



City of
Encinitas

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

August 23, 2006

Grand Jury
Attention: Presiding Judge
County of San Diego Hall of Justice
330 W. Broadway, Suite 477
San Diego, CA 92101-3830

Dear Presiding Judge and Members of the Grand Jury:

The City of Encinitas ("City") is in receipt of the Grand Jury report entitled "Lack of San Diego County Evacuation Preparations" released on May 31, 2006. In accordance with California Penal Code §933 (c) the City is responding to the following recommendations made by the Grand Jury in the report:

Recommendation 06-67 (install emergency signage along the San Diego coastal corridor, directing citizens and visitors to safety in case of a tsunami emergency).

The City agrees with this recommendation and (in March 2006) identified locations at which to place such signage. Signs will be placed at the following locations within the inundation area:

- All beach access points
- All city owned lifeguard towers
- South Coast Highway 101 (northbound entering Encinitas from Solana Beach and southbound near the Cardiff State Beach parking lot)
- Encinitas Boulevard (westbound towards Moonlight Beach and eastbound leaving Moonlight Beach)

It is expected that this recommendation will be implemented in October 2006, when the signs are made and installed at the above-mentioned locations.

Recommendation 06-68 (find funding sources for the installation of warning sirens for an imminent devastating tsunami).

The City cannot fully comment on this recommendation, as alert and warning activities are the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department (with whom the City also contracts for law enforcement services) under the Operational Area Emergency Plan and any system of sirens would likely be tied to the Sheriff's communications system.

Presently, public address systems are in place at the Moonlight, Swami's and Cardiff State Beach lifeguard towers, as well as on 15 city-owned emergency vehicles and apparatus, which would assist the Sheriff's Department in warning citizens of an impending emergency.

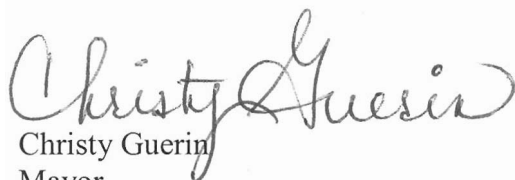
The City would support efforts by the Sheriff's Department and County Office of Emergency Services (OES) to obtain funding from grants to install a regional system of sirens that covers the Encinitas coastline. This recommendation requires further analysis and discussion among City, Sheriff's and County OES personnel as to its feasibility, cost and effectiveness. It is expected that such an analysis would be performed by these parties within six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.

It is important to note that Fire Department and emergency management staff from Encinitas were not interviewed by members of the Grand Jury or their representatives to discuss the City's preparedness activities prior to the issuance of this report. The City has been involved in a number of preparedness activities not mentioned in the report, such as

- Distributing All Hazards Alert Radios and tsunami preparedness brochures to businesses within the inundation zone on Highway 101 ("Restaurant Row") in Cardiff.
- Updating emergency response plans (Both Sheriff and City plans).
Implementing a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, whose volunteer members can assist with evacuation and traffic control in affected areas
- Instituting a Community Emergency Notification System (CENS), otherwise known as "Reverse 911", to be used for notifying residents if a tsunami warning is issued.

Should you have questions concerning the City's response to the above recommendations, please contact Tom Gallup, Fire Department Management Analyst, at (760) 633-2825.

Respectfully,



Christy Guerin
Mayor
City of Encinitas