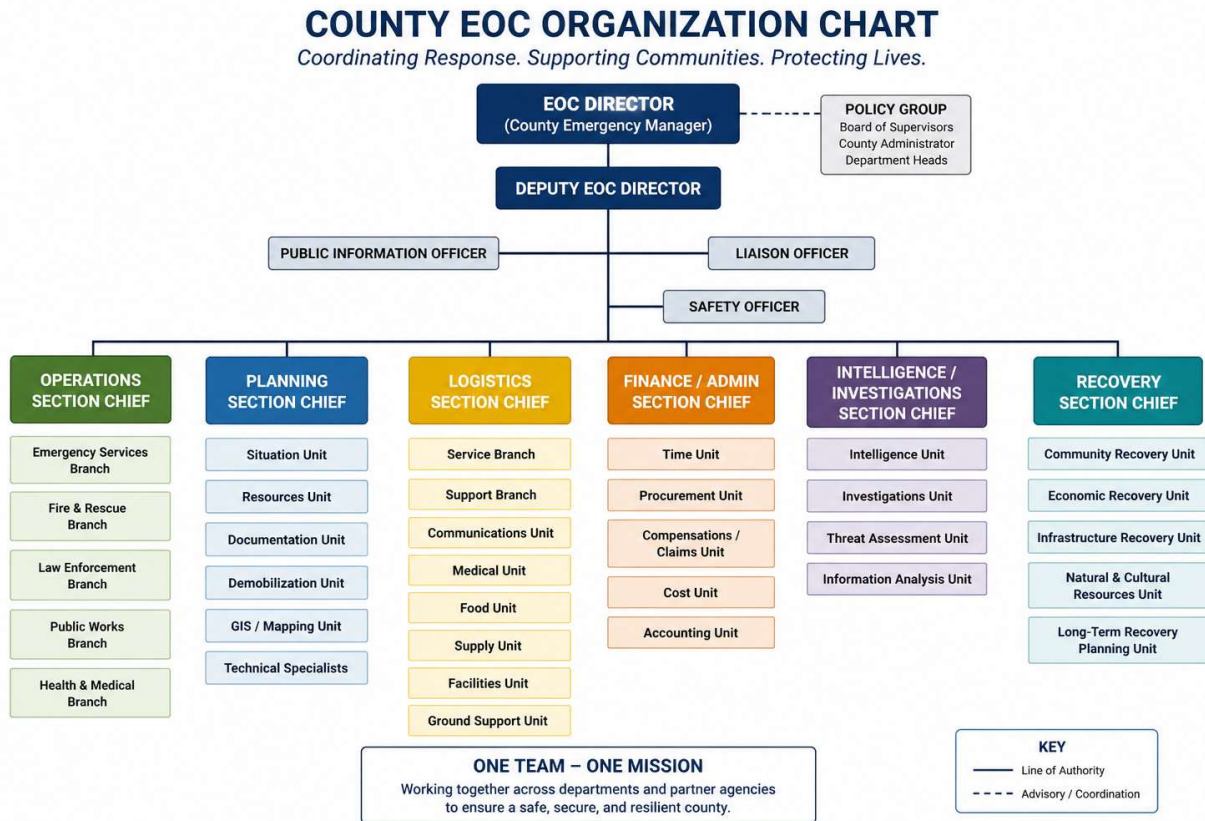
SBCOEM serves as the Operational Area (Op Area) coordinator; defined by the California Emergency Services Act as an “*intermediate level of the state emergency services organization consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county area. Political subdivisions include cities, a city and county, counties, districts, or other local governmental agency, or public agency authorized by law.*” The County subdivisions include eight cities, seven fire agencies, eight law enforcement agencies, as well as contracted paramedic service providers. SBCOEM also collaborates and coordinates with institutes of higher education including the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Westmont College, Santa Barbara City College, and Hancock College in North County. A key Federal partner with SBCOEM is Vandenberg Space Force Base located near the city of Lompoc. Unlike the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, SBCOEM’s responsibilities extend throughout the entire Operational Area. This comprehensive responsibility requires a substantial amount of outreach and collaboration.

