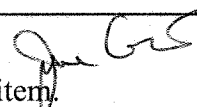
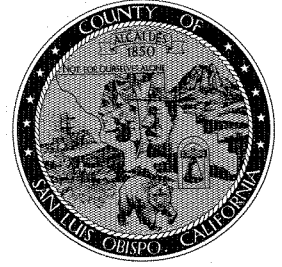


**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE June 8, 2010	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Leslie Brown (805) 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve recommended response to the 2010 Grand Jury report titled "Search and Rescue: Life in the Balance" and forward this response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by June 29, 2010.			
(5) SUMMARY OF REQUEST The Grand Jury issued a report on April 30, 2010 regarding search and rescue operations, which are a function of the Sheriff's Department. The report addresses the current size, expertise and functions of the Search and Rescue (SAR) team as well as funding for SAR equipment and training. The Sheriff, Search and Rescue Unit and the Board of Supervisors are required to respond to the recommendation made by the Grand Jury as a result of their investigation. This report presents the recommended response for Board consideration and approval. The Sheriff has prepared written responses for his department and the Search and Rescue unit (attached). These responses have already been submitted to the Presiding Judge.			
(6) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board adopt the recommended response as the Board of Supervisor's response to the 2009-10 Grand Jury report titled "Search and Rescue: Life in the Balance" and forward the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with a copy to the Grand Jury, by June 29, 2010.			
(7) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(8) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) ANNUAL COST N/A	(10) BUDGETED? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
(11) OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT (LIST): Sheriff-Coroner			
(12) WILL REQUEST REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, How Many? ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Term ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Contract ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Help ____			
(13) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) <input type="checkbox"/> 1st, <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd, <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd, <input type="checkbox"/> 4th, <input type="checkbox"/> 5th, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All		(14) LOCATION MAP <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	(15) Maddy Act Appointments Signed-off by Clerk of the Board <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
(16) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)		(17) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions (Orig) <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts (Orig + 3 Copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances (Orig) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Email Resolution and Ordinance to CR_Board_Clerk (in MS Word)	
(18) NEED EXTRA EXECUTED COPIES? <input type="checkbox"/> Number: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		(19) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(20) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) _____ N/A		(21) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	(22) Agenda Item History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____
(23) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW The Administrative Office prepared this item. 			

County of San Luis Obispo

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, RM D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5011



JIM GRANT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Leslie Brown, Administrative Analyst *Leslie Brown*

Date: June 8, 2010

Subject: Request to approve recommended response to the 2010 Grand Jury report titled "Search and Rescue: Life in the Balance" and forward this response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by June 29, 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board of Supervisors adopt the recommended response as the Board of Supervisor's response to the 2009-10 Grand Jury report titled "Search and Rescue: Life in the Balance" and forward the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with a copy to the Grand Jury, by June 29, 2010.

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury issued a report on April 30, 2010 as a result of concern for the provision for, and continuation of, search and rescue service during the prolonged period of economic downturn. Search and Rescue is a function of the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff, Search and Rescue Unit and the Board of Supervisors are required to respond to the recommendations made by the Grand Jury as a result of their investigation.

The report addresses the current size, expertise and functions of the Search and Rescue (SAR) team as well as funding for SAR equipment and training.

The report requires the responses to Recommendations as identified below:

- The San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors is required to respond to Recommendations 2 and 4,
- The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department is required to respond to Recommendations 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7, and

- The San Luis Obispo County Search and Rescue Unit is required to respond to Recommendations 1, 3, 4,5 and 6.

The Sheriff has already prepared a response to the Recommendations for his department as well as for the Search and Rescue unit. This response (attached) was transmitted to the Presiding Judge on May 14, 2010. (Note that the Sheriff's response does not include a response to Recommendation number 4 for the Search and Rescue unit.)

