

May 29, 2001

Honorable Rodney S. Melville  
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara Superior Court  
312-C East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Grand Jury Foreperson  
1100 Anacapa St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Judge Melville, Grand Jury Foreperson:

The City of Solvang City Council has reviewed the Grand Jury report entitled "Emergency Power", specifically the comments relative to the Solvang City Hall, Fire Station and Communications Center (1644 Oak Street). The City offers the following response to Finding 27: The emergency generator is on a manual transfer switch operation, and Recommendation 27: The system should have an automatic transfer switch installed to eliminate lost time and other problems during power outages:

First - The City concurs with Finding 27 that the current system is now on a manual transfer switch operation.

Second - City staff will include in the FY 2001-2002 budget approximately \$18,000 to install an automatic transfer switch. However, the determination on whether or not to install the system will be reviewed by the Council before implementation. While the reasons for installing the system may be sound in some respects, the Grand Jury did not note that the generator is located in a residential area and that often times power outages occur late at night during non-emergency events. While the Council respects the fact that during an emergency situation, having power available immediately may be overriding. We also have a duty to our community not to treat our relationship with our neighbors lightly.

We thank the Grand Jury for its time and concern in making the recommendations noted. The City Council will continue to review our ability to provide emergency power to all critical City facilities.

Sincerely,

Solvang City Council  
Jim Groessler, Mayor