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Yolo County Office of Emergency Services and Yolo County Branch Libraries



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8150 FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

August 7, 2008

The Honorable Steven Basha
Judge of the Superior Court
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Dear Judge Basha:

I hereby formally transmit the enclosed responses from Yolo County to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report, as approved at the August 5, 2008 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors and county administration appreciate the work by this Grand Jury and wish to thank the Superior Court for its cooperation in this matter.

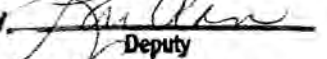
Respectfully,

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

Enclosure

RECEIVED
YOLO SUPERIOR COURT

AUG - 7 2008

By 
Deputy

Almaraz



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

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August 5, 2008

Honorable Steven Basha
Judge of the Superior Court
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

RE: 2007-08 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Basha:

The following is the response to the 2007-08 Grand Jury Final Report from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator/Director of Emergency Services, the Manager of Emergency Services and the Yolo County Librarian/Archivist.

For purposes of readability we have included the Grand Jury's recommendations in italics.

08-32 *"OES should further develop its web page to make it a more effective and timely source of guidance and information for Yolo County residents, with links to other agencies and resources directly relating to emergency health and safety guidance. Such information and guidance should be regularly updated to reflect changes in relevant information and internet links."*

This recommendation has been implemented.¹

In April 2008, the newly designed county web site was activated, and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) was provided a space in which to develop pages containing general and specific information relating to all aspects of preparedness and emergency management. The OES space on the county web site provides information on disaster preparedness, emergency alert and warning, plan development, current road conditions, shelter activities, the emergency operations center, links to local and state resources, and other information pertaining to emergency management within Yolo County.

¹ §933.05 of the California Penal Code requires the county to respond to each of the Grand Jury's recommendations in one of the following ways: (1) The recommendation has been implemented; (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future; (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation; and (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.

The OES web pages are located at: <http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=601>. They also can be found under the community and government menus at: www.yolocounty.org.

08-33 *"The OES web page should be utilized as an important method of disseminating specific information to Yolo County residents during emergencies and declared disaster situations."*

This recommendation has been implemented.

The county web site, including the OES pages, is designed for the rapid dissemination of critical public safety alerts and essential preparedness information to the public during periods of actual or potential emergency. The county web site is so designed that the front page may to be altered so that essential public safety advisories can be immediately disseminated without needing to undertake a more in-depth search of web pages.

08-34 *"OES should spearhead implementation of routine and thorough readiness inspections and tests of key communication facilities by the police and fire protection agencies within Yolo County to prevent future failure of emergency communication networks and other crucial equipment. OES should consider developing a cooperative cross check of readiness by one agency with other agencies serving similar missions within Yolo County, or where more appropriate, with similar agencies from other neighboring jurisdictions."*

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The maintenance of key communications facilities, although of concern to the county OES, is beyond the direct scope and responsibility of the OES. The county OES supports, advocates, and encourages the timely and efficient inspection and maintenance of public safety communications systems, but functional oversight is not within OES' responsibility or technical purview.

08-35 *"The OES should ensure sufficient and appropriate training, functional drills and tabletop exercises to prepare local agencies for emergencies deemed most likely to occur."*

This recommendation has been implemented.

The county OES devotes extensive staff time and resources to the development, presentation, and evaluation of both internal and multi-jurisdictional training and exercise activity. In 2007-08, the OES coordinated or supported the presentation of numerous training courses

for local agencies including intermediate and advanced Incident Command System (ICS) coursework, the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) orientation.

Also in 2007, the OES conducted several interagency emergency exercises, including a flood response exercise, and an operational area functional exercise involving a simulated mass evacuation hosting event. In 2008, the OES activated the EOC in response to January storms, mobilized county and allied agency personnel in response to extreme heat, coordinated the response of mutual aid resources to regional fires, and is scheduled to conduct an interagency mass fatality exercise. Inter-jurisdictional training and exercise activity is regularly discussed with the operational area partners to ensure close coordination and integration of response efforts.

08-36 *“The OES should procure an updated automated telephone dialing system to quickly issue warnings and related information important to Yolo County residents on a targeted notification area basis.”*

The recommendation requires further analysis.

The county OES, in collaboration with the partner jurisdictions and agencies of the Yolo operational area, has been developing technical criteria for the procurement of a replacement automated telephone alerting system for the past year. An operational area subcommittee, coordinated by county OES, has been working to identify system needs and capabilities, and develop appropriate technical specifications for the eventual release of a request for proposal (RFP) from suitable commercial vendors.

Moreover, county OES plans to apply for funding through the 2008 Federal Homeland Security Grant Program to pay for a new system following a successful procurement evaluation process. To date, the county, City of Woodland, and City of Davis have indicated interest in being part of a coordinated system that utilizes a new automated alert warning network within all affected Yolo County jurisdictions.

08-37 *“The capabilities of the EOC to effectively coordinate interagency disaster response and relief should be fleshed out by implementation of appropriate software applications and more meaningful communications capabilities within the EOC.”*

The recommendation requires further analysis.

