



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

County Manager's Office

DATE: October 6, 2006
BOARD MEETING DATE: October 17, 2006
SPECIAL NOTICE: None
VOTE REQUIRED: None

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
SUBJECT: 2005-06 Grand Jury Response

Recommendation

Accept this report containing the County's responses to five 2005-06 Grand Jury reports: (1) Disaster Preparedness Training for the Residents of Cities in San Mateo County; (2) Disaster Preparedness at San Francisco International Airport; (3) Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks; (4) Disaster Preparedness in SamTrans, Environmental Services and Public Works; and (5) San Mateo County Detention Facilities.

VISION ALIGNMENT:

Commitment: Ensure Basic Health and Safety for all; and Responsive, Effective and Collaborative Government.

Goals 7 and 20: Maintain and enhance the public safety of all residents and visitors; and Government decisions are based on careful consideration of future impact, rather than temporary relief or immediate gain.

This activity contributes to these commitments and goals by ensuring that all Grand Jury findings and recommendations are thoroughly reviewed by the appropriate County departments and that, when appropriate, process improvements are made to ensure the public safety of County residents and visitors and to improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to the public and other agencies.

Discussion

The County is mandated to respond to the Grand Jury within 90 days from the date that reports are filed with the County Clerk and Elected Officials are mandated to respond within 60 days. It is also the County's policy to provide periodic updates to the Board and the Grand Jury on the progress of past Grand Jury recommendations requiring ongoing or further action. To that end, attached are the County's responses to the four above-mentioned Grand Jury reports on disaster preparedness issued July 19, 2006 and the Grand Jury report on detention facilities issued July 5, 2006.

(1) Disaster Preparedness Training for the Residents of Cities in San Mateo County

Findings:

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Grand Jury findings.

Recommendations:

- 2.1 All members of the Board of Supervisors should become CERT trained as a demonstration of their commitment to this critical individual effort.**

Response: The Board of Supervisors is committed to ensuring that all residents are prepared in the event of an emergency, as exemplified by the County's participation in the annual "Disaster Preparedness Day." The Board of Supervisors agrees that CERT training is a critical component of individual preparation. As time and schedules permit, Board members may participate in CERT training offered by the city in which they reside.

(2) Disaster Preparedness at San Francisco International Airport

Findings:

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Grand Jury findings.

Recommendations:

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the Emergency Services Council should invite the San Francisco International Airport to join the Joint Powers Agreement as an Associate member and invite their representative to attend meetings of the Emergency Services Council.

Response: Concur. The Board of Supervisors will invite the San Francisco International Airport to join the Joint Powers Agreement between San Mateo County and the incorporated cities therein as an Associate Member, and will invite the representative of San Francisco International Airport to attend meetings of the Emergency Council, for which the next meeting is currently scheduled for January 18, 2007.

(3) Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks

Findings:

The Information Services Department and Sheriff's Office agree with the Grand Jury findings.

Recommendations:

1.0 The Board of Supervisors should ensure the following:

- 1.1 The Information Services Department vigorously pursues its current efforts to improve the performance of the County's digital radio system.**

Response: Concur. The County's digital radio system and mutual aid systems currently perform as designed and specified by the criterion for the measurement of system performance as documented in the RFP for the Radio Upgrade Project released in 2000. The radio system specifications and design were reviewed, discussed, and approved by the Trunked Users Group, the Emergency Services Council (ESC JPA), and the Police Chief's Association.

Since the completion of the County's digital radio system, in-building coverage has become a higher priority and is being improved. As the trunked system is the primary communications system for the Sheriff, select facilities were targeted for improved in-building coverage. These locations include the Hall of Justice and Maguire Jail.

After migrating to the new system, some agencies identified needs for additional and/or improved coverage. System improvements made after the new network was implemented include:

- Addition of a transmitter site at the Hall of Justice site
- Addition of a receiver at the Redwood City Cross site
- Addition of conventional repeaters at Montara and San Gregorio radio sites (in progress)
- The Mutual Aid Communication Enhancement (MACE) project will expand portable coverage on Mutual Aid Channels (in progress)

ISD will continue to add and/or improve radio coverage as new requirements are identified.

- 1.2. **The Sheriff and ISD work together with local police departments to ensure that communication systems in the County will comply with the FCC regulations that take effect in 2013 and will match or exceed the performance of existing radio systems.**

Response: Concur. The Sheriff's Office and County ISD will work with members of the Communications and Technology subcommittee of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs & Sheriff Association towards compliance with 2013 FCC regulations.

(4) Disaster Preparedness in SamTrans, Environmental Services, and Public Works

Findings:

Staff from the Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation, and the County Library agree with the Grand Jury findings.

Recommendations:

1.0 The Board of Supervisors should ensure the following:

- 1.1 **The Parks and Recreation Plan is rewritten or improved so that the plan is SEMS compliant, includes personnel training programs, and provides for periodic field exercises to test and improve the Plan.**

Response: Concur. Parks and Recreation is currently working with the Sheriff's Office to ensure that their Disaster Preparedness Plan is SEMS compliant, includes personnel training programs, and provides for periodic field exercises to test and improve the Plan.

- 1.2. **The Airport Plan is rewritten or improved, and that the Public Works and Airport Plans are SEMS compliant, include personnel training programs, and provide for periodic field exercises to test and improve the Plans.**

Response: Concur. The Airport Plan has been rewritten and is now SEMS compliant. The Public Works Department is in the process of improving the areas of training and exercises. The Department plans to participate in all OES exercises during FY 2006-07, and training on the emergency plan is scheduled for October 18 and 25, 2006.

- 1.3. **The Libraries Plan is SEMS compliant.**

Response: Concur. The County Library will work to update its

Disaster Preparedness Plan to be SEMS compliant.

1.4. The new Public Works and Airport Plans are completed and disseminated.

Response: Concur. The new Public Works and Airport Plans are in the process of being disseminated, with a deadline of December 15, 2006.

An update on departmental responses to this Grand Jury recommendation and the status of SEMS compliance will be included in the next quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors.

(5) San Mateo County Detention Facilities

Findings:

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Grand Jury findings.

Recommendations:

- 1.0 The Board of Supervisors should move as quickly as possible to fund and build a new Women's Correctional Center.**

Response: Concur. The Board of Supervisors convened a committee of criminal justice and local government leaders to review crowding in the jails. As a result, consultants were sought and retained to address conditions at the Women's Correctional Center. Replacement of the current substandard Women's Correctional Center is the focal point of the consultant's study; however, the study will provide insights to address crowding throughout the system as any change to this site will profoundly impact both the men's and women's populations. The consultant's report is due in February 2007. A process commensurate with accepted recommendations will then be developed.