



CITY OF
VENTURA

City Council

Christy Weir, Mayor
Bill Fulton, Deputy Mayor
Neal Andrews, Councilmember
Brian Brennan, Councilmember
James L. Monahan, Councilmember
Carl E. Morehouse, Councilmember
Edward W. Summers, Councilmember

August 13, 2008

Don Cody, Foreman
Ventura County 2007-2008 Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura CA 93009

Re: Ventura Port District: Delivery of Fire Services

Dear Mr. Cody:

Pursuant to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report dated May 16, 2008, and Penal Code Section 933(c), the response of the Ventura City Fire Department is as follows:

Findings – Ventura City Fire Department

F-01. - F-06. Agree.

F-07. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) recommends several time frames for dispatch processing targets: The following are the NFPA dispatch processing time standards:

- Ninety-five percent of alarms received on emergency lines shall be answered within 15 seconds and ninety-nine percent of alarms shall be answered within 40 seconds.
- Ninety-five percent of emergency call processing and dispatching shall be completed within 60 seconds and ninety-nine percent of call processing and dispatching shall be completed within 90 seconds.
- Where alarms are transferred from the primary public safety answering point (PSAP) to a secondary answering point, the transfer procedure shall not exceed 30 seconds for ninety-five percent of all alarms processed.

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The total NFPA dispatch processing time recommendation (from first ring at the primary public safety answering point to dispatching the appropriate response crews) is 105 seconds.

F-08. - F-13. Agree.

F-14. The "roving" fire engine was instituted in July 2007.

F-15. - F-16. Agree.

Findings - City of Ventura

F-36. - F-37. Agree.

F-38. City management projects a decrease in budgeted sales tax revenues of \$2.0 million. A projected \$4 million budget gap for 2008-2009 was closed with service and expense eliminations, reductions and restructuring.

F-39. Agree.

Recommendations

R-01. This recommendation will be implemented in the future when funds are available for building, equipping, and staffing fire station #7.

R-02. This recommendation has been partially implemented through City Council action in February 2007, which established a "Fire Development Impact Fee." This fee will fund future fire related capital projects, including construction of a new station servicing the Harbor and surrounding communities.

A capital project for a new fire station is contained in the City of Ventura Capital Improvement Project Plan 2008-2013. Funds have already been allocated to partially fund construction costs. The Capital Plan calls for preliminary design and CEQA review to begin in fiscal year 2009-10 and construction beginning in 2011-12.

Staffing costs will be partially offset with the anticipated revenue from the 9-1-1 fees that will fund a major portion of current communications center costs, freeing up revenue for adding staff. The new fire engine for this station was purchased in fiscal year 2007-2008.

R-03. With anticipated revenues from the 9-1-1 fees, the City plans to expand the hours of the roving engine company to maximize emergency response capabilities within the City and Harbor area.

Expanding the hours of the roving engine company is anticipated to begin in July 2009.

- R-06. This recommendation has been implemented. The VCFD continues in a collaborative effort with the Ventura County Fire Protection District to improve overall response times.
- R-07. This recommendation has been implemented. The reduction of the time for fire crews to receive dispatch information and respond to emergency calls continues to be an ongoing improvement effort. Reductions have already been realized during this past fiscal year with a 9.4% decrease in this time interval.

In the event you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christy Weir". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Christy Weir
Mayor

cc: Honorable Colleen Toy White
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
Hall of Justice, #2120
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura CA 93009