



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

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 7/9/2019	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Nikki J. Schmidt/Lisa Howe/Morgan Torell 805/781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve responses to the 2018-19 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?" and forward these responses to the Presiding Judge by August 6, 2019. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board: 1. Adopt and file recommended responses from County Fire, the Office of Emergency Services and Board of Supervisors to the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury's 2018-19 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?"; 2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward the approved responses from County Fire, the Office of Emergency Services and the Board of Supervisors to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury by August 6, 2019, and; 3. Receive and file the response from the Sheriff-Coroner to the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury's 2018-19 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?"			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT ☒ Consent ☐ Presentation ☐ Hearing (Time Est. _____) ☐ Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS ☐ Resolutions ☐ Contracts ☐ Ordinances ☒ N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: ☐ 4/5th's Vote Required ☒ N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY ☒ N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW The Administrative Office prepared this item.			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Wade Horton, Administrative Office
Nikki J. Schmidt/Lisa Howe/Morgan Torell, Administrative Office

DATE: 7/9/2019

SUBJECT: Request to approve responses to the 2018-19 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?" and forward these responses to the Presiding Judge by August 6, 2019. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Adopt and file recommended responses from County Fire, the Office of Emergency Services and Board of Supervisors to the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury's 2018-19 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?";
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward the approved responses from County Fire, the Office of Emergency Services and the Board of Supervisors to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury by August 6, 2019, and;
3. Receive and file the responses from the Sheriff-Coroner to the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury's 2018-19 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?"

DISCUSSION

On May 28, 2019, the Grand Jury issued a report titled "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?" The report investigated the need for a weed abatement program in the unincorporated area of the County in order to reduce the risk of extensive damage in the event of fire. The Grand Jury report included five findings and eight recommendations. Responses were required as follows:

Department	Findings	Recommendations
Board of Supervisors	F2, F3, F4, F5	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R8
County Fire	F2	R4
Office of Emergency Services	F3, F4, F5	R5, R6, R7
Sheriff-Coroner	F4	R8

All responses must conform to the response language and timelines required under Penal Code section 933. Under this section, County departments must respond within 90 days of the date the report is released, following adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

The responses from County Fire, the Office of Emergency Services and the Board of Supervisors are due to the Presiding Judge by August 6, 2019.

Under Penal Code section 933, elected officials, including the Sheriff, must respond within 60 days and may respond directly to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury, which the Sheriff has done as of May 31, 2019. The Sheriff's responses are provided below. A copy of the document transmitting the Sheriff's responses is attached to this staff report.

Recommended Responses from County Fire:

Finding 2: San Luis Obispo County has no weed abatement ordinance, which was also a finding in a report written by Cal Fire and presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in April of 2017. We were unable to find any response to this report by the BOS.

The respondent disagrees partially with this finding. The County does not have a weed abatement ordinance outside of County Service Area No. 10 – Cayucos and PRC§4291.

Recommendation 4: The County and all city fire jurisdictions should offer a chipping program similar to Atascadero. Funds may be available through the Fire Safe Program. A plan for this should be accomplished by the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Further analysis will need to be conducted due to the vast area covered by County Fire. The costs of such a program, availability of staff to conduct the work, and the need to purchase and maintain several chippers and vehicles all must be evaluated along with a funding source(s). The analysis will be completed by November 30, 2019.

Recommended Responses from Office of Emergency Services:

Finding 3: Information about evacuation plans is not readily available to the general public. This could present confusion and difficulty for residents, many of whom have limited evacuation routes.

The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) agrees there is always room to improve public outreach, however, the County web site currently includes evacuation information and suggested evacuation routes for nuclear power, dam, and tsunami incidents (<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/>). Evacuation information for other incidents, such as wildfire, is dependent on factors such as location of the incident, direction of movement, road and weather conditions. Factors related to wildfires do not always allow for specific, pre-determined routes to be identified.

