

AUG 17 2006



City of Carlsbad

Office of the Mayor

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

August 15, 2006

The Honorable Janis Sammartino
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of the State of California
County of San Diego
220 West Broadway
P. O. Box 122724
San Diego, California 92112-2724

Hon. Janis Sammartino:

The City Council of the City of Carlsbad has carefully reviewed and considered the San Diego County Grand Jury 2005-06 Lack of San Diego County Evacuation Preparations report ("Report") (May 31, 2006) and respectfully submits its response as required by Penal Code section 933(c) and as further specifically addressed in Penal Code section 933.05.

The Report makes three "findings" and five "recommendations" with only two findings and two recommendations directed to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Carlsbad for a response. The Mayor and Council (collectively, referred to as "Carlsbad") respond to these two findings and recommendations. This response has been prepared in three sections. First, specific responses to Grand jury Findings as described in California Penal Code § 933(a). Second, specific response to Grand Jury Recommendation as described in California Penal Code § 933(b). And third, a summary of Carlsbad's position on these issues.

Findings:

Finding: *Tsunamis pose a significant threat to life and property.*

- Carlsbad agrees with this finding.
- Carlsbad disagrees that a tsunami poses a significant threat to life and property within the City of Carlsbad due to Carlsbad's coastline and elevation.



Finding: *Inundation maps showing possible San Diego County shoreline which might be submerged by tsunami waters is not adequate.*

Carlsbad agrees with this finding.

The County of San Diego's Office of Emergency Preparedness should coordinate the updating of the region's inundation maps to be included in the revision of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Recommendations:

06-67: *Install emergency signage along the San Diego coastal corridor, directing citizens and visitors to safety in case of a tsunami emergency.*

- This recommendation requires further analysis as it applies to the City of Carlsbad. As the Grand Jury may be aware, the two main coastal transportation corridors through Carlsbad (Carlsbad Blvd and I-5) are at elevation and are generally not subject to impacts from changes in the tidal level, including storm surges. The City would like the opportunity to further review the inundation maps, as well as consult with the City's Transportation Engineer to evaluate this recommendation. One consideration is that the City's susceptibility from the threat of a local tsunami is relatively low (due in part to the Rose Canyon being a slip-strike fault), and the warning system would need to be able to respond in a fairly compressed time frame in order to be effective. Furthermore, impacts from distant earthquakes over the past 170 years (including six great tsunamis) within the Pacific Ocean Basin have caused wave heights no greater than normal tides along Carlsbad's coastline. Ultimately, it makes sense for this issue to be addressed on a region wide basis to ensure the effectiveness and consistency of any early warning system. Further, a tsunami early warning system must be integrated and unique to other early warning systems so that citizens are not confused as to the type of warning being sounded.

06-68: *Find funding sources for the installation of warning sirens for an imminent devastating tsunami.*

- This recommendation requires further analysis as it applies to the City of Carlsbad. Based upon a variety of factors, including the City's Hazard Analysis as well as consultations with various technical experts, the City believes that the potential threat and impact of a tsunami on the City is relatively low. However, the City understands the larger context in which a tsunami early warning system could be valuable and believes that the

Honorable Janis Sammartino
Presiding Judge
August 15, 2006
Page 3

evaluation and implementation of such an early system should be coordinated at the regional level, perhaps through the County's Office of Emergency Services. The City of Carlsbad would enthusiastically support such a review.

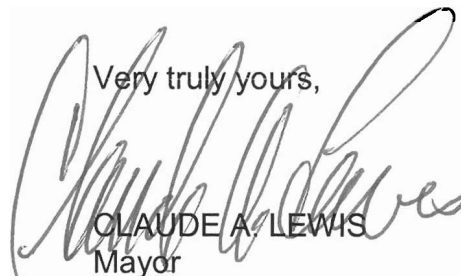
Summary:

The City of Carlsbad considers Emergency Preparedness and life safety a core service that the municipal organization provides to the citizens and residents of Carlsbad. In an effort to further identify and prepare Carlsbad against the myriad of natural and man-made disasters that could impact the City, the City conducted a Hazard Analysis in 2000. The purpose of that report, which was assembled by the City's Emergency Management Team (CEMAT) in conjunction with external technical experts, was to provide the City with a prioritized matrix of possible hazards and their potential impacts, and to identify ways in which those impacts could be mitigated to minimize the possible loss of life and property in the City. The findings of the Hazard Analysis have been included as part of the San Diego County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (dated March 2004).

Carlsbad's staff will gladly appear before the Grand Jury in person to answer any questions or provide further information on this issue. It is our understanding that staff has not been given that opportunity to date. If you or the Grand Jury would like additional information regarding the above, please contact Mr. Raymond Patchett, City Manager, at 760.434.2821.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our comments in response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations and clarify our position on these important issues.

Very truly yours,



CLAUDE A. LEWIS
Mayor

c: Grand Jury
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Police Chief