

**Response to 2005-2006 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Entitled
Security of Vital Ventura County Data Processing
August 10, 2006**

Findings:

I materially concur with all findings documented within the report with the exception of Finding 8. Neither the Government Center nor the Camarillo Airport is in a recognized 100 year or 500 year storm flood area, and therefore the likelihood of material flooding in either one of these computing facilities due to a severe storm is negligible. There is the possibility of inundation due to broken water or sewage lines resulting from earthquake or other causes at all of the sites facilities.

Recommendations:

R-1. ISD's primary facility should be relocated above ground level.

ISD will place a formal request in the County's Capital Plan for such a new facility in the upcoming Capital Plan. Given funding and build-out of this facility will take an extended period of time, ISD will continue to pursue secondary strategies such as dispersing critical computing applications across multiple existing computing facilities and contracting with third parties for geographically dispersed "hot sites." Current focus will be on contracting hot-site facilities for VCIJIS and payroll prior to the start of fiscal year 07/08.

R-2. The ISD should establish a backup facility not in the Oxnard Plain. This facility should be capable of supporting all major County information system functions, including e-mail, Internet, payroll, and, VCIJIS. A location in a geographical zone remote from any earthquake fault that could impact the County Hall of Administration should be developed.

Full implementation of this recommendation, while at the same time pursuing a new primary computing facility, is not economically feasible at this time. Alternatively, ISD is continuing to pursue a combination strategy of building out its planned backup computing facility at the Camarillo airport, while concurrently pursuing third party "hot site" contracts for the County's most critical computing systems.

The County's backup data center at the Camarillo airport is the former Oxnard Air Force Base jail. This facility is a single story, above-ground structure built of steel reinforced concrete and is therefore likely to withstand all but the most severe earthquakes. This facility will be used to provide backup processing capabilities for critical systems in the event of a disaster specific to the County Government Center. Protection of the County's most critical systems from a regional disaster, such as a major earthquake resulting in liquefaction of the Oxnard plain, are being addressed by the aforementioned contracts with third party remote data centers, known as "hot sites." Such contracts are already in

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place for the County's property tax, retirement and financial systems. Implementation of contracts for VCIJIS and payroll are planned prior to end of the current fiscal year.

- R-3. When backing up data, all files should be encrypted before release outside of the ISD. Only designated security personnel within ISD should have access to the related encryption keys.**

ISD concurs with this recommendation and is currently researching what will be required to implement encryption of data ISD sends off site for storage. However, our research to date indicates this is not a trivial task and will significantly increase both the cost to ISD's customer agencies and departments and the processing time required to produce backups. Therefore, we are alternatively recommending that implementation be limited to those specific applications and systems containing sensitive data such as payroll, VCIJIS, and health care related systems. Administrative systems such as email would not have their backups encrypted.

Upon completion of our initial research, ISD will work with the agencies and departments that own the various applications to determine the need and schedule for the recommended encryption of backups.