The county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is currently equipped with computers that include productivity software that is designed to facilitate integrated information coordination both internally as well as with our partner jurisdictions and agencies. The utilization of this computer software is integrated into staff EOC training, and is constantly evaluated as to efficacy and appropriateness. Additionally, the OES has been working with the Yolo Emergency Communications Agency (YECA) to identify methods of providing a more substantive communications capability in the county EOC, most notably in the manner of real-time computer aided dispatch accessibility. Any radio communications capabilities for the county EOC will remain dependent upon the existing YECA public safety radio network.

08-40, 08-41, 08-42 and 08-44

The Yolo County Grand Jury informational brochure, complaint form and most recently published Yolo County Grand Jury Report should be made available and easily accessible at the Clarksburg branch library (08-40), the Davis branch library (08-41), the Knights Landing branch library (08-42) and the Arthur F. Turner branch library (08-44).

These recommendations have been implemented.

The Clarksburg Branch Library, the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library, the Knights Landing Branch Library and the Arthur F. Turner Branch Library each have a copy of the 2007-08 Yolo County Grand Jury report and will include future reports in the permanent reference collection along with copies of the Yolo County Grand Jury informational brochure and complaint form. Handout copies of the report, the brochure and the complaint form were supplied by Yolo County Superior Court, and are available to the public.

08-43 (Knights Landing)

"Install an answering machine which can provide an outgoing message of the library hours and is capable of recording voice messages."

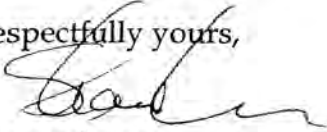
This recommendation has been implemented.

An answering machine which provides recorded messages of library hours and is capable of recording messages from the public has been ordered and will be installed at the Knights Landing Branch of the Yolo County Library. All public outlets of the Yolo County Library now have answering machines with recorded messages and also allow library users to leave a message.

Additional Comments

The Board of Supervisors and County Administrator acknowledge the work and community service of the Grand Jury. Please feel free to contact me at any time should you need the assistance of my office.

Respectfully yours,



Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Manager of Emergency Services
Yolo County Librarian/ Archivist



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

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YOLO SUPERIOR COURT

SEP 25 2008

By *[Signature]*
Deputy

625 Court Street, Room 202 Woodland, CA 95695
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www.yolocounty.org

September 25, 2008

The Honorable Steven Basha
Judge of the Superior Court
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Dear Judge Basha:

I hereby formally transmit the attached amendment to the Yolo County response to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report, as approved at the September 23, 2008 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

In August 2008, the county responded to recommendations made by the 2007-2008 Grand Jury in its final report. In preparing that submission a response to recommendations 08-37 was inadvertently omitted. The response to recommendation 08-38 was mislabeled as 08-37. This amendment corrects both of these oversights.

The Board of Supervisors and county administration appreciate the work by this Grand Jury and wish to thank the Superior Court for its cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

Enclosure




COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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County Administrator

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TO: Supervisor Duane Chamberlain, Chairman
and Members of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sharon Jensen, County Administrator 

DATE: September 23, 2008

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Yolo County response to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury final report. (No fiscal impact)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the attached amendment to the Yolo County response to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury final report and authorize the County Administrator to transmit this amendment to Judge Basha of the Superior Court.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

In August 2008, the county responded to recommendations made by the 2007-2008 Grand Jury in its final report. In preparing that submission a response to recommendation 08-37 was inadvertently omitted. The response to recommendation 08-38, was mislabeled as 08-37. This amendment corrects both of these oversights.

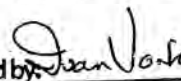
BACKGROUND

According to Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05, the county is required to respond in writing to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury report. This action is made to rectify oversights made in the initial response to the Grand Jury report.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

No other agency involvement was involved in the preparation of this report.

ATTACHMENT: Amended response to the 2007-08 Yolo County Grand Jury final report

Reviewed by:  Phone #: 8067



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

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September 23, 2008

The Honorable Steven Basha
Judge of the Yolo County Superior Court
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

RE: 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report - Amended Response

Dear Judge Basha:

We have recently discovered that the Yolo County response to the 2007-08 Grand Jury Final Report, submitted to you on August 5, 2008, mislabeled one response item and inadvertently omitted another response. Please accept the amendments as herein submitted.

1. The response to recommendation 08-38 was inadvertently labeled as 08-37, in the original submission. The quoted recommendation and the response to that recommendation were correct in the original submission but should be amended to read 08-38.
2. The response to 08-37 was omitted and the original response should be amended to include the following:

08-37 "Yolo County should promptly address the lack of adequate countywide radio communication capability among emergency response agencies and relevant special districts and cities within Yolo County during emergency and disaster situations."

The recommendation requires further analysis.

Although Yolo County strongly advocates and encourages the development of a robust and integrated radio communications capability, the county can not singularly address inadequacies in the existing system. The county will continue to work collaboratively with all jurisdictions and agencies in the goal of achieving enhanced interoperability within the existing public safety communications system as it relates to emergency and disaster situations.

Please accept my regrets for these oversights. Feel free to contact me at any time should you need the assistance of my office.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Jensen', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

