

**CITY OF SANTA PAULA
MEMORANDUM**

AGENDA ITEM: 10H

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Richard Araiza, Fire Chief
Subject: Response to Ventura County Grand Jury Report on Disaster Evacuation Planning
Date: August 23, 2007

Recommendation: Receive the staff report and direct the City Manager to transmit a response to the Ventura County Grand Jury regarding their report on Disaster Evacuation Planning.

Fiscal Impacts: Information provided with current Budget.

Personnel Impacts: Captain Lazenby will continue to serve as Emergency coordinator during his regular shift hours and additional overtime will be necessary from time to time. Most overtime is provided for through grant funding.

General Discussion: In June of this year we received a copy of the Grand Jury report titled "Ventura County: Disaster Evacuation Planning" a copy is attached as Attachment 1. You as a governing board are required to respond within 90 days of this submittal as set forth in Penal Code section 933.05 (a) through (c). As part of the response you can concur, concur in part or disagree with the Grand Juries findings. You must explain any reasons why you disagree in whole or in part with each applicable finding of the Grand Jury.

For each applicable recommendation you must state if it has already been implemented, will be implemented (with expected date of implementation), will not be implemented (with an explanation of the reason why), or that it requires further study.

The findings of the Grand Jury appear to be factual in nature and appear to be correct as far as any records of flooding, dam failure inundation, earthquakes and tsunami is concerned. As to finding F-35 the grand jury reports that only three radio stations (one Spanish language) in the County will broadcast emergency information. Since this finding both Santa Paula City and Fillmore City have implemented emergency radio broadcasting as part of our emergency preparedness therefore I would only agree in part.

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development of coordinated and integrated emergency evacuation plans for each community. Plans should include how 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 Ventura County OES is the chief disaster coordinator in the County and that the plans need to be readily available to the public.

The second recommendation indicates that evacuation plans that are developed with Ventura County OES 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.

The City of Santa Paula worked with Ventura County OES to develop an emergency plan. The City of Santa Paula's Current Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) includes directions to the individuals that may be acting as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Director or on behalf of the EOC Director or those appointed representatives that are authorized to activate the EOC and declare an emergency and initiate an evacuation order. The same directions and orders are incorporated in the City of Santa Paula's Evacuation Plan.

Both the EOP and the Evacuation Plan include the methods to be employed to carryout the orders. The methods directed in the EOP and Evacuation Plan include:

- Contact the Santa Paula Police Dispatch
- Contact the County of Ventura EOC
- Identify yourself
- Describe the emergency/disaster situation causing this request
- Provide a callback confirmation number to the Ventura County EOC if requested.

Santa Paula's Evacuation Plan's is designed to allow it to be used for any type of event and includes general evacuation routes. People that are new to the area or unfamiliar with Santa Paula such as Strike Teams or Red Cross can use the Evacuation Plan. The plan is available to the public at City Hall and the Police and Fire Stations and will soon be available on the City's website. The maps include lines indicating the projected flood inundation due to a dam failure.

Santa Paula actively attempts to educate the public on Emergency Preparedness. Preparedness items are released to the local media; classes and public presentations are regularly provided. Santa Paula will be hosting its second annual emergency preparedness event on September 8th. Emergency preparedness brochures are prepared and will be distributed. The Santa Paula Citizen Corps meets monthly to encourage and facilitate preparedness in the public and private sector. More than 450 local citizens have taken Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes in the last two years and more than 50 public presentation have be made to encourage Emergency Preparedness. Santa Paula owns and operates a low wattage AM radio station that provides around the clock information for the Santa Clara Valley. The system will be used to broadcast alerts and emergency information including evacuation orders to residents and travelers, when needed, on AM 1610.

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Conclusion: I would recommend response to the Grand Jury indicating all recommendations are implemented.

Attachments: 1-Ventura County: Disaster Evacuation Planning



"Citrus Capital of the World"

City of Santa Paula

970 Ventura Street • Santa Paula, California • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569 • 93061 • Phone: (805) 525-4478 • Fax: (805) 525-6278

September 27, 2007

Ventura County Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Ave., L#3751
Ventura, Ca. 93009

Honorable Colleen Toy White, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
Hall of Justice, #2120
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, Ca. 93009

RECEIVED

OCT 4 2007

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

In response to the Grand Jury report titled, "Ventura County Disaster Evacuation Plan" the City Council of the City of Santa Paula received a report from Fire Chief Rick Araiza during the Regular City Council Meeting of September 4, 2007 (refer to the attached copy of the report). The report states that the City of Santa Paula concurs in part with all findings of the Grand Jury with the exception that the Cities of Santa Paula and Fillmore now have emergency radio broadcasting. The City Council received this report and directed me to submit it to the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury report had several recommendations for the County of Ventura and the Cities within Ventura County. As to recommendations pertaining to the City of Santa Paula all applicable recommendations are implemented.

Very truly yours;


Wally Bobkiewicz
City Manager