Finding 4: The reverse 911 system is under-utilized by county residents. Registering for this system can be accomplished via the county Office of Emergency Services (OES) or Sheriff's department websites. There is no telephone number available to accomplish this registration. Public Service Announcements alone are not reaching enough people.

The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The Office of Emergency Services agrees that the Reverse 911 system

could utilized more fully if more residents were registered. Landline telephone numbers are automatically registered within the system, however, cell phone as well as VoIP phone users must “Opt-In” to the system by registering their information with the County. Citizens can register with Reverse 911 via the Sheriff Department website (www.slosheriff.org/reverse_911.php), the Office of Emergency Services web site (<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Office-of-Emergency-Services/Services/Reverse-9-1-1.aspx>), and by contacting the Office of Emergency Services via telephone (805) 781-5011; a number that is also listed on the OES web site.

Finding 5: The Diablo Canyon early warning siren system is currently funded by PG&E and is now used solely for Diablo Canyon incidents. If the County plans to maintain this system, there could be a funding problem when Diablo Canyon closes.

The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System (EWS) sirens are available for use during any local emergency. The OES web site and public outreach materials clearly indicate that the EWS sirens may be used for any emergency that requires the public to take protective actions. The utilization of the Early Warning System sirens is integrated into each of the County's emergency response plans as an option to alert the public. OES agrees that if the County plans to keep and maintain the EWS sirens following the decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, there could be a funding issue related to ongoing maintenance.

Recommendation 5: The County should work with the cities in a concerted effort to educate the public on detailed and coordinated evacuation plans. Various ways to disseminate this information may include all types of county or city mail communications. Public Service Announcements, websites, and other forms of communication are also informative.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Office of Emergency Services currently works with all Operational Area (Op Area) partners in disseminating emergency planning and preparedness information regarding evacuation plans for nuclear power, dam/levee/flood inundation, and tsunami incidents. OES is currently taking steps to coordinate with Op Area fire agencies in identifying evacuation routes that may be available in the event of a wildland fire event; however, exact evacuation routes will be dependent on the type and location of each, specific fire event. The County Office of Emergency Services is building a website, due to launch in August 2019, focused solely on emergency preparedness, response and recovery for the public.

Recommendation 6: Plans should be implemented to incorporate the PG&E siren warning system to be used as an evacuation warning system for any and all emergencies where evacuation is warranted.

This recommendation has been implemented. Utilization of the San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System (EWS) sirens is incorporated into each of the County's emergency response plans where protective actions may be directed. This includes nuclear power, tsunami, dam and levee, hazardous material, and fire response plans. It is also included in the County's Alert and Notification System procedure which is referenced for any emergency the County may experience. The siren system has also been customized to include one-touch, easy activation for certain predefined geographical areas throughout the Operational Area; such as tsunami and dam inundation zones.

Recommendation 7: Cities should investigate installing additional warning systems where there are no existing sirens. A draft plan should be finalized by the end of fiscal year 2019-2020.

This recommendation has been implemented for 5 of the 7 cities within the County of San Luis Obispo. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) was required to install the EWS sirens as a condition of approval for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). The

system is owned by PG&E and is operated by the County of San Luis Obispo. Original placement of the sirens was dictated by the boundaries of the DCPD Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), which includes the cities of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Arroyo Grande. The cities of Atascadero and Paso Robles are not within the EPZ. A decision by the cities of Atascadero and Paso Robles would have to be made to purchase, install and maintain an EWS siren network for their respective jurisdictions.

As noted above, the following responses from the Sheriff-Coroner have already been forwarded to the Presiding Judge but are included here for informational purposes.

Responses from Sheriff-Coroner:

Finding 4: The reverse 911 system is under-utilized by county residents. Registering for this system can be accomplished via the county Office of Emergency Services (OES) or Sheriff's department websites. There is no telephone number available to accomplish this registration. Public Service Announcements alone are not reaching enough people.

