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August 25, 2015

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Solano
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 95433

The Honorable Judge Nelson,

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report on June 24, 2015 – Fire Protection: Communication Consolidation

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Solano County Board of Supervisors responds to the following findings and recommendations contained in the 2014/2015 Grand Jury Report regarding Fire Protection: Communication Consolidation that pertain to matters under its control.

Finding 1

Studies done over the past thirty years have recommended consolidation of fire agency resources.

Response to Finding 1

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding that studies have recommended consolidating fire agency resources as a viable option. Fire communications studies in Solano County have come to the same conclusion consolidation is feasible from a technological perspective and recommended for operational efficiency.

Recommendation 1

Solano County Board of Supervisors takes the lead to create a formal leadership group to implement a plan to consolidate fire agency resources.

Response to Recommendation 1

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation will not be implemented at this time. A leadership group coordinated by LAFCo recently took the lead role in looking at this issue and concluded that since the majority of fire dispatch agency resources are currently managed by incorporated cities and three independent fire districts that consolidation isn't likely at this time. Solano County has been and will continue to be an active partner in the discussion to consolidate fire agency resources.

Finding 2

City Fire Departments and Independent Fire Departments in the County have begun to collaborate in acquiring equipment in compliance with Federal mandates.

Response to Finding 2

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding. Participating agencies are collaborating on equipment purchases to ensure communication capabilities and to comply with requirements for communication interoperability between agencies.

Recommendation 2

City Fire Departments and Independent Fire Districts implement a "shared consolidation" for the purpose of obtaining equipment, hardware and software.

Response to Recommendation 2

Board of Supervisors: This matter is not under the control of the Board of Supervisors. While current equipment purchases are in compliance with Federal mandates, older equipment that is still in use may not be compliant.

Finding 3

Fire communications consolidation will improve public safety.

Response to Finding 3

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding. Fire communication consolidation has been shown in other jurisdictions to reduce response times and if implemented throughout Solano County would simplify the current fire mutual callout process.

Recommendation 3

Implement fire communications consolidation to enhance public safety.

Response to Recommendation 3

Board of Supervisors: The recommendation has not been implemented, but may be in the future. A complete consolidation of fire communications in Solano County will take a commitment and effort on the part of all agencies with fire services. At this time, the independent fire protection districts of Suisun City, Cordelia, Vacaville and Montezuma and the two cities of Dixon and Rio Vista use Solano County dispatch with respect to fire communications. Transitioning the remaining fire agencies (municipalities) to the same consolidated system is feasible, but requires separate operational and independent agency commitments.

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erin Hannigan".

Erin Hannigan, Chairwoman

Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Clerk of the Board, Solano County Board of Supervisors
Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff, Solano County
Dennis Bunting, County Counsel, Solano County
Grand Jury Office