County Emergency Operation Center - Management and Readiness

The County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is attached to the SBCOEM headquarters. SBCOEM is charged with maintaining that facility at a state of readiness 24/7. SBCOEM is also responsible for identifying and training County staff who can be ready to report to the EOC when disaster strikes.

The EOC, when activated for an emergency, consists of 65 functional positions. Each position performs a different yet collaborative function to gather, organize, and share incident information so that critical and informed decisions can be made. The information gathered is shared internally to EOC leadership, as well as externally to partner municipalities, elected officials, the media, and the public. EOC positions in Figure 1 often include more than one individual.

FIGURE 1
SAMPLE ORGANIZATION CHART FOR EOC



SBCOEM Needs Additional Staffing to Maintain the Countywide Emergency Alert & Warning Program

Emergency public information can save lives. The Federal government mandates continuous readiness for the nationwide Emergency Alert System (EAS). This is the notification tool that interrupts radio and television broadcasting so that the public can be informed of danger. SBCOEM also utilizes in-house alerting software that allows emergency managers to send timely and targeted alerts to citizens who may be in or near a hazard or an evacuation zone. This program, “ReadySBC Alerts,” is used by SBCOEM to send important emergency related messages to citizens before, during, and after an emergency event.

SBCOEM Needs a Well-trained Cadre of County EOC Disaster Service Workers

According to the California Government Code all county government employees are designated Disaster Service Workers (DSWs). In order for the EOC to be effective and efficient, SBCOEM must train County DSWs in the roles they may be called upon to fill in the EOC. Standard practice for emergency management organizations is to identify EOC staffing “three deep” in

the event of an extended emergency. This means that SBCOEM needs to assemble a cadre of at least 204 county staff.

In accordance with California Emergency Services Act, every state or local government employee in California takes an oath to be designated as a Disaster Service Worker (Gov. Code, § 3100-3101). This means that any county employee can be assigned to fill a position in the county EOC during a local emergency.

However, SBCOEM continues to have difficulty assigning and training County DSWs to fill roles in the EOC due to several factors:

- The Director of OEM has no authority to assign staff from other county departments
- The Director of OEM is currently subordinate to the County Fire Chief, who has no authority over other county departments and their staffing commitments
- The County Executive Officer has declined to mandate attendance at SBCOEM-hosted EOC training courses

As a result, SBCOEM has been unable to maintain a consistent and robust training and exercise program that includes a cadre of 204 dedicated and trained DSWs that can respond effectively to an extended EOC activation. Due to staff turnover and other factors, the number of trained County staff fluctuates. Data provided to the Grand Jury indicates that SBCOEM has reached only 50 percent of its intended goal of 204 fully trained EOC staff.

Disappearing Emergency Management Programs

Two important SBCOEM programs are no longer functioning: the Oil and Gas Program and the Disaster Service Worker-Volunteer Program.

Oil and Gas Program

At the time of the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill, and for several years prior, SBCOEM included an Emergency Manager position assigned to the Oil and Gas Program. According to the 2016 Santa Barbara County Oil and Gas Emergency Response Plan, this position was responsible for overseeing all oil and gas production facilities, ensuring compliance with local planning and preparedness efforts, and participating in training and exercise activities. In 2003, to formalize SBCOEM's participation in spill response, SBCOEM entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention (OSPR). The MOU placed SBCOEM in the Unified Command for oil spills and identified the Oil And Gas Emergency Manager as the Local On-Scene Coordinator. A revised oil spill contingency plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2019; however, it has

not been formally adopted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention.