The respondent agrees that the Reverse 911 system is under-utilized by County residents. In addition, all registration is completed by residents online and there is no telephone number to accomplish registration. Despite efforts with public service messaging and community meetings, Reverse 911 is underutilized. The department will investigate adding a telephone number, in order to aid citizens that maybe unable to complete online computer registration.

Recommendation 8: The Sheriff's Office should provide Reverse 911 registration information to county and city agencies for dissemination via bills or other routine mail communication. This information should include a procedure for registering by phone.

The respondent believes this recommendation requires further analysis to determine the cost of such recommendation. Any cost to mail such a notification is not budgeted in the current fiscal year and would require funding. The Sheriff's Office will examine the cost and feasibility of a mailer.

Recommended Responses from Board of Supervisors:

Finding 2: San Luis Obispo County has no weed abatement ordinance, which was also a finding in a report written by Cal Fire and presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in April of 2017. We were unable to find any response to this report by the BOS.

The Board adopts the response of County Fire.

Finding 3: Information about evacuation plans is not readily available to the general public. This could present confusion and difficulty for residents, many of whom have limited evacuation routes.

The Board adopts the response of the Office of Emergency Services.

Finding 4: The reverse 911 system is under-utilized by county residents. Registering for this system can be accomplished via the county Office of Emergency Services (OES) or Sheriff's department websites. There is no telephone number available to accomplish this registration. Public Service Announcements alone are not reaching enough people.

The Board adopts the responses of the Office of Emergency Services and the Sheriff-Coroner.

Finding 5: The Diablo Canyon early warning siren system is currently funded by PG&E and is now used solely for Diablo Canyon incidents. If the County plans to maintain this system, there could be a funding problem when Diablo Canyon closes.

The Board adopts the response of the Office of Emergency Services.

Recommendation 1: A study should be done to determine the adequacy of state regulations throughout county jurisdictions and determine ways to properly supplement them. This should be accomplished by the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

This recommendation will not be implemented. A statewide study to determine the scope, efficacy and impact of state regulations on local jurisdictions would be helpful to determine whether local regulations could augment unmet fire safety needs, if any.

Recommendation 2: As recommended in the previously cited 2017 Cal Fire report, the BOS should implement a county-wide weed abatement ordinance, which should also include agricultural properties. This should be accomplished by the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

This recommendation requires further analysis. On March 26, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 3386 amending Title 16 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, Fire Protection, to provide for the abatement of fire hazardous weeds and rubbish in County Service Area No. 10 - Cayucos. A County-wide ordinance has been considered and is being studied further.

Recommendation 3: The County should develop a weed abatement ordinance that is consistent with the cities' regulations.

This recommendation requires further analysis. On March 26, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 3386 amending Title 16 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, Fire Protection, to provide for the abatement of fire hazardous weeds and rubbish in County Service Area No. 10 - Cayucos. A County-wide ordinance has been considered and is being studied further.

Recommendation 4: The County and all city fire jurisdictions should offer a chipping program similar to Atascadero. Funds may be available through the Fire Safe Program. A plan for this should be accomplished by the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The Board adopts the response of County Fire.

Recommendation 5: The County should work with the cities in a concerted effort to educate the public on detailed and coordinated evacuation plans. Various ways to disseminate this information may include all types of county or city mail communications. Public Service Announcements, websites, and other forms of communication are also informative.

The Board adopts the response of the Office of Emergency Services.

Recommendation 6: Plans should be implemented to incorporate the PG&E siren warning system to be used as an evacuation warning system for any and all emergencies where evacuation is warranted.

The Board adopts the response of the Office of Emergency Services.

Recommendation 7: Cities should investigate installing additional warning systems where there are no existing sirens. A draft plan should be finalized by the end of fiscal year 2019-2020.

The Board adopts the response of the Office of Emergency Services.

