



Office of the City Manager

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SAN LUIS OBISPO
SUPERIOR COURT

SEP 23 2019

BY _____
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September 19, 2019

Presiding Judge Ginger Garrett
Superior Court of California
1035 Palm Street Room 355
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Received & reviewed by
A.J.E. 9/23/19

Re: Grand Jury Report entitled "Fire Risk Management: Cities Do It – Why Not the County?"

Dear Judge Garrett:

This letter constitutes the response of the City of San Luis Obispo to the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury report titled "Fire Risk Management: Cities Do It – Why Not the County" (hereinafter the "Report"). This response is submitted in compliance with Penal Code 933.05. A copy of this response is concurrently being transmitted to the Grand Jury.

The Report sets forth five findings and eight recommendations. The City of San Luis Obispo has been required to respond to Recommendations 4 and 7.

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 will be further investigated as an option to community fuel reduction projects as part of the recently completed San Luis Obispo City Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP addresses fuel reduction as part of Strategic Policy FL1.4 Identify private/public partnerships for fuel reduction projects, and FL12.3 Create and maintain defensible space for critical infrastructure. Fuel reduction projects to create defensible space may incorporate the use of chipping as part of the removal technique.

The City of Atascadero program provides residents in the Intermix area curbside chipping of hazard fuels cut and removed by the homeowner. The City of San Luis Obispo is an Interface community with limited opportunities for a similar program as most fuels are landscape material that is best discarded through the green-waste system.

The City Fuels Committee made up of the Fire Marshal, Public Works, City Rangers, Natural Resource Manager, City Biologist, is collaboratively working to address vegetative management of hazard fuels throughout the community. This committee will discuss and investigate the option of a grant funded curbside chipping program to address specific high hazard areas that may benefit from the program.

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: The recommendation will not be considered for the City of San Luis Obispo. The City has clear policy and a variety of mechanisms to communicate emergency information to the public which include:

1. Early Warning System (EWS) Route Alerting Area Sirens for Protection Action Zone (PAZ) 8 (SLO City)
 - a. The San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System (EWS) sirens are located throughout the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). Although the siren system was installed as one of the requirements related to the operation of Diablo Canyon Power Plant, the sirens can be used for any local emergency where there is a need for the public to act. When activated, the sirens will sound for three minutes. The sirens are an indication that the Emergency Alert System (EAS) has been activated, and emergency information will be provided on local radio and television stations.
2. Early Warning System (EWS) Route Alerting Kit for Protection Action Zone PAZ 8 (SLO City) EWS Failure
 - a. In the event the San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System (EWS) sirens fail individually or altogether, a back-up system which includes PAZ zone maps and handheld megaphones can be used to alert the affected public areas. Staff has received training on activation procedures, equipment and actions to be taken.
3. Sheriff Reverse 911
 - a. Reverse 911 through the San Luis Obispo Sheriff Office is an opt-in system. Recent updates have improved the system; phone calls will be made much quicker now. It has 30,000 lines so the calls can be placed within minutes instead of hours.
4. SLO County Office of Emergency Services (OES) – Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)
 - a. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are used to send concise, text-like messages to WEA-capable mobile devices during emergency situations. WEAs are sent by your state and local public safety officials, the National Weather Service, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the President of the United States.
 - b. This means SLO County OES can send Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to cell phones including cell phones that come into our specified area when our alert is

active and Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages to radio stations and television stations are sent out.

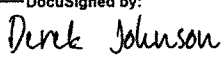
5. City of San Luis Obispo Social Media – Instagram, Twitter and Facebook

- a. City Fire Department Public Information Officer and Chief Officers may use “Twitter Alerts” function to deliver up to date, vetted and credible information to the public through push notification. This medium allows for urgent safety alerts to be shared and reduces misinformation.
- b. City Instagram account may be used to deliver up to date, vetted and credible information to the public through push notification. This medium allows for urgent safety alerts to be shared and reduces misinformation.
- c. City Facebook account may be used to deliver up to date, vetted and credible information to the public through posting. This medium allows for urgent safety alerts to be shared and reduces misinformation.

6. News Media (TV & Radio)

- a. The City and Fire Department have access to the three primary news sources in SLO County, KSBY, KCOY and KEYT televisions stations. During an emergency, information can be released through the City or FD Public Information Officer to these outlets including radio stations. All news outlets have online/apps with push notification.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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Derek Johnson
City Manager

Cc: San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93403