

- I. 2000-2001 Grand Jury report on REGIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- II. Published May 14, 2001
- III. The 2000-2001 Grand Jury conducted an investigation into whether existing fire protection and emergency medical services could be improved and if so, how. This investigation and report concentrated on various forms of consolidation of services.
- IV. Key Grand Jury Recommendations where there is disagreement or need for follow up:

**Recommendation 1: That the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), pursuant to Government Code Sections 56001 and 56301, review this report and findings in order to make recommendations on consolidation or reorganization of specific County services, including fire prevention and suppression services, evaluate the possibility of contracting with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) for all or part of these services, and centralized dispatch for fire and emergency medical response services in Santa Barbara County.**

**Recommendation 2: That LAFCO consider conducting its study into this matter utilizing a reorganization committee with participants from the affected parties and public agencies pursuant to Government Code Section 56833.**

LAFCO Response: The recommendations will not be implemented and the Commission does not intend to implement these recommendations at this time because they are unreasonable for the following reasons:

- While it appears that creating a centralized fire and emergency services dispatch system holds the greatest immediate interest for emergency response agencies, this activity does not involve the Commission. This is not change of organization as the term is defined in LAFCO'S enabling statute, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act (Government Code Section 56000 et seq.)

The Commission is unable to implement this recommendation. Functional consolidations can be achieved through the cooperative efforts of the affected agencies, including the County, without exercise of the Commission's regulatory authority.

V. Synopsis:

Number of responses to recommendations required – 2

Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent agreed with or implemented the recommendation – 0

Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent disagreed with the recommendation – 2