

MAILING ADDRESS:
GRAND JURY ROOM
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SANTA BARBARA, CA
93101



TEL: (805) 568-2291
FAX: (805) 568-3301
email: sbcgj@sbcgj.org
[http:// www.sbcgj.org](http://www.sbcgj.org)

GRAND JURY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

August 29, 2008

Mike F. Brown
County Executive Office
105 East Anapamu Street
Room 406
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear Mr. Brown:

The 2008-2009 Civil Grand Jury is reviewing a response given by you or your department to a report entitled "Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Center: Up and ready or down and out?" Recommendation # 2, written by the 2005-2006 Grand Jury.

This recommendation reads: "Install a dedicated electrical hook-up between the EOC and the emergency generator whereby the generator will automatically start and provide power to the EOC in the event of a local power failure."

Your department's response was: "This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented within 6 months. The County has secured homeland security grant funding to install an automated switch for the emergency generator."

Please forward written or photographic documentation confirming your above noted response to the Grand Jury at the above address at your earliest convenience but in any case, no later than 30 days.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Ted Sten
Foreman
2008-2009 Santa Barbara County
Civil Grand Jury

cc: John Scherrei, Santa Barbara County Fire Chief
Michael Harris, Office of Emergency Services

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Rec'd - 9/30/08
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105 East Anapamu Street, Suite 406
Santa Barbara, California 93101
805/568-3400 • Fax 805/568-3414
www.co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Ted Sten, Foreman
Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Grand Jury Room
County Courthouse
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Reference: Generator Capabilities for EOC
(Grand Jury Request of September 11, 2008)

Dear Mr. Sten and Members of the Grand Jury,

Attached is photographic documentation, as requested, regarding the emergency operations center (EOC) generator. Photograph number one shows the automatic switching for the generator installed in the electrical building next to the generator. Photograph number two then shows the electrical housing installed on the side of the interim EOC to accommodate the automatic switching; previous trench work is visible where power cables were installed as part of the process. The EOC generator was upgraded to an automated switch in 2006. During the recent Gap Fire the generator automatically activated when power outages occurred. While the generator remains inside a building, it is designed to be mobile thus allowing it to be used elsewhere with a back-up emergency EOC should the current facility become inoperable (see further explanation below). In addition to the upgraded switching for the generator, other improvements within the EOC have occurred since the Office of Emergency Services was reorganized to report directly to the CEO (who serves as the Emergency Services Director for the Operational Area).

In early 2008 the EOC's telephone system was upgraded to improve functionality. The telephone issue was identified as a result of drills earlier conducted. This upgraded telephone system is backed-up by multiple satellite telephone systems and a ham radio network.

The County Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget includes funding for continued improvements to the EOC and the budget includes additional funding for emergency tenting. Because the current interim EOC is composed of modular buildings, professional staff regards the current interim EOC as a "high risk building" and requested the emergency tenting.

Despite these efforts, the greatest threat to maintaining operational readiness is the failure to have a permanent EOC that can adequately serve the Operational Area (the entire county, including the cities and other special districts). Because the proposed EOC site is at the Cathedral Oaks campus, the County has reached-out to the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta in

John Baker
Assistant County Executive Officer
jbaker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Terri-Maus-Nisich
Assistant County Executive Officer
tmaus@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Susan Paul
Assistant County Executive Officer
spaul@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Jason Stilwell
Assistant County Executive Officer
jstil@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Letter to T. Sten re: Generator Capabilities for EOC
September 29, 2008

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planning and construction of an EOC. The City of Santa Barbara has informed the Emergency Operations Chief, Michael Harris that they will not be able to participate in the development and construction of a multi-jurisdictional EOC. The City of Goleta and Mr. Harris remain in discussions over a combined facility.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Harris or me.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

cc: Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief

Attachments: Photographic Documentation of Automatic Generator Switch-(2 photographs)

