



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager's Office



DATE: June 22, 2012
BOARD MEETING DATE: July 10, 2012
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
SUBJECT: 2011-12 Grand Jury Response

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Board of Supervisor's response to the 2011-12 Grand Jury report titled: "San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services: Post-San Bruno Fire Self Evaluation."

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

On April 23, 2012, the Grand Jury filed a report titled: "San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services: Post-San Bruno Fire Self Evaluation." The Board of Supervisors is required to submit comments, within ninety days, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to the matters under control of the County of San Mateo. The County's response to the report is due to the Hon. Gerald J. Buchwald no later than July 23, 2012.

Acceptance of this report contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community 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 improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to the public and other agencies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost associated with approving this response.

San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services: Post San Bruno Fire Self Evaluation

Findings:

Staff is in general agreement with the Sheriff's Office responses to the Grand Jury's findings (attachment A for reference) with the following additional comments.

Grand Jury Finding Number 14. The Jury Assembly Room has no dedicated EOC functionality or equipment; it has no OES electronics, it has few phone lines and limited cell phone coverage.

Response. Agree. Staff acknowledges the limitations of the Jury Assembly Room as the location for the Primary EOC. The County Manager's Office and the Sheriff's Office are working collaboratively to identify a new location that meets our collective needs and complies with state laws and regulations. The current location under consideration is the County-owned office building at One Circle Star Way in the City of San Carlos.

Grand Jury Finding Number 15. The Jury Assembly Room is designated as the Primary EOC because it is the largest unclaimed (by other agencies) space in the Hall of Justice and can be emptied of civilians awaiting jury duty during regular business hours.

Response. Agree. The County-owned office building at One Circle Star Way has the potential to provide a large space for a dedicated EOC on the same floor as the Public Safety Communications Dispatch Center. However, as noted in the response to Recommendation 1, tenant improvements and seismic upgrades to the building must be completed before County tenants are permitted to occupy the building. In addition, a needs assessment specific to EOC operational needs would be necessary in order to determine if a new location at Circle Star would meet the needs of the Sheriff's Office and the County.

Recommendations:

The Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff:

1. Take all steps necessary to establish a fully-equipped and functional primary EOC within 180 days.

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. Staff is in agreement with the Sheriff's Office response to this recommendation (attachment A for reference) that there is a need to replace the current EOC and that the 180 day timeline is not feasible.

The County-owned building at One Circle Star Way is currently being considered as a potential location for a new EOC. The building will be undergoing tenant

improvements and seismic upgrades in order to meet the “essential service standards”, which have the most stringent structural requirements and is mandated under the California Health and Safety Code for any building that “...a portion of which is used or designed to be used as fire station, police station, emergency operations center...” It is anticipated that the seismic retrofit will take approximately 13 months; six months for preconstruction work to include the development of construction plans, peer review of the plans, bidding for the job, and contract award by the Board of Supervisors. The actual seismic construction work is projected to take seven months and is expected to be completed in July 2013.

Over the next few months, the County Manager’s Office and the Sheriff’s Office will work collaboratively to determine the feasibility and cost of moving the EOC to the Circle Star location.