

**2001-02 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT
Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators
in Ventura County of Ventura**

Respondent: Board of Supervisors

Response to Grand Jury Findings

The Board of Supervisors concur with findings F-1 through F-12.

Response to Grand Jury Recommendations.

R-1. Initiate the widespread placement of AEDs and CPR trained operators throughout all county and city facilities where large numbers of people or 'at risk' citizens congregate. Locations for consideration would include city halls, courthouses, jails, auditoriums, libraries, senior citizens' centers, high schools and golf courses, as well as units available for use at concerts, fairs and other large events.

The Board of Supervisors has initiated widespread placement of AEDs and CPR trained operators. At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, County Emergency Medical Services established a workgroup that was comprised of representatives from Supervisor Mikel's office, community based organizations, County and city law enforcement and emergency services, and County agencies. This group developed a plan for a countywide AED procurement, placement, and training program. On September 25, 2001, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$195,000 of Tobacco Settlement funds to initiate this AED Program. This allocation allowed the acquisition of 50 defibrillators, and provided \$40,000 in staffing costs in FY01-02 to set up program infrastructure, coordinate outreach, provide training for volunteers, and research other leveraging opportunities in order to transition into a self-sustaining program. Staggered deployment of the 50 units is currently taking place as training is completed. All 50 units will be placed in priority public areas by October 1, 2002.

R-2. Support the Ventura County Emergency Medical System's attempt to coordinate the utilization and training required for the proper use of AEDs throughout the County.

The Board of Supervisors has supported the Ventura County Emergency Medical System's efforts. During the FY2001-02 allocation of Tobacco Settlement funds, the Board recognized the need to continue program initiation and training activities into FY2002-03 and will consider additional staff allocations of \$75,000 to Emergency Medical Services contingent upon examination of the implementation progress made in FY2001-02.

R-2. The city and county governing bodies initiated an incentive program which would encourage the purchase of AED units and the training of employees in their use at business locations throughout the County.

The Board of Supervisors supports businesses in their initiation of AED programs through the provision of technical assistance from the County EMS department. This assistance provides businesses information on regulatory requirements, training options, appropriate use of the AED, and purchasing information.

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