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Summary of Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks

Issue Statement

How can San Mateo County best prepare for mandated changes to its public safety radio networks?

Summary

As part of an inquiry into emergency preparedness, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) examined the radio communication capabilities of the County Sheriff and local police departments. The Jury interviewed radio technical specialists and a cross-section of law enforcement personnel to ascertain the County's communications capability. During the investigation, the Grand Jury learned of an FCC-mandated bandwidth change that will take effect on January 1, 2013.

The Grand Jury found that the existing law enforcement radio communication system functions satisfactorily, **but** that this system must change prior to January 1, 2013. The report recommends actions needed to prepare for these changes.



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

Issue Statement

How can San Mateo County best prepare for mandated changes to its public safety radio networks?

Background

As part of an inquiry into emergency preparedness, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) examined the radio communication capabilities of the Sheriff and local police departments. The pertinent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations apply to law enforcement, fire, and ambulance service, but this report deals only with law enforcement communications.

San Mateo County's digital¹ radio communication network was built in 2001-2004 at a cost of approximately \$24 million. The network uses state-of-the-art technology, is resilient in case of hardware failures, and can be expanded to accommodate additional users. A consequence of this technology is the complexity and high cost of the receiving/transmitting stations and the mobile radios. The cost of these stations might be one reason that there are far fewer digital receivers in the populated areas than there are analog receivers. The network is operated by the Information Services Department (ISD) and is used by county departments, the Sheriff, and the Redwood City Police Department. The digital radio network is operated as an enterprise and users pay a service fee. San Mateo County also operates and maintains four analog mutual-aid radio channels, accessible to all law enforcement agencies for large-scale or county-wide operations.

Eighteen local police departments² in the county rely on the many mature local analog systems that they own. In the last two decades most of these departments have installed multiple analog receivers in their jurisdictions to support the increased use of handheld

¹ See Appendix A for a glossary of terms.

² See Appendix B for a list of cities.

radios. This is significant because handheld radios transmit at much lower power than do mobile (car) radios and must be nearer to a receiver to work satisfactorily.

The present radio networks will have to change within the next six years to comply with the FCC decision to change the assignment of public safety radio channels. These channels currently are 25 kHz wide (wideband), but since the number of radio users is increasing, the FCC plans to reduce the width of each channel to 12.5 kHz (narrowband) allowing two conversations to take place where only one previously fit. All law enforcement radio users must switch to narrowband equipment by January 1, 2013.

Investigation

The initial purpose of the investigation was to follow up on media reports that the County's digital radio network had experienced problems due to software changes in 2005. As the investigation progressed, the focus changed to the issue of the impending shift to narrowband radio equipment. In the course of the investigation the Grand Jury interviewed a cross-section of law enforcement personnel and radio technical specialists.

Findings

- All law enforcement personnel interviewed stated that the county-wide digital radio network does not currently perform as well as expected. The initial trial of digital radios by the Redwood City Police Department was marred by coverage gaps and the poor performance of handheld radios inside buildings. The Redwood City Police Department has subsequently switched to the digital radio network and is working with ISD to optimize its performance in Redwood City.
- The proponents of the digital network in ISD believe the following.
 - The digital system offers capabilities not available with analog equipment, e.g., message encryption and data transmission.
 - Analog radio equipment will not perform as well as digital equipment with narrowband channels.
 - Their current efforts to improve system performance will correct both the real and perceived shortcomings.
- Most of the local police departments are reluctant to forsake their existing analog radio systems and migrate to the County's digital system because the digital system does not perform as well as their existing systems.
- It is critically important that handheld radios function properly in all locations, including within buildings. Most local police departments have installed enough analog receivers to guarantee satisfactory performance of their current systems.

- Some local police departments have purchased analog radios that are capable of either wide or narrowband operation, and those agencies have stated that they plan to convert their radios to narrowband channels when necessary, i.e., before 2013.
- Local police departments have conducted some experiments with narrowband channels, and the results show that they can expect to successfully convert their existing analog networks to conform to the FCC mandate.
- There is a significant difference in the cost of the two types of radio: a mobile radio suitable for use on the county digital network costs roughly three times as much (\$3500 vs. \$1200) as an analog radio used by local police departments. A digital receiving/transmitting station costs more than an analog station. The station recently added atop the Hall of Justice cost approximately \$500,000.
- When officers from different local police departments communicate by radio, their conversations must travel over the County digital network. The call originates from a handheld or mobile radio and is transmitted as an analog signal to a base station. There the signal is digitized and transmitted over the County digital network to a base station in the second jurisdiction. The signal is then converted back to analog and transmitted to an officer in the field.
- The typical life of base station radios is 12 to 15 years. Mobile radios typically last seven to ten years and handheld radios five to seven years. Analog radio technology is mature and will be less commonly used in 20 years. Digital radio technology is much newer and is still evolving. It is expected to become less expensive in the future and it may eventually replace analog technology.

