



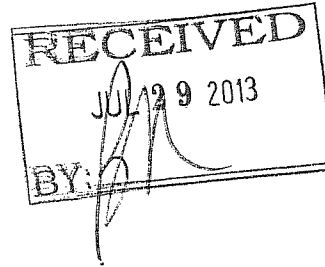
FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY

July 26, 2013

Presiding Judge Barry T. LaBarbara
Superior Court of California
1035 Palm Street, Room 355
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

received
8/22/13

DL



Honorable Judge LaBarbara:

This correspondence is the required response to the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury report titled "Consolidation of Public Safety Dispatch Systems". The Grand Jury representatives interviewed Fire Chief Joel Aranaz, who is no longer employed with the Five Cities Fire Authority.

FINDING 4 (F4) FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY DOES NOT WANT CAL FIRE'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE USE AND ALLOCATION OF THE FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY EQUIPMENT.

We are not clear on what this finding is implying or where that was identified in the report. Further explanation of our emergency response to neighboring jurisdictions will be given in response to Recommendation 3 (R3).

FINDING 6 (F6) THE RELUCTANCE TO CONSOLIDATE DISPATCH BY FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY AND CAL FIRE HAS BROUGHT ACTION TO A STALEMATE IN FINDING ANSWERS TO THE DISPATCH ISSUE.

Again, it is not clear where this finding is identified in the report, or on what basis this finding's assumption was made. There has not been any discussion between the FCFA and CAL FIRE concerning dispatch services. The cities of Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach both provide dispatch services to the FCFA. Currently, the FCFA does not pay, or budget, for those dispatch services. The Oceano Community Services District pays the City of Grover Beach approximately \$20,000 annually for contracted dispatch services. To contract the FCFA dispatch function would require monies to be budgeted and approved.

RECOMMENDATION 2 (R2) ALL CITY LAW ENFORCEMENT, CITY MANAGERS, SHERIFF, FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY AND CAL FIRE SHOULD JOIN IN MEETING WITH AN INDEPENDENT FACILITATOR TO FINALIZE CONSOLIDATION OF DISPATCH BY CONTRACTING DISPATCH SERVICES WITH THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

The Five Cities Fire Authority would attend and participate in a meeting of all parties identified in Recommendation 2. However, there are no monies budgeted to compensate the cost of a facilitator, if necessary. Additionally, we would encourage the participation of all other SLO County public safety agencies that have communications facilities and dispatch responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATION 3 (R3) FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY AND CAL FIRE SHOULD WORK WITH AN INDEPENDENT FACILITATOR TO DEVELOP A WRITTEN CONTRACT DEFINING FIRE SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED AND THE USE OF EACH DEPARTMENT'S ASSETS.

We currently have a document such as this in place titled AUTOMATIC AID OPERATIONAL PLAN. This agreement allows the closest piece of emergency equipment to respond to an incident, regardless of geopolitical boundaries. This agreement is reviewed, and revised if necessary, every few years. CAL FIRE and FCFA cross borders on a daily basis. In the 2012 calendar year, the FCFA responded to 313

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Website: www.fivecitiesfireauthority.org

emergencies to the City of Pismo Beach and County service areas. We received 24 responses into our jurisdiction from CAL FIRE/County Fire, who provides emergency services for our surrounding communities.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to address the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations. The Five Cities Fire Authority believes the South County of San Luis Obispo should have a regional public safety communications center. It would be much more cost effective and efficient if the three current South County communications centers (Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Pismo Beach) were to consolidate to create a facility where all public safety resources were dispatched. If you have any questions regarding our responses, please contact us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Nicolls".

Bill Nicolls
Board Chair, Five Cities Fire Authority

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: "Consolidation of Public Safety Dispatch Systems

Report Date: May 28, 2013

Authorized Responder and Agency: Bill Nicolls, Board Chair, Five Cities Fire Authority

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 4 & 6
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed;
include an explanation of the reasons.)

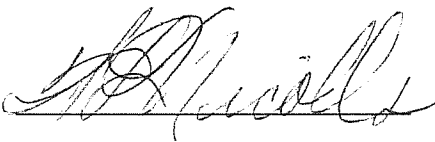
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 3 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered 2 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study,
and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or
director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including
the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall
not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented
because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: July 26, 2013

Signed: _____



Number of pages attached: 2