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September 13, 2022

Honorable Wendy Getty
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield CA 94533

REGARDING: County Board of Supervisors response to FY2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury Report, Solano County is Not Prepared for Future Emergencies

Dear Honorable Judge Getty,

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, is responding to the following findings and recommendations contained in the FY2021/22 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled: "Solano County is Not Prepared for Future Emergencies".

Civil Grand Jury Finding 1

Solano County needs a countywide approach to Emergency Management to coordinate emergency planning and response activities before, during, and after a major disaster or emergency incident.

Response to Finding 1:

Solano County Administrator: The County Administrator's Office agrees with this finding, while also noting various actions and investments toward combining the county-wide emergency response. The Office of Emergency Services (OES), located within the Office of the Sheriff, is the centralized office to provide emergency management services, including emergency planning and response. This office was enhanced by the addition of two new Emergency Services Coordinator positions, approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021, and June 23, 2022. In addition, as the Report indicates the County recently completed its first Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), which was led by the Office of Emergency Services, and comprises all incorporated cities within the county as well as the City of Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District and the Solano County Water Agency, through its Annex documents. This was approved by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation Office and FEMA, then by the Board of Supervisors on March 2022, and will guide formation and implementation of future policies related to emergency preparedness. The Solano County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) facilitates multi-jurisdictional and interagency coordination in emergency situations, particularly between local governments, and appropriate State and Federal agencies and entities. In the event of a regional emergency, the EOP would dictate the County serve as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), over activated city EOCs, acting as the central hub for emergency response coordination, including to several cities in the County. There are also ongoing efforts toward consolidated fire dispatch.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the County Administrator's response. In addition, the Board would note the County Office of Emergency Services (OES), which was established by ordinance of the Board of Supervisors dating back to 1971, is housed within the Office of the Sheriff and is managed jointly between the Sheriff's Office and the County Administrator's Office during an activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The OES serves as the lead agency in the coordination of planning and response activities before, during and after a major disaster or emergency incident declared by the County. The OES has led the County through several regional events, including earthquakes, fires such as the Atlas, Wragg, and LNU fires, floods and other Emergency response incidents.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 1

Consolidate all existing Solano County emergency management, planning, and prevention services into one Department of Emergency Management, providing an umbrella to coordinate existing county and city functions related to emergency and disaster events.

Response to Recommendation 1:

Solano County Administrator: This recommendation has been implemented. The County created the office of Emergency Services, housed within the Sheriff's department, rather than serving as a stand-alone Department. The office functions as the central umbrella for emergency management, countywide.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the County Administrator's response.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 2

There is a need for a coordinated city and countywide evacuation plan for Solano County.

Response to Finding 2

Solano County Administrator: The County Administrator's Office agrees with this finding. The Board of Supervisors received a CAL FIRE grant award in the fall of 2021 and received notice to proceed with grant operations in January of 2022. The County completed a sole source contract with Zonehaven, a regional leader in emergency evacuation planning. OES began work with the vendor in July, completing a subject matter expert exercise to determine ideal zones for evacuation purposes. This effort will continue through the summer into the fall and will result in an all-hazards countywide evacuation plan.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the County Administrator's response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 2a

Develop compatible evacuation zones and routes throughout the county.

Response to Recommendation 2a

Solano County Administrator: As noted in the response to Finding 2, as it pertains to the County, this recommendation is underway.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the County Administrator's response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 2b

Create public awareness of evacuation zones and routes.

Response to Recommendation 2b

Solano County Administrator: The County and the Solano Resource Conservation District partnered and sponsored a countywide kickoff for the newly establishing countywide Fire Safe Council, where information was provided to the public on the progress being made with regard to evacuation planning. As this effort continues, OES will continue to develop a public awareness campaign to ensure evacuation zones are known and utilized during future events.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the County Administrator's response.

On behalf of the County of Solano, I would like to express appreciation to the Solano County Civil Grand Jury for conducting a review of emergency preparedness in Solano County. Thank you for the opportunity to address your findings and recommendations on this issue and all the work the Grand Jury conducts for the benefit of residents in Solano County.

Sincerely,



John M. Vasquez
District 4 Supervisor and Chair of the Board

Cc: Board of Supervisors