During an active spill, the Unified Command, with the participation of SBCOEM, is responsible for:

- Managing cleanup and emergency response efforts
- Establishing a Joint Information Center to distribute updated information to the public and media
- Coordinating with responsible parties and other Federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
- Ensuring that local response protocols are incorporated into the Santa Barbara Operational Area Oil Spill Contingency Plan

The SBCOEM Oil and Gas Emergency Manager also participated in the County's Systems Safety & Reliability and Review Committee. This provided an opportunity for review and input, from an emergency management perspective, for all oil and gas facilities within the county.

At some point following the Refugio Oil Spill, the Oil and Gas Program disappeared from SBCOEM, virtually eliminating SBCOEM from planning, preparedness, emergency response, and recovery activities related to oil spills. Some SBCOEM programmatic responsibilities were absorbed into the County Fire Prevention Division; however, the majority of subject matter expertise and oversight provided previously by SBCOEM do not occur. The recent incident on Platform Habitat represents a continuing need for comprehensive oversight of local oil and gas facilities.

Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program

The State of California supports the Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program (DSW-V). This program provides local government the opportunity to formally register volunteer individuals or organizations that can provide specialized assistance during emergencies. Local search and rescue, medical reserve corps, and animal rescue organizations are examples of categories within the DSW-V program.

For decades, SBCOEM had managed a DSW-V Program that included Communications Specialists (Ham Radio Operators). Ham radio volunteers possess the equipment and expertise to assist SBCOEM during emergencies and, under the DSW-V Program, their equipment and services are provided *at no cost to the county*. Amateur radio provides critical communication redundancy for government agencies by operating independently of centralized infrastructure like cell towers, the internet, and the power grid. The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC) and Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) are two local amateur radio groups

that have historically assisted SBCOEM by creating critical communication networks that can continue to operate when other technology fails.

During the investigative process, the Grand Jury discovered that coordination between SBCOEM and amateur radio volunteers was discontinued. The redundant and reliable communication capabilities SBARC and ARES provide are invaluable resources. SBCOEM should revive the DSW-V program and utilize the services these communication experts provide.

Santa Barbara County vs Sonoma County vs Monterey County - A Tale of Three Counties

The counties of Sonoma and Monterey are classified as "comparable" counties to Santa Barbara County. In California, the term "comparable county" refers to a method of grouping California's 58 counties based on similarities in rurality, population size, or economic conditions, for the purpose of analyzing public services. This official designation is used to justify right-sizing staffing levels and determine appropriate salary levels among similar counties throughout California. The counties of Sonoma and Monterey are comparable in many categories to Santa Barbara County, especially risk rating and frequency of local disasters.

Following the Tubbs Fire (22 fatalities and over 4,000 homes burned), the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors took action to make significant improvements to their emergency management agency. Recognizing the consequences of having an understaffed office, the Sonoma County BOS increased staffing for Department of Emergency Management (SCDEM) from 4 to 16 full-time employees and transitioned the office from a division of the County Fire Department to an independent department reporting directly to the County Executive Officer (CEO). These organizational actions enhance the authority of SCDEM and empower staff in their programmatic responsibilities. Similar to SBCOEM, SCDEM staff oversee multiple traditional and critical emergency management programs, including alert and warning, community preparedness, volunteer coordination, auxiliary communications (Ham Radio) coordination, grant management, and administrative support.

The Monterey County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM), also as a result of increasing frequency of local disasters, was elevated to a stand-alone department in 2022. The County Administrative Officer, with concurrence by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, recognized the critical importance of MCDEM by stating in part:

Not only will a Department of Emergency Management elevate the County's stature in dealing with external agencies such as California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) but will also facilitate peer to peer coordination among Monterey County department heads generally.

In light of this comparison, it is alarming that just a few years after the devastating Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow that SBCOEM is shrinking. By contrast, Monterey County DEM staffing is 40 percent higher than Santa Barbara County OEM, and Sonoma County DEM is 60 percent larger. Even more concerning is that SBCOEM is potentially facing further staff reductions in the next 14 months down to a level of only *four full-time staff*.

