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June 7, 2011

Honorable Arthur A. Garcia
Assistant Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312 East Cook Street
P.O. Box 5369
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Dear Honorable Judge Garcia and Members of the 2010-2011 Civil Grand Jury,

The City of Lompoc has received the report of the 2010-2011 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury. It is evident that the Civil Grand Jury has the best interest of Santa Barbara County residents at heart by the choice to address public education and notification pertaining to emergency situations and localized natural disaster.

All the men and women who represent the local governmental organization of the City of Lompoc are proud to serve our community and hold sacred the public trust that has been bestowed upon each member. Our staff dedicates themselves to providing services at the highest level possible within the means of our existing resources. As you will find in this response, the City of Lompoc has taken steps to provide emergency notification to its residents and is always open to new methods for improving existing systems for the dissemination of information to the public.

IMPROVING OUR EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

On behalf of the City of Lompoc, we are pleased to respond to the findings and recommendations pertaining to our City issued under the "Improving Our Emergency Alert System in the 21st Century" heading of the 2010-2011 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police and Fire Chiefs' Response to Finding 2

"During past crises, emergency agencies have not always communicated with each other which may have slowed information being passed to affected residents."

We disagree with the finding as it pertains to the City of Lompoc and the Lompoc Valley.

The Lompoc Police and Fire Department remain in a constant state of readiness and are in regular communication with local allied agencies serving the Lompoc Valley (Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Probation Department, Vandenberg Air Force Base Security Forces Squadron, Vandenberg Air

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Force Base Fire Department, and Lompoc Federal Correctional Complex). Additionally, the Lompoc Police and Fire Departments maintain communication with emergency service agencies outside of the Lompoc Valley, particularly the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services. The methods of communication between these agencies are two fold.

Dispatch Center

The City of Lompoc maintains a 24-hour Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) or dispatch center for all emergencies. The dispatch center is in regular direct communication with allied agencies on an hourly basis through routine transactions between City, County and Federal Agencies. The Lompoc PSAP has the capability to communicate with other dispatch communications centers by way of computer transmissions, land line telephones, cellular telephone, satellite phones, or direct radio contact. The dispatch center is connected to a large capacity automatic generator to support these methods of transmission should electrical power to the build be interrupted.

Field Units

Field units of the Lompoc Police Department and Lompoc Fire Department have direct radio communication capability with any other allied agency field unit or their dispatch centers. The City has even gone so far as to provide radios to allied agencies to insure that direct communication is maintained. Field units also have cellular telephone capability in each unit. Additionally, the Lompoc Police Department can communicate via computers installed in field units. The Lompoc Fire Department is in the process of installing that technology in their field units.

The interagency coordination and cooperation between emergency service providers within the Lompoc Valley is excellent. In recent history, no delays in the dissemination of information have been experienced because of a lack of communication between agencies. The Grand Jury report references the Tea and Jesusita Fires that took place in the South County. In both of those instances, Lompoc Police Department and Lompoc Fire Department assumed coverage of the outlying areas of the Lompoc Valley within five minutes after notification, enabling County emergency responders to travel out of the Lompoc Valley to assist.

With regard to public notification capabilities, the Lompoc Police Department and Lompoc Fire Department have an agreement with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department to provide emergency notification of residents via the "Reverse 911" system. The Lompoc Police Department had its own "Reverse 911" system in place, but found that the capabilities of that system were so limited it was more expedient to rely upon the much larger system maintained by the County to notify the residents of the Lompoc Valley.

The Lompoc Police Department has recently made a request to add "Nixle" to its community notification capabilities. That web-based system allows the dispatch center or command officer to initiate an emergency text to all residents who subscribe to the system. Because much of the public is connect via cell phone and web-based devices, residents can opt to receive emergency notifications through "Nixle."

The Lompoc Police Department also participates in an annual emergency preparedness drill with member of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) Ham radio operators of the Lompoc Valley. Designated emergency communication sites have been identified with this organization. The Lompoc Police Department has recently considered other web-based public notification systems such as "Code-red" and "City Watch," but, as of this writing, do not have the resources to contract with those companies.

If a large scale emergency arises in the City of Lompoc or the Lompoc Valley, then emergency notifications would be performed using any and/or all of the above mentioned media, as well as immediate notification to the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services and local television and radio stations.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police and Fire Chiefs' Response to Recommendation 2

"The Board of Supervisors and appropriate city jurisdictions require their respective emergency agencies to pass emergency information to adjacent jurisdictions and the Office of Emergency Services without delay."

This recommendation, expectation and requirement is already being carried out in the City of Lompoc and has been long before the City's receipt of the subject Grand Jury report. The City of Lompoc Police and Fire Departments have a duty and obligation to the residents of the community to work cooperatively with emergency service providers from allied agencies and are committed to doing so.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police and Fire Chiefs' Response to Finding 3

"No single public emergency services agency has accepted the responsibility for educating the public about the actions the public must take to access emergency service communications or what information the public can expect from various emergency service alert/information systems."

We agree in part with this finding.

Although the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services is designated as the primary coordinating body for emergencies impacting the residents of the City/County, the effort to educate the public regarding emergency service communications or alerts systems could be improved. The City of Lompoc relies upon the County Office of Emergency Services to take the lead on County-wide basis and would gladly participate in the dissemination of emergency service information locally.

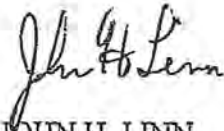
The Lompoc Police Department and the Lompoc Fire Department seek to educate and raise awareness in the City of Lompoc and the Lompoc Valley through weekly public information television programs (*Lompoc Police Beat* and *Lompoc Fire Responding*) as well as through our web sites and local news media.

The Lompoc Fire Department prepares residents through the C.E.R.T. (Citizen Emergency Response Team) program, and the Lompoc Police Department utilizes the Lompoc Citizens' Police Academy to educate residents on a more detailed basis on how to respond to alerts and how to assist their neighbors. There are over 500 residents in the Lompoc Valley who have completed one of those programs.

CONCLUSION

The City of Lompoc exists to serve its citizens. We continually strive to provide the highest level of services possible given our existing resources. Every community wrestles with tightening budgets and social issues. All the officials, officers, staff and representatives of the City of Lompoc, including the Lompoc Police and Fire Department personnel, are committed to excellence and innovation. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations of the 2010-2011 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury, and look forward to future improvements, enhanced coordination and communication in 2011-2012.

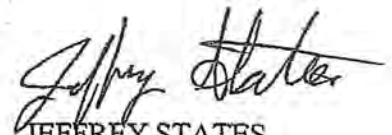
Sincerely,



JOHN H. LINN
Mayor
City of Lompoc



TIMOTHY L. DABNEY
Chief of Police
City of Lompoc



JEFFREY STATES
Fire Chief
City of Lompoc

Attachment: Computer disc containing electronic version of this response.