



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- BOB BROOKS
SHERIFF
- CRAIG HUSBAND
UNDERSHERIFF

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RECEIVED

June 14, 2004

JUN 16 2004

RECEIVED
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY

JUN 15 2004

Honorable Bruce A. Clark, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

Re: Response to the 2003-2004 Grand Jury report entitled, *Ventura County
Emergency Operations Center.*

In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933 (c), this report is a response to the findings and recommendations of the 2003-2004 Grand Jury report entitled, *Ventura County Emergency Operations Center.* The following are my responses:

Recommendations

R-0. In emergencies requiring coordinated efforts from agencies outside the Sheriff's Department, there should be a more defined procedure for notifying the Sheriff that activation of the EOC and OES is required. The procedure should include timely notification of resource capacity before it reaches a critical level requiring outside support.

Response to R-01: On Saturday, October 25, 2003 the Emergency Operation Center was activated according to the County's Multi-Hazard Functional Plan. At approximately 1630 hours, the request was made by the Fire Chief to the Sheriff who in turn instructed OES to prepare a local emergency proclamation and activate the County's EOC. The County EOC was open within 20 minutes with the first operational period beginning at 1800 hours.

R-02. Ventura County should establish the protocols and procedures to coordinate multi-city, large-scale emergencies from the Ventura County EOC. In addition, funds should be allocated for communications equipment upgrades to accommodate coordinated responses.

SPECIAL SERVICES
6401 Telephone Road, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 477-7011 FAX (805) 477-7010

PATROL SERVICES
2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
(805) 494-8261 FAX (805) 494-8295

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DETENTION SERVICES
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2305 FAX (805) 654-3500

SUPPORT SERVICES
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-3926 FAX (805) 654-2109

Response to R-02: The Ventura County Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) is comprised of the ten cities and various special districts. This group meets once a month to plan and receive training on how to respond to large-scale emergencies affecting multiple jurisdictions.

Most recently, this group developed a countywide emergency management strategy for upgrading communications for city EOCs. The IACG will spend approximately \$300,000 under the 2004 Homeland Security Grant Program to improve communications between county and city EOCs. The implementation date is August 31, 2004.

R-03. EOC should be allowed to purchase or upgrade the existing televisions or remote control units.

Response to R-03: Funding through the Emergency Management Performance Grant will be used to upgrade display capabilities in the EOC. The implementation date will be July 30, 2004.

R-04. When new space becomes available to the County, the EOC should be allowed to upgrade or move to new facilities.

Response to R-04: This project has been studied and an expansion plan has been developed. Implementation is dependent on available space and funding.

The Sheriff's Department appreciates the constructive input relating to public safety and will continue to seek opportunities to improve our EOC capabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Brooks", written in a cursive style.

BOB BROOKS
Ventura County Sheriff