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July 30, 2008

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

SUBJECT: 2007-2008 VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT: SILVER STRAND MID-BEACH PUBLIC RESTROOM RECONSTRUCTION

Dear Judge White:

I am writing in response to the Grand Jury Report for 2007-2008, related to the Silver Strand Mid-Beach Public Restroom Reconstruction, which is managed by the Harbor Department on behalf of the County. We want to thank the Grand Jury for recognizing that the Department acted appropriately in the management of this project and did not overstep its authority. The Grand Jury requested that the Department respond to Recommendations 1 through 5.

Recommendation 1: The Department should continue to notify affected private property owners near a County project which may affect private property values. A formal written procedure of public notification should be added to the Department manual of policies and procedures. Records of notifications and resulting public comments should be maintained. (C-03)

Response: The Department will continue the current procedure of notifying property owners via a combination of mailings, public meetings hosted by the Department, announcements on the Department website, hand-delivered notices, Board of Supervisors meetings, postings at the affected site. The Department will also continue to maintain records of notifications and resulting comments. This notification procedure has been documented and added to the Departmental manual of policies and procedures as of July 28, 2008.

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Recommendation 2: The Department should continue to hold public meetings and maintain records of public comments. (C-03)

Response: Please see response to Recommendation 1, above.

Recommendation 3: Appropriate steps should be taken to assure that all disabled and handicapped members of the public have beach restroom access instead of relying exclusively on County provided balloon-tired wheelchairs. (C-05)

Response: The Department currently provides fully accessible temporary restrooms at the Silver Strand Beach parking lot. This lot includes reserved accessible parking. The Department is in the process of constructing permanent replacement restrooms at this location, which will also be fully accessible.

Recommendation 4: The Department should assist residents to form a type of "Neighborhood Watch" program for the safety issues surrounding public beach restrooms and coordinate efforts with Oxnard Police Department, Ventura County Sheriff's Department, and the Harbor Patrol which together are responsible for public safety at County beaches. (C-04)


Response: The Harbor Department does not have law enforcement authority on County-owned beaches. The Department will provide input and assistance to the Oxnard Police Department and Ventura County Sheriff's Department, who share responsibility for landside law enforcement on County beaches.

Recommendation 5: The Department should inform the public of costs, locations, and construction procedures for similar coastal projects prior to implementation. (C-06)

Response: The Department will continue the practice of including information on comparable coastal projects, when such comparable projects are available.

We appreciate the interest and support of the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,



Lyn Krieger
Director

c: Board of Supervisors
M. Robinson, CEO