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July 22, 2008

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

Re: East Vallejo Fire Protection District Responses to FY2007/08 Solano County Grand Jury Report titled "Solano County Fire Protection Districts"

Issued June 12, 2008

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge Garrett:

Grand Jury Finding 1 – Funding for Fire Districts is limited. One of the most critical needs is for fire fighting vehicles.

East Vallejo Fire Protection District Response to Finding 1 – The East Vallejo Fire Protection District (EVFPD) agrees with this finding. There are seven Fire Districts in the unincorporated areas of the County. EVFPD is unique as it contracts with the City of Vallejo to provide fire protection services which includes staffing and equipment. Under the agreement, all dedicated property tax revenue generated is passed to the City of Vallejo less nominal administrative costs. The EVFPD's ability to pay for fire protection services is constrained by the property taxes collected to support the district.

Grand Jury Recommendation 1a – Fire Protection Districts and the Board of Supervisors should work together to identify funding sources for regular replacement of older vehicles. Provisions in the Government Code authorize additional funding sources.

EVFPD Response to Recommendation 1a – This recommendation has been implemented. The EVFPD's contract service provider, City of Vallejo, participates in regular Fire Chief meetings attended by the Office of Emergency Services and topics frequently include ways to explore opportunities to identify funding resources to address equipment and vehicle replacement needs. The Board of Supervisors, serving as the EVFPD Board of Directors, has directed over 98% of the EVFPD's share of property taxes to the City of Vallejo to provide fire protection services pursuant to the Government

Code and encourages partnerships between local jurisdictions to support access to additional funding sources.

Grand Jury Recommendation 1b – Fire Protection Districts and the Board of Supervisors should continue to explore cooperative opportunities to obtain additional funds through creative efforts such as grants.

EVFPD Response to Recommendation 1b – This recommendation has been implemented and the EVFPD and Board of Supervisors will continue to work to identify funding sources.

Grand Jury Finding 2 – Communication is often difficult because equipment and frequencies used by different fire fighting agencies are not compatible.

EVFPD Response to Finding 2 – The EVFPD agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Recommendation 2 – Fire Protection Districts, Cities, and the County should standardize and consolidate communications as soon as possible.

EVFPD Response to Recommendation 2 – This recommendation has been partially implemented through the Solano Emergency Communications Activities (SECA) Memorandum of Understanding with the interoperability project. The project is constrained by lack of available funding. As funding is identified communication equipment is being purchased and installed which is benefiting the EVFPD. The City of Vallejo participates in the project and is representing the communication needs for EVFPD.

Grand Jury Finding 3 – Dispatching is challenging because dispatchers also serve law enforcement agencies.

EVFPD Response to Finding 2 – The EVFPD agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Recommendation 3 – The Fire Districts, Cities and the County should explore options to develop a centralized Fire Dispatch.

EVFPD Response to Recommendation 3 – From the EVFPD perspective, the recommendation will not be implemented as it is not reasonable. The district does not have dedicated staff or resources to explore a centralized dispatch as EVFPD utilizes the dispatch services of the City of Vallejo under the contract for fire protection services. EVFPD recognizes the benefit of centralized dispatch and encourages collaborative efforts of local jurisdictions to explore what would be best countywide.

Sincerely,



John F. Silva
President, Board of Directors
East Vallejo Fire Protection District

c: Grand Jury
CAO Deputy Clerk