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BY: \_\_\_\_\_

May 9, 2011

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

Hon. Joni Gray, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Bd. of Supervisors  
County Administration Building  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report "Improving Our Emergency Alert System in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

This letter shall serve as the response to the Civil Grand inquiry dated March 10, 2011.

**Finding 2**

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

**Response to Finding 2: The City of Solvang partially agrees with this finding.**

The City of Solvang is member of the Santa Barbara Operational Area Emergency Services Organization. Part of the purpose of this Joint Powers Agreement is the planning and execution of mutual emergency plans. As such the City of Solvang keeps contact with the County's Office of Emergency Services during emergencies.

The City contracts with the County for law enforcement services. Because of this staff from the Sheriff's office is included in our Emergency Operations Center, resulting in an ongoing communication with the Sheriff's office.

**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 after it has been verified.*

**Response to Recommendation 2: The City of Solvang agrees with this finding.**

The City of Solvang does and will continue to pass on information to other emergency agencies and jurisdictions on a regular basis.

**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 alert/information systems.*

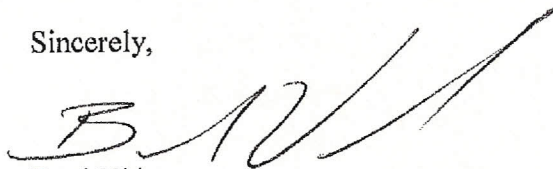
**Response to Finding 3: The City of Solvang partially agrees with this finding.**

The City of Solvang in combination with the City of Buellton developed and have been implementing for the last year a Community Emergency Response Preparedness Program which includes Community Emergency Response Team training to educate the Santa Ynez Valley residents about emergency preparedness. The finding implies that a single public agency should accept responsibility for education. In the Santa Ynez valley it is being done on a community-wide basis with multiple agencies participating and not singularly to each jurisdictional boundary.

Additionally, the City of Solvang partners with Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Services which provides its residents with access to the County's programs relative to emergency preparation, like the registration of cell phones to the Reverse 911® notification system. The Sheriff's Office regularly participates in educational forums in cooperation with other public safety agencies, citizens groups and governmental entities to educate the public about the Reverse 911® system and emergency preparedness in general.

If you would like to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at 688-5575.

Sincerely,



Brad Vidro  
City Manager

cc: Solvang City Council