



City of Camarillo

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Office of the City Manager
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MEMORANDUM

To: Laura Hernandez, Assistant Director, Sheriff's OES

From: John Fraser, Management Assistant

Date: August 22, 2007

Subject: Responses to Grand Jury Report on Evacuation Planning

SUMMARY

The following are responses prepared by the City of Camarillo to the Ventura County Grand Jury report regarding evacuation planning in areas of potential flooding.

The Camarillo Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MHFP) addresses potential emergency situations due to flooding and dam failure, as well as tsunami-related concerns. The City's MHFP, which will be updated later this year in compliance with NIMS, was last updated in July 2004.

Emergency Scenarios

The following information from the MHFP (paraphrased) pertains to **flooding concerns**:

The Calleguas and Conejo Creeks both penetrate eastern Camarillo, and the Revlon Slough is located west of the City. Although extensive channel improvements have been constructed within the City, flooding problems north of Las Posas Road, east of Somis Road, and off of Howard Road remain unresolved.

Uses in the hazard areas largely agricultural, with some residential and industrial areas. Sections of U.S. 101 and rail lines of the Southern Pacific Railroad are also in the hazard zone. The Ventura County Flood Control District maintains responsibility for the channels in Camarillo.

Flooding in the special risk areas can occur rapidly or slowly, depending on the heaviness and severity of rainfall. Emergency preparedness will be based on four stages of response actions, including light to moderate rainfall (Stage 1); moderate to heavy rain for four to six hours (Stage 2); moderate to heavy rain for six to 12 hours (Stage 3); and specific threats to property and persons (Stage 4).

It is expected that all major streets would be open, and evacuation should be easily facilitated.

While FEMA is currently reviewing the flood insurance risk map (FIRM) for Camarillo, much of the City lies outside identified 100 and 500-year flood zones.

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The following information from the MHFP pertains to **potential dam failure**:

(Failure of) the Bard Reservoir (Simi Valley) could have a significant impact on Camarillo. The reservoir holds approximately 11,000 acre-feet of water and its natural drainage eventually enters Camarillo along the Las Posas Arroyo through Somis. The flow distance from the Reservoir to Camarillo is approximately 17 miles. Floodwaters would reach the City in approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Failure of this dam during a catastrophic event, such as a severe earthquake, is considered very unlikely. These types of dams have performed well in earthquakes. However, for purposes of emergency preparedness, response actions applicable to all common hazards are provided in the MHFP.

The only required evacuation route would be the movement onto high ground out of the flood plain which is generally north of Ponderosa Drive, west of Ponderosa and Las Posas Road, and east of Calleguas Creek, north of U.S. 101.

The following information from the MHFP pertains to a **tsunami**:

Camarillo is approximately nine miles from the coast, and potential tsunami inundation areas are thus south of the City. The projected inundation distance from a tsunami striking the Ventura County coastline could differ somewhat due to the size of the wave. However, the most likely affect on Camarillo would be the backup of floodwaters into Calleguas Creek and/or the Beardsley Wash.

Conclusion

The primary concerns of the Grand Jury report pertain to evacuation planning and providing information about evacuation routes to individuals residing in areas susceptible to flooding. As noted above, there are concerns for potential flooding in Camarillo, primarily due to sustained and heavy rainfall or failure of the Bard Reservoir. The likely mechanism for failure of this reservoir would be a powerful earthquake, which could result in numerous other emergency response issues. However, neither heavy rainfall nor dam failure is expected to pose a significant problem for evacuation of Camarillo's residents, should the need arise.

With respect to a tsunami, perhaps the most significant issue would be the flux of residents from coastal communities seeking refuge in more inland cities, including Camarillo.

All emergency evacuations from Camarillo would be organized and administered by the Camarillo Police Department (Sheriff's Department). The Police Department also has two groups of trained volunteers, Camarillo Citizen Patrol and Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), to assist in evacuations. Additionally, the City has agreements with Laidlaw Transit and the Camarillo Health Care District to make the buses of these organizations available to our residents to assist with any necessary evacuation.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at 388-5349, or at

cc: City Council
City Manager
Assistant City Manager



City of Camarillo

AGENDA REPORT

Date: August 22, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Jerry Bankston, City Manager

Submitted by: John Fraser, Management Assistant
via Bruce Feng, Assistant City Manager

Subject: **Response to Grand Jury Report on Evacuation Plan in Ventura County Susceptible to Flooding**

SUMMARY

In June 2007 the Ventura County Grand Jury issued a report recommending that County disaster agencies work to improve community education and emergency preparedness. The specific concerns were evacuation maps not being readily available, and that evacuation signs have not been installed.

DISCUSSION

The attached memorandum was prepared by City staff from the City Manager's office and Police Department; and is now being submitted to the City Council for review and comment before forwarding to the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Each city in the County is required to respond to the report of the Grand Jury within 90 days. The Sheriff's OES has requested that all comments from individual cities be forwarded to its office so that these comments can be compiled for response to the Grand Jury.

The City's Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MHFP) was referenced for response to the report. The MHFP, which is being updated this year, was last updated in July 2004. Specific information applicable to the subject of potential flooding in Camarillo is referenced in the memo. Also attached is the report from the Grand Jury, as well as a response from Sheriff Bob Brooks.

BUDGET IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval authorizes staff to submit the memorandum to the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services for submission to the Grand Jury.

ATTACHMENTS

- Memorandum
- Grand Jury Report
- Sheriff's Response