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City Manager

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September 19, 2007

Ventura County Grand Jury  
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751  
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Response to the 2006 – 2007 Grand Jury report entitled  
“Ventura County Emergency Disaster Preparedness”

Following are responses prepared by the City of Oxnard to the Ventura County Grand Jury report regarding evacuation planning.

The City of Oxnard has been asked to respond to the following recommendations: R-01, R-06, R-10.

R-01. VC OES and the VCDC should work with the ten cities in the County to facilitate development of coordinated and integrated emergency evacuation plans for each of these communities. These plans should include how the public and emergency service providers are to be informed of an alert and what their responses should be. These local plans need to recognize that the VC OES is the chief disaster coordinator in the County; the plans need to be readily available to the public.  
(C-01)

Response to R-01: Concur in part. (see R-06 response) A solid working relationship already exists between The City of Oxnard and VC OES. The City of Oxnard is an active participant in the regularly scheduled disaster planning meetings hosted by VC OES and the VCDC. These meetings address *all* hazards, including their associated evacuation plans, alert and notification methodologies, as well as response options for each potential hazard. Communities within Ventura County are well represented at these meetings and are given an active voice in the process.

*The City of Oxnard Multi-hazard Functional Response Plan* recognizes VC OES as a critical partner and facilitator in all facets of our disaster coordination efforts. Evacuation plans associated with specific emergencies should be made available to the public whenever possible.



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The City of Oxnard is in the process of developing a Public Education Campaign designed to heighten our community's awareness of each individual's responsibility to be able to be self-sufficient during a disaster. This includes educating our employees and citizens to recognize signs of danger and of their pre-established evacuation routes to safety. This Campaign is targeted for implementation during the first quarter of 2008.

- R-06. Any evacuation plans developed by VCOES and the cities or special districts in Ventura County should be publicized and widely distributed. A user-friendly brochure detailing preparedness actions and evacuation routes should be developed for distribution to all residents in the County. As maps and plans are updated, the changes should be similarly publicized. (C-01, C-02)

Response to R-06: Concur in part. The City of Oxnard will make every effort to publicize evacuation plans for specific emergencies and notify our community of updates. This will be facilitated through the Public Education Campaign referenced above.

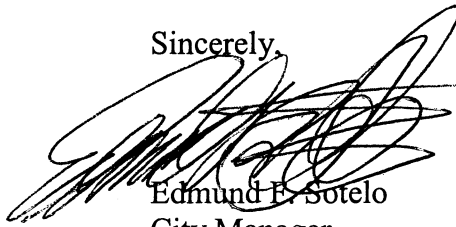
Not every evacuation plan for every potential emergency that is developed can or should be distributed. Prudence mandates a degree of pre-planning along with a large portion of flexibility to allow first responders to adapt to the uniqueness of the situation.

- R-10. Ventura County, as well as all coastal cities in the County, should meet required standards to obtain "Tsunami Ready" certification from the National Weather Service. (C-05)

Response to R-10: Concur. The City of Oxnard is currently pursuing the "Storm Ready" certification from the National Weather Service, a known precursor to the "Tsunami Ready" certification. The criteria identified would serve all Ventura County Coastal Communities in their tsunami response capabilities and all should strive to meet same.

Please feel free to contact Deborah Shane, City of Oxnard Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, at 385-7717 should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Edmund B. Sotelo  
City Manager

cc: Honorable Colleen Toy White, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, Ventura County