

VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOB ROPER
County Fire Chief



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July 26, 2000

Harry L. Hufford
Chief Administrative Officer
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Grand Jury Report Response

This letter is intended to serve as the Fire District's response to the 1999 Grand Jury's report entitled Oxnard Harbor District.

I concur in part with the report Findings. The Findings section needs to be corrected to reflect factual information:

"Three firefighters were sent to Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, for specialized training in shipboard fires, with the understanding that they would return and train other firefighters. When their training was completed, they returned to the Fire District and shared their training with other department firefighters. There was no further progress in deliberations for the next six years. The Grand Jury felt that the safety of the community in the proximity of the Port was paramount, and the continuing stalemate was unsatisfactory."

All three recommendations are currently being discussed.

R-1 The recommendation has been implemented. There is open dialogue between both agencies at this time.

R-2 The recommendation requires further analysis and is being discussed as part of the formal agreement. This topic will be part of the formal operating agreement delineating command and control of shipboard firefighting. Tentatively scheduled for agreement by September 1, 2000.

R-3 The recommendation requires further analysis and discussion. It is completed in a draft state. A copy of the draft was submitted to the Oxnard Harbor District in May 2000. Meetings are being scheduled to meet and confer on the draft agreement's content and final implementation details. Tentatively scheduled for agreement by September 1, 2000.

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If there are further questions, please contact myself at 389-9701.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Roper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BOB ROPER
Fire Chief