



SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

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April 24, 2015

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Solano
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: Sheriff's Response to 2014-2015 Solano County Grand Jury Report – Solano County Office of Emergency Services

Judge Nelson:

Under Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, I am responding to the following findings and recommendations contained in the 2014-2015 Grand Jury Report that pertain to matters under my control as the Solano County Sheriff-Coroner:

Finding 1 – *Communication coverage is critical for rapid response and management of emergency services.*

Response to Finding 1 – I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) works closely with law and fire agencies in the county to ensure proper radio coverage in our area of responsibility. OES and the County Communications office maintain three interoperable radio channels capable of communicating with nearly all agencies simultaneously using pre-selected VHF, UHF and 800 MHz channels.

Recommendation 1 – *County work with the agencies affected by communication dead zones to create solutions and to secure adequate funding for repeater towers, frequencies and associated equipment as a high priority item.*

Response to Recommendation 1 – The recommendation has been implemented. OES is waiting for Federal approval for a new repeater station on an existing tower near the Putah Creek Diversion Dam. Once approved, this grant-funded project will bring access to two Sheriff's Office channels and two fire channels from Lake Solano to the Monticello Dam for the first time. The addition of a Department of Water Resources "Communications on Wheels" truck to Solano County's fleet has brought a much

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needed radio channel dead zone detection capability to our county. The Putah Creek project is a direct result of the new detection capability.

Finding 2 – *The Office of Emergency Services headquarters and the communication center are housed in a facility located in seismic and flood zones.*

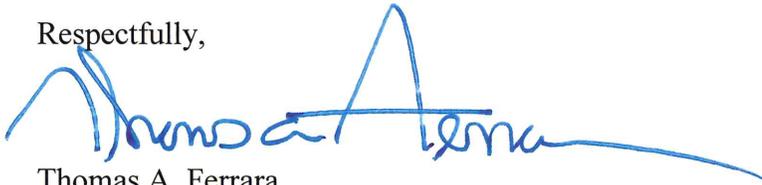
Response to Finding 2 – I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

Recommendation 2 – *Solano County Board of Supervisors approve and secure funding for the construction of a new facility to house the Office of Emergency Services and the Solano County communications center.*

Response to Recommendation 2 – This matter is not under my control. We stand ready to assist the County in relocating critical offices to a more suitable location.

I would like to thank the Solano County Grand Jury for their time invested in this matter and for their report of findings and recommendations. As always, the recommendations and comments of the Solano County Grand Jury are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Thomas A. Ferrara
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Solano County Grand Jury
County Administrator's Office