



City of Thousand Oaks

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SEP 18 2007 MAYOR ANDREW P. FOX

September 12, 2007

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

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

Re: **Ventura County 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report – Ventura County Disaster Evacuation Plan**

Dear Judge White:

As requested in your June 20, 2007 correspondence to the City of Thousand Oaks, the City has reviewed the Grand Jury Report entitled "Ventura County Disaster Evacuation Plan" and is providing comments on recommendations R-01 and R-06 of the report.

Although a majority of the Grand Jury report applies to areas within the purview of the County and other agencies, the City of Thousand Oaks also has local emergency preparedness responsibilities. An important component to any successful emergency preparedness program is to support and coordinate effectively with other agencies, such as the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (VCOES), Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) and the American Red Cross of Ventura County. The City has and continues to work closely with these agencies and others for emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

As you may be aware, the City has an Emergency Response Plan that addresses different types of emergencies or disasters. The City also has a separate water security response plan in place that addresses potential vulnerabilities and methods for ensuring the security of the local water supply.

The "Findings" section of the Grand Jury report references flooding, dam failure and tsunami evacuation strategies that for the most part are not directly City responsibilities. However, the potential for a Tsunami to hit the coast north or south of Thousand Oaks does exist and as part of an advanced planning effort, the City conducted a Tsunami table-top exercise on May 23, 2007. The City will continue to work through the VCOES on regional emergency response issues.

Comments on Grand Jury Recommendations:

R-01:

1. VCOES 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.
2. These plans should include how the public and emergency service providers are to be informed of an alert and what their response should be.
3. These local plans need to recognize that the VCOES is the chief disaster coordinator in the County; the plans need to be readily available to the public.

City Response- Implement in Part

1. The City has and will continue to work through the VCOES on emergency planning needs including development of a coordinated and integrated emergency evacuation plan.
2. As in past incidents, the City works closely with County OES and the Ventura County Fire Department to ensure timely and accurate information is posted on websites and broadcasted on local cable and radio. Additionally, City staff regularly attends County Disaster Council Meetings, Emergency Coordinators Council Meetings and Public Information Officer Group Meetings, all part of an overall coordinated effort to prepare and respond to emergencies.
3. Evacuation maps and plans are not publicized, since any evacuation would be speculative and dependent entirely on the type, location and size of the incident. A decision to evacuate the City or parts thereof will be made in consultation with and in coordination with VCOES.

R-06:

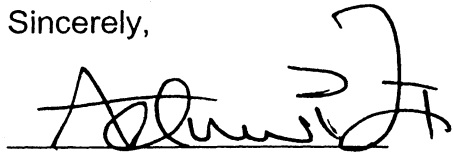
Any evacuation plans developed by VCOES and the ten cities or special districts in Ventura County should be publicized and widely distributed. A user-friendly brochure detailing preparedness actions and evacuation routes should be developed for distribution to all residents in the County. As maps and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

City Response- Implement in Part

The City has produced an Emergency Preparedness Handbook that has for several years been mailed to residents, homeowner associations and business groups. The Emergency Preparedness Handbook offers guidance on what to do if an evacuation is ordered. Although shelter sites are not listed in the handbook, potential emergency meeting places are posted on the City's website. Should one or more of these sites be activated by the American Red Cross as shelters, the website would be updated to reflect that. As previously noted, evacuation maps and plans are not publicized, since any evacuation would be speculative and dependent entirely on the type, location and size of the incident.

In accordance with the Grand Jury's request, a copy of the minutes of City Council acceptance of the June 20 letter and the formal response will be provided after they are approved. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Mitnick, City Manager at (805) 449-2121.

Sincerely,



Andrew P. Fox
Mayor

- c: ✓ Alyce O. Klussman, Foreman, 2006-2007 Ventura County Grand Jury
City Council
Amy Albano, City Attorney
Mark Watkins, Public Works Director
Dennis Carpenter, Police Chief
Mike La Plant, Fire Chief