Recommended Board of Supervisors Responses

Staff has prepared the following responses to Recommendations 2 and 4 for your Board's consideration and approval:

Recommendation Number 2: "The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors should, to the extent possible, provide an allowance for uniforms, equipment, training/advanced training and supplies for SAR volunteers, similar to sworn staff in the Sheriff's Department."

Recommended Board of Supervisors Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. As noted in the Grand Jury report, the responsibility for search and rescue lies within the Sheriff's department. Each year, the Sheriff, along with all other County departments, prepares a budget request that is submitted to the Administrative Office for consideration. The budget request reflects the goals and policies of the Board of Supervisors pertaining to the budget, and represent the department's priorities and funding needed to achieve their stated goals. As the Grand Jury reported, approximately \$35,000 was included in the FY 2009-10 Adopted budget for the Sheriff's department for various expenses associated with the search and rescue, dive team and Sheriff's Posse functions. Approximately 92% of this budget has been spent for the Search and Rescue operations (including funds for mileage reimbursement and miscellaneous supplies.). The budgeted amount represents the amount requested by the Sheriff (i.e. no reductions were made to the requested amount in the proposed budget) and reflects his stated needs for the search and rescue function. The Sheriff was not aware of any unmet needs of the Search and Rescue volunteers (which the Grand Jury also notes) when preparing his budget request. (The FY 2010-11 Proposed Budget, yet to be adopted by the Board, includes approximately \$37,600 in funding these functions.)

In addition, the Sheriff submitted a request to the Board on February 23, 2010 to transfer funds from various trust accounts (Federal Asset Forfeiture, State Asset Forfeiture, etc.) to purchase a variety of replacement and new equipment. (See item A-19 on the Board's February 23, 2010 meeting minutes.) Included in this request was \$11,187 for the purchase of replacement Search and Rescue equipment.

While the budgeted funds do not cover the cost of uniforms and advanced training, the Board of Supervisors is providing for known needs of the Search and Rescue unit, to the extent possible. Future funding needs for the Search and Rescue team should be communicated by the team to the Sheriff for consideration as he prepares his budget requests for the coming fiscal year.

Recommendation Number 4: "SAR, with the assistance of county personnel, should pursue funding from the California Department of Parks to subsidize rescue work in the Oceano Dunes."

Recommended Board of Supervisors Response:

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable. The State of California is facing significant financial challenges. The current projected budget gap is approximately \$19 billion spanning the remainder of FY 2009-10 and all of FY 2010-11. As the Grand Jury acknowledges in their report, the State Department of Park curtailed its annual \$1,000 funding for SAR due to budget cuts. However, approximately \$160,000 to \$180,000 is collected each year from Off Highway Vehicle In-Lieu fees --a four dollar fee collected pursuant to California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 38230 for renewal identification for every off-highway motor vehicle subject to identification. This fee is in lieu of all taxes accorded to the value of the vehicle levied for state or local purposes. The use of this funding is restricted and must be related to uses that promote or facilitate off highway vehicle use, restore lands damaged by off highway vehicle use, prevents off highway vehicle use in areas where not allowed through enforcement and the removal of access, promotes planning for areas where off highway vehicles use is allowed, or provides for education programs that promotes safety and respect for property and environmental resources. Funding for law enforcement programs and equipment directly related to the off highway vehicle use is also allowed. Approximately \$33,700 of these funds were budgeted in the current fiscal year to replace four 4x4 quads for the SAR operations at the Oceano Dunes. The Sheriff may consider requesting Off Highway Vehicle In-Lieu Fees to fund some of the equipment needs of the SAR team serving the Oceano Dunes, where these needs are determined to be consistent with the identified legislated use for these funds.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The response from the Sheriff is attached to this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations associated with this item.

RESULTS

Adoption of the findings and recommendations will fulfill the County's obligation to respond to Grand Jury reports as specified in Section 933.05 of the California State Penal Code.

ATTACHMENTS

1. The FY 2009-10 Grand Jury Report "Search and Rescue: Life in the Balance."
2. San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department response to the FY 2009-10 Grand Jury Report "Search and Rescue: Life in the Balance."