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SEP 28 2017

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By: JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

August 15, 2017

Honorable Brian R. Aronson  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California  
County of Sutter  
1175 Civic Center Blvd  
Yuba City CA 95993

**Re: 2016-2017 Sutter County Grand Jury Report – Emergency Evacuation Report**

Dear Judge Aronson:

This letter is the official consolidated response of the City of Yuba City regarding the Grand Jury Report on the Emergency Evacuation of February 12, 2017.

### General Comments

*The Yuba City City Council adopted the Yuba City Post Incident Action Summary Report, jointly prepared by City Administration and our Police and Fire Department, on May 11, 2017. It appears the Grand Jury did not have the opportunity to review the Report or meet with or interview anyone from the City of Yuba City regarding the February 12<sup>th</sup> Emergency.*

*The Report is attached for your review. Staff is willing to meet with the Grand Jury and discuss its contents.*

### Grand Jury Findings

**F1.** Sutter County has the final say in the event of an evacuation call.

**Response:** *The Sutter County Sheriff and/or the Public Health official have the legal authority to call for a county wide evacuation. Neither the Sheriff nor the Public Health Official provided the City with a mandatory evacuation order on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

*The City of Yuba City also has the legal authority to call for a voluntary or mandatory evacuation order of its residents.*

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**F2.** Sutter County does have a slow rise, levee failure scenario evacuation plan, but is inadequate for rapidly evolving events.

Response: *This finding is directed to the County and not the City.*

**F3.** Opening up a second lane to traffic on Highway 20 or 99 is seen as unrealistic due to the amount of officers needed to accomplish the task.

Response: *The City agrees with the finding in a no-notice evacuation order. In 1997, the City in conjunction with Marysville and Yuba and Sutter Counties, was able to appropriately plan for opening up an additional lane to traffic.*

**F4.** Not everyone in Yuba City received a phone call telling them of the evacuation order.

Response: *The City of Yuba City used its emergency notification (Rapid Notify) phone system to call all landlines (both residential and commercial). That being said, many residents have abandoned telephone landlines in favor of cell phones.*

*We continue to actively encourage residents to sign up for the City's Rapid Notify emergency notification system, which will provide us with the capability to contact residents' and business owner's telephone landlines, cell phone, texts and emails to use in case of a future emergency.*

## **Recommendations**

**R1.** Sutter County and Yuba City should be in agreement when considering an evacuation order to avoid public confusion.

Response: *The City and County will continue to work closely in regards to all evacuation orders. That being said, the County and City are two distinct governmental agencies with different responsibilities. The City's boundaries cover approximately a 15 square mile area that is densely populated (the Yuba City Police Department operates within the City's boundaries, while the Yuba City Fire Department protects an expanded area of approximately 30 square miles of the Yuba City Urban Area, through an agreement with the County of Sutter). The County, on the other hand, covers a 600+ square mile area that is mostly rural in nature, so evacuation needs may vary.*

**R2.** Create evacuation routes based on resident address and projected population growth to expedite the process.

Response: *This recommendation was implemented on April 21, 2017. The City released evacuation maps on April 21, 2017 and they can be found at [www.yubacity.net/flood](http://www.yubacity.net/flood) . We will continue to update and improve these maps as we receive comments, questions and feedback.*

**R3.** Plans should be in place to accommodate handicapped individuals and those in need.

Response: *The Yuba City Fire Department has been and will continue to work with Sutter County's Public Health Department's Access and Functional Needs efforts to plan for the alert notification, evacuation and emergency sheltering of those with special needs or functional disabilities. There are numerous service providers participating in this effort who represent the needs and privacy of their clientele and this effort will assure that care facilities and service providers are connected to the planning process for notification and evacuation needs.*

**R4.** Develop an accurate model or timeframe for communities to use to understand how much time they have, based on where they live, before they are in danger of flooding due to:

- ▶ Complete dam failure
- ▶ Partial dam failure (i.e. emergency spillway failure)

Response: *The City has requested the Department of Water Resources provide us with this information.*

**R5.** Create a plan to deal with animals (livestock).

Response: *The City does not allow livestock within the City limits but will work with the Sutter Animal Services Authority to provide residents with helpful tips for evacuating pets during times of emergencies.*

**R6.** Develop a plan for the orderly evacuation of all schools in the area.

**Response:** *In our existing evacuation plan, the City has policies and procedures developed years ago in conjunction with the Yuba City Unified School District, to ensure the orderly evacuation of all school sites when schools are in session. Additionally, in the weeks before the Oroville Dam auxiliary spillway emergency, City Police and Fire Departments worked with the new Twin Rivers Charter School, located on Live Oak Boulevard in Yuba City in creating procedures for emergency notification and evacuation plans. The City recently attended a meeting on this matter with all Superintendents from our local school districts, hosted by the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools.*

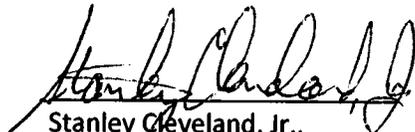
**R7.** Create a communication link to keep the communities up-to-date on any potential crisis.

**Response:** *This recommendation has been implemented. The City is actively marketing its Rapid Notify emergency notification system which provides a means for residents to sign up for emergency alerts. We are also working to ensure all communication and media tools, including but not limited to texts, email, cell phone, landline, Emergency Broadcast System and Social Media are used to disseminate up-to-date information related to future crises.*

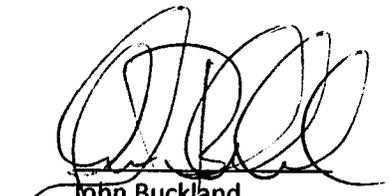
**R8.** The County should use a call list that informs the public in time of emergency.

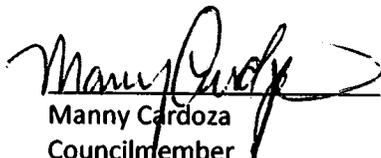
**Response:** *This finding is directed to the County and not the City.*

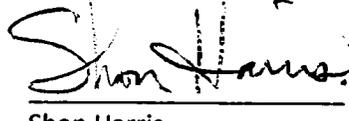
Respectfully submitted,

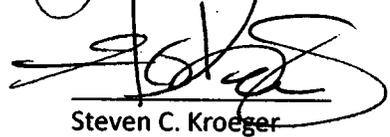
  
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