

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

MICHAEL D. JOHNSON  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
COUNTY OF SOLANO



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SEP 29 2003  
SUPERIOR COURT, DEPT. 16  
SCOTT KAYS

September 29, 2003

Scott Kays, Presiding Judge  
Solano County Superior Courts  
Hall of Justice  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**East Vallejo Fire Protection District  
Response to the 2002/2003 Solano County Grand Jury Final Report**

**Public Safety Radio Interoperability (Page 44)**

**Finding #1:** The radio communication system presently used throughout Solano County prevents effective emergency communication between local emergency providers. (1,2,8)

**Recommendation #1A:** A coordinated radio communication system is implemented within Solano County to allow interoperability between public safety agencies.

**Recommendation #1B:** A permanent Joint Powers Authority be formed to oversee, coordinate and implement the emergency communications needs of Solano County. The Joint Powers Authority should consist of representatives from:

- Solano County
- Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative
- The cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo.
- All Fire Districts within Solano County
- Solano Community College Police Department
- Solano County Office of Emergency Services

**Finding #2:** Consolidation of dispatch centers would be more efficient and provide a significant overall cost savings. (9,10,11)

**Recommendation #2:** A plan be formulated to implement two regional dispatch services in Solano County. This would provide a back up in case one center becomes temporarily inoperable.

**Response:** The County Administrator's Office concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury. The County has been one of the major planners and architects of the proposed Communications Interoperability study that has evolved into the Solano Emergency Communications Activity (SECA) work group. The SECA mission is to improve public safety radio communication compatibility in Solano County, with a final goal to have a unified communications system that is compatible with, and serves the needs of, all local safety organizations, State CHP and OES and several federal agencies including Travis AFB and the FBI.

The East Vallejo Fire Protection District was established for the purpose of disbursing special assessment revenues collected within the District's jurisdiction for fire protection services to citizens in the District which is an unincorporated pocket surrounded by the City of Vallejo. This District does not directly hire any fire protection staff. The fire protection services are performed under a contract with the City of Vallejo Fire Department and they are active participants in the work group that is working to address the incompatibility of the various radio systems in the County.

Sincerely,

  
Michael D. Johnson  
County Administrator