



Gary R. Stanton  
Sheriff/Coroner

June 18, 2008

Honorable Ramona Garrett  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Solano Superior Court  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Sheriff's Response to the 2007/2008 Solano County Grand Jury Report Dated June 12, 2008 Entitled: **Solano County Fire Protection Districts.**

**Finding #2:** Communication is often difficult because equipment and frequencies used by different fire fighting agencies are not compatible.

**Recommendation #2:** Fire Protection Districts, Cities and the County should standardize and consolidate communications as soon as possible.

**Response:** The Sheriff agrees with the finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury. The technology exists to standardize emergency radio communications. Unfortunately the cost of such a system could easily be in the tens of millions of dollars and exceeds the financial capabilities of local government.

**Finding #3:** Dispatching is challenging because dispatchers also serve law enforcement agencies.

**Recommendation #3:** The Fire Districts, Cities and County should explore options to develop a centralized Fire Dispatch.

**Response:** The Sheriff agrees with the finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury. The current model of public safety dispatching throughout Solano County is driven by cost, or more accurately, cost avoidance. The current model of utilizing multiple dispatch centers throughout the county, with each dispatch center providing communication services for both fire and law enforcement is not cost effective and does not provide optimum operational effectiveness. The proposed and often discussed model is a central dispatch center for both fire and law enforcement, potentially managed under a Joint Powers Agreement, providing a full array of dispatch services county wide. Under this model fire and law enforcement could be effectively and efficiently dispatched from a centralized location utilizing dedicated dispatchers for each function.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Stanton".

Gary R. Stanton  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Grand Jury  
CAO Analyst Kathy Gibson  
CAO Deputy Clerk P. Crittenden