Failures in the Responses to Disasters Have a Consistent and Solvable Theme

The Grand Jury reviewed several post-incident documents known as an After-Action Report / Improvement Plan (AAR / IP). The AAR / IP is created in the aftermath of an incident and is intended to discover what went right and what went wrong. These reports provide decision makers with valuable information intended to trigger improvements to the organization. The AAR / IPs from the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Sonoma, 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, and most of the Santa Barbara AAR / IPs have a consistent theme. Among emergency management agencies that partially or significantly stumble in their responses to local disasters, the reports indicated⁴:

- Insufficient staffing
- Insufficient training
- Insufficient funding
- Insufficient executive authority
- Insufficient partner collaboration

To its credit, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors reacted to the Tubbs Fire AAR / IP by increasing staffing and support for its emergency management agency. Santa Barbara County, in stark contrast, and in the face of repeated disasters, has cut the budget and staff, reducing the effectiveness of SBCOEM.

During the 2026 April Budget Workshops, a proposal to delete one Emergency Manager from SBCOEM was conceptually approved by the Board of Supervisors and is expected to be finalized officially in June. This cut represents an overall staffing reduction of 14 percent. The workshop presentation failed to explain the significance of the reduction and impacts it would

⁴ See AAR / IPs listed in Methodology.

have on the community. Only one of the five Supervisors expressed a concern over losing a staff position that was identified as performing important “mandated program” duties.

Rightsizing SBCOEM Based on Program Responsibilities

Chapter 12, Code of the County of Santa Barbara⁵, the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) are guiding documents that delineate mandated programs that must be part of SBCOEM. The organizational structure of SBCOEM should include no fewer than one person for each of the following 12 positions and programs:

- OEM Director;
- OEM Deputy Director;
- Emergency Manager – Training and Exercise Program;
- Emergency Manager – Planning and Preparedness Program;
- Emergency Manager – Grants Program;
- Administrative Office Professional, Grants Program;
- Emergency Manager – Alert and Warning Program;
- Assistant Emergency Manager – Alert and Warning Program;
- Emergency Manager – Oil and Gas Program;
- Emergency Manager – Community Preparedness Program;
- Communications Manager – Public Information; and
- Administrative Office Professional.

CONCLUSION

Historical evidence has shown that Santa Barbara County is vulnerable to a variety of disasters. Wildfires, oil spills, severe weather, flooding, and earthquakes will hit again. The best and most responsible way to protect the community is to plan, prepare, train, and conduct exercises, so when disasters strike, the professional emergency management department is able to respond effectively and efficiently. It is critical that Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management be provided with staffing, funding, expertise,

⁵
https://library.municode.com/ca/santa_barbara_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=C H12EMMA, accessed June 9, 2026

authority, and support to meet its important mission to protect life, property, and the environment.

FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1: The placement of Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (SBCOEM) as a subordinate division within the Santa Barbara County Fire Department is negatively impacting the ability of SBCOEM to fulfill program responsibilities.

Recommendation 1: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO to return SBCOEM to a direct-report position. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Finding 2: Current staffing at Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (SBCOEM) is not sufficient to meet all program responsibilities.

Recommendation 2: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors increase SBCOEM staffing to 12 full-time employees. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Finding 3: SBCOEM does not currently have a fully trained cadre of 204 Disaster Service Workers (DSW) that can report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when needed for extended activations.