Recommendation 8: The Sheriff's Office should provide Reverse 911 registration information to county and city agencies for dissemination via bills or other routine mail communication. This information should include a procedure for registering by phone.

The Board adopts the response of the Sheriff-Coroner.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Fire, the Office of Emergency Services, the Sheriff and the County Administrative Office drafted the recommended responses to the Grand Jury report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Costs for preparing this response are included in current department budgets.

RESULTS

This response will meet the legal requirements and time frames for responding to a Grand Jury report with findings and recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 2018-19 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management – Cities do it – Why not the County?"
- 2 County Fire's response
- 3 The Office of Emergency Services' response
- 4 Sheriff-Coroner's response



Scott M. Jalbert, Unit Chief

TO: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Scott Jalbert, Fire Chief 

DATE: June 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Department Response to the 2019 Grand Jury report on the Fire Risk Management

On May 30, 2019, County Fire received a report from the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury assessing our county risk management for fires within the County.

The Grand Jury requires the Fire Chief to respond to Finding 2 and Recommendations 4. Below you will find my required responses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 2: San Luis Obispo County has no weed abatement ordinance, which was also a finding in a report written by Cal Fire and presented to the Board of Supervisors (BoS) in April of 2017. We were unable to find any response to this report by the BoS.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with this finding. The County does not have a weed abatement ordinance outside of County Service Area No. 10 – Cayucos and PRC§4291.

Recommendation 4: The County and all city fire jurisdictions should offer a chipping program similar to Atascadero. Funds may be available through the Fire Safe Program. A plan for this should be accomplished by the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. Further analysis will need to be conducted due to the vast area covered by County Fire. The costs of such a program, availability of staff to conduct the work, and the need to purchase and maintain several chippers and vehicles all must be evaluated along with a funding source(s). The analysis will be completed by November 30, 2019.



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Wade Horton, County Administrator

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Joe Guzzardi, Emergency Services Manager, Office of Emergency Services

DATE: June 13, 2019

SUBJECT: Department Response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report "Fire Risk Management: Cities do it – Why Not the County?"

On May 28, 2019 the Office of Emergency Services received a report from the 2018-2019 County Grand Jury addressing Fire Risk Management in San Luis Obispo County.

The Grand Jury requires the Office of Emergency Services to respond to Findings F3, F4, and F5; and Recommendations R5, R6, and R7.

The following are the required responses.

FINDINGS

Finding 3: Information about evacuation plans is not readily available to the general public. This could present confusion and difficulty for residents, many of whom have limited evacuation routes.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) agrees there is always room to improve public outreach, however, the County web site currently includes evacuation information and suggested evacuation routes for nuclear power, dam, and tsunami incidents (<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/>). Evacuation information for other incidents, such as wildfire, is dependent on factors such as location of the incident, direction of movement, road and weather conditions. Factors related to wildfires do not always allow for specific, pre-determined routes to be identified.

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Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The Office of Emergency Services agrees that the Reverse 911 system could be utilized more fully if more residents were registered. Landline telephone numbers are automatically registered within the system, however, cell phone as well as VoIP phone users must “Opt-In” to the system by registering their information with the County. Citizens can register with Reverse 911 via the Sheriff Department website (www.slosheriff.org/reverse_911.php), the Office of Emergency Services web site (<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Office-of-Emergency-Services/Services/Reverse-9-1-1.aspx>), and by contacting the Office of Emergency Services via telephone (805) 781-5011; a number that is also listed on the OES web site.

Finding 5: The Diablo Canyon early warning siren system is currently funded by PG&E and is now used solely for Diablo Canyon incidents. If the County plans to maintain this system, there could be a funding problem when Diablo Canyon closes.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System (EWS) sirens are available for use during any local emergency. The OES web site and public outreach materials clearly indicate that the EWS sirens may be used for any emergency that requires the public to take protective actions. The utilization of the Early Warning System sirens is integrated into each of the County’s emergency response plans as an option to alert the public. OES agrees that if the County plans to keep and maintain the EWS sirens following the decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, there could be a funding issue related to ongoing maintenance.

Recommendation 5: The County should work with the cities in a concerted effort to educate the public on detailed and coordinated evacuation plans. Various ways to disseminate this information may include all types of county or city mail communications. Public Service Announcements, websites, and other forms of communication are also informative.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The Office of Emergency Services currently works with all Operational Area (Op Area) partners in disseminating emergency planning and preparedness information regarding evacuation plans for nuclear power, dam/levee/flood inundation, and tsunami incidents. OES is currently taking steps to coordinate with Op Area fire agencies in identifying evacuation routes that may be available in the event of a wildland fire event; however, exact evacuation routes will be dependent on the type and location of each, specific fire event. The County Office of Emergency Services is building a website, due to launch in August 2019, focused solely on emergency preparedness, response and recovery for the public.

Recommendation 6: Plans should be implemented to incorporate the PG&E siren warning system to be used as an evacuation warning system for any and all emergencies where evacuation is warranted.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Utilization of the San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System (EWS) sirens is incorporated into each of the County's emergency response plans where protective actions may be directed. This includes nuclear power, tsunami, dam and levee, hazardous material, and fire response plans. It is also included in the County's Alert and Notification System procedure which is referenced for any emergency the County may experience. The siren system has also been customized to include one-touch, easy activation for certain predefined geographical areas throughout the Operational Area; such as tsunami and dam inundation zones.

Recommendation 7: Cities should investigate installing additional warning systems where there are no existing sirens. A draft plan should be finalized by the end of fiscal year 2019-2020.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented for 5 of the 7 cities within the County of San Luis Obispo. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) was required to install the EWS sirens as a condition of approval for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). The system is owned by PG&E and is operated by the County of San Luis Obispo. Original placement of the sirens was dictated by the boundaries of the DCPP Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), which includes the cities of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Arroyo Grande. The cities of Atascadero and Paso Robles are not within the EPZ. A decision by the cities of Atascadero and Paso Robles would have to be made to purchase, install and maintain an EWS siren network for their respective jurisdictions.



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Ian Parkinson *Sheriff-Coroner*

May 31, 2019

The Honorable Judge Ginger Garrett
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Grand Jury 2019 Report – Fire Risk Management

Dear Judge Garrett:

I have reviewed the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report regarding Fire Risk Management. My response to their findings and recommendations are attached.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Parkinson".

Ian S. Parkinson
Sheriff-Coroner

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: "Fire Risk Management: Cities Do it – Why Not the County?"

Report Date: May 30, 2019

Response by: Ian Parkinson **Title:** Sheriff-Coroner

FINDINGS

1. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F4
2. I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implementation actions.)
2. Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
3. Recommendations numbered R8 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe 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 timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury report.)
4. Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6-03-2019

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 1

Grand Jury Response to Fire Risk Management in San Luis Obispo County

Finding F4- Agree

"The reverse 911 system is under-utilized by county residents. Registering for this system can be accomplished via the county Office of Emergency Services (OES) or Sheriff's department websites. There is no telephone number available to accomplish this registration. Public Service Announcements alone are not reaching enough people."

The respondent agrees that the Reverse 911 system is under-utilized by County residents. In addition, all registration is completed by residents online and there is no telephone number to accomplish registration. Despite efforts with public service messaging and community meetings, Reverse 911 is underutilized. The department will investigate adding a telephone number, in order to aid citizens that may be unable to complete online computer registration.

Recommendation R8- The recommendation requires further analysis.

"The Sheriff's Office should provide Reverse 911 registration information to county and city agencies for dissemination via bills or other routine mail communication. This information should include a procedure for registering by phone."

The respondent believes this recommendation requires further analysis to determine the cost of such recommendation. Any cost to mail such a notification is not budgeted in the current fiscal year and would require funding. The Sheriff's Office will examine the cost and feasibility of a mailer.