Recommendation 3a: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct SBCOEM to implement an EOC Training & Exercise Program that provides a regular, annual training and exercise schedule for at least 204 county DSWs. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 3b: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO to require all department heads ensure selected County Disaster Service Worker staff participate in a SBCOEM EOC Training and Exercise Program. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 3c: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors ensure department head cooperation in the SBCOEM Training and Exercise Program by adding the

DSW participation requirement to their annual performance review process. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Finding 4: Because inspection, training and exercise responsibilities of oil and gas facilities was removed from SBCOEM and shifted to the County Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division approximately 10 years ago, the County is not in compliance with the Santa Barbara County Operational Area Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Recommendation 4a: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors relocate the Oil and Gas Program back to SBCOEM. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 4b: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct SBCOEM to participate in Unified Command during any future oil spill incidents. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

Finding 5: Because SBCOEM does not currently have an active Disaster Service Worker Volunteer (DSW-V) Program as provided for by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the County is not taking advantage of valuable volunteer resources.

Recommendation 5: The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct SBCOEM to restore a comprehensive DSW-V Program that registers, trains, and utilizes the services of local volunteer emergency communication organizations. To be implemented by December 31, 2026.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONSES

Pursuant to California Penal Code § 933 and § 933.05, the Grand Jury requests each entity or individual named below to respond to the findings and recommendations within the specified statutory time limit.

Responses to Findings shall be either:

- Agree
- Disagree with an explanation
- Disagree partially with an explanation

Responses to Recommendations shall be one of the following:

- Has been implemented, with a summary of the implementation actions taken
- Will be implemented, with an implementation schedule
- Requires further analysis, with an analysis completion date of fewer than 6 months after the issuance of the report
- Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation

Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara – 90 days

Findings: All

Recommendations: All

GLOSSARY

AAR / IP

After-Action Report / Improvement Plan. It is the standard documentation used to evaluate real-world incident responses or training exercises, identify strengths and weaknesses, and outline actionable corrective steps to improve future disaster readiness.

Cal OES

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services is the state-level cabinet-level agency responsible for overseeing and coordinating emergency preparedness, disaster response, recovery, and homeland security within California.

DSW

Disaster Service Worker is any public employee or registered volunteer impressed into emergency service to aid in disaster response and recovery. Under California law, all public employees are declared DSWs and may be assigned emergency duties outside their normal job descriptions, schedules, or locations.

DSW-V

A Disaster Service Worker Volunteer is a registered civilian or public employee who assists with disaster response and recovery. In California, the DSW Volunteer Program provides workers' compensation and limited liability coverage during declared emergencies. DSW-Vs perform duties like emergency communications, search and rescue, sandbagging, shelter management, and logistics.

EAS

The Emergency Alert System is a national public warning system in the United States. It allows federal, state, and local authorities to interrupt broadcasts on TV, radio, and cable networks to deliver urgent warnings, such as severe weather, AMBER alerts, and national emergencies.

EOC

Emergency Operations Center is a central command and control facility responsible for managing disaster response and strategic emergency coordination.

FEMA

A United States agency, operating under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), responsible for coordinating Federal responses to disasters that overwhelm local and state resources.

ICS

Incident Command System is a standardized, on-scene management system used by governments and emergency responders to coordinate multi-agency operations.

MCDEM

Monterey County Department of Emergency Management.

NIMS

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a standardized approach to incident management developed by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The program was established in March 2004. It is intended to facilitate coordination between all responders (including all levels of government, public, private, and nongovernmental organizations).

OSPR

The Office of Spill Prevention and Response, a division of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, serves as the state's lead agency for oil spill response in inland and marine waters. In Santa Barbara, OSPR plays a critical role in managing the environmental aftermath of significant historical events, such as the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill and the 2015 Refugio oil spill.

SBCOEM

Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management

SCDEM

Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management.

SEMS

The Standardized Emergency Management System is California's framework for coordinating emergency response across local, regional, and state levels.

UC

Unified Command (UC) is an Incident Command System (ICS) structure used during multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency incidents. It enables agencies with different legal, geographic, and functional responsibilities to collaboratively manage a single incident without losing or giving up their individual authority or accountability.

WUI

Wildland-Urban Interface. It is the zone where human development meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Living in these transition areas brings higher risks for property and life during wildfires.