Conclusions

- It is essential that the acknowledged performance shortcomings of the County's digital radio network be corrected so that the safety of officers in the field is not compromised.
- Local police departments are correct to insist that any radio technology they employ must provide excellent performance with both mobile and handheld radios.
- The analog radio users that plan to convert their radios to narrowband operation need to know with certainty that narrowband analog equipment will perform satisfactorily and meet future requirements.

- The proponents of the digital radio network and the users of the many analog radio networks disagree on whether analog radios will perform satisfactorily with narrowband channels
- Given the interdependence of the radio users and the climate of changing radio technology, the parties involved need to manage the evolution of the public safety communication system with minimum disruption and maximum efficiency

Recommendations

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors 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.
 - 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.
2. The Grand Jury also recommends that the City Council of every city or town that plans to employ narrowband analog radios in 2013 should ensure that that equipment will perform satisfactorily in all parts of their jurisdiction.
3. The City Council of every city or town should ensure that its city cooperates with other cities and with the Sheriff and ISD 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.

Appendix A

Glossary of Terms

Analog An automobile fuel gauge with a needle is an analog device; it displays full, empty, and all points in between. The value displayed is variable and continuous.

An analog radio emits a continuous electromagnetic carrier wave, and information is transmitted by modulating (changing) either the amplitude (hence AM) or frequency (FM) of the carrier wave.

Digital An automobile fuel warning light is a digital device; it has only two states, on or off. If the light is off there is fuel in the tank; if the light is on the tank is almost empty. The warning light cannot indicate that the tank is one-half or one-quarter full.

A digital radio also emits an electromagnetic wave, but instead of the continuous, varying wave used in analog radio, the digital wave is interrupted. Information is transmitted by timing the interruptions or breaks in the carrier wave.

FCC-Mandated Changes The FCC requires that Public Safety Radio Pool licensees operating in the 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz bands migrate to narrowband (12.5 kHz) technology by January 1, 2013. Additionally, applications for new licenses or expansion of existing licenses using wideband (25 kHz) technology will not be accepted after January 1, 2011. Manufacture or importation of wide-band equipment will be prohibited on January 1, 2011.

ISD The Information Services Department provides a variety of information technology and computer application services to County departments. The Communication Services Division of ISD plans, designs, and supports the County digital radio network. (The digital radio network is actually owned by the Joint Powers Authority composed of San Mateo County and all the cities in the county.)

Public Safety Radio This term, as used by the FCC, includes law enforcement, fire, ambulance, and other first response services. In San Mateo County, all fire departments use radio frequencies in the 154-155 MHz range, known as high band VHF. The emergency response ambulance service uses the county's digital radio network, as does the Public Works Department. The Sheriff's Department uses the county digital radio network while the local police departments use analog radios, all of which operate in the 470-512 MHz frequency range known as T-band UHF.

Appendix B

Police Department Radio Type

Department	Radio Type	Remarks
Town of Atherton	analog	
City of Belmont	analog	
City of Brisbane	analog	
Township of Broadmoor	analog	
City of Burlingame	analog	
Town of Colma	analog	
City of Daly City	analog	
City of East Palo Alto	analog	
City of Foster City	analog	
City of Half Moon Bay	analog	
Town of Hillsborough	analog	
City of Menlo Park	analog	
City of Millbrae	analog	
City of Pacifica	analog	
Town of Portola Valley	digital	Sheriff provides law enforcement services
City of Redwood City	digital	
City of San Bruno	analog	
City of San Carlos	analog	
City of San Mateo	analog	
City of South San Francisco	analog	
Town of Woodside	digital	Sheriff provides law enforcement services

October 4, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks

Dear Judge Hall:

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933, the City of Belmont provides the following comments to the 2005-2006 Civil Grand Jury report dated July 19, 2006.

Recommendation

San Mateo County law enforcement agencies must be prepared to switch from wideband to narrowband radio frequencies by January 1, 2013.

Response

The City of Belmont agrees with the findings of the Grand Jury regarding law enforcement radio networks. Belmont Police Department utilizes analog equipment capable of meeting the aforementioned 2013 FCC mandate. The quality of radio communications throughout the diverse terrain within our jurisdiction is always a challenge and digital radio technology has yet to provide the consistency required to meet this challenge. The analog system currently employed is providing adequate coverage. As noted by the Grand Jury, the safety of our officers is of utmost importance and we will continue to provide the most reliable means of communication available.

The City of Belmont appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury as it provides the residents of San Mateo County with guidance in the area of County law enforcement radio networks.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald J. Mattei
Chief of Police

Cc: City Council
City Manager
City Clerk



CITY OF BRISBANE

50 Park Place
Brisbane, California 94005-1310
(415) 508-2100
Fax (415) 467-4989

October 5, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Hall:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2005-2006 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury's report on the FCC mandated changes in law enforcement radio networks for San Mateo County. On behalf of the City of Brisbane and the Brisbane Police Department I applaud the Grand Jury's efforts and concern for the future communications needs of law enforcement.

I feel that the recommendations in the Grand Jury's report (1; 1.1; 1.2; 2; & 3) are both reasonable and forward thinking. We are in agreement on all the suggested points.

The City of Brisbane is committed to providing the citizens of Brisbane with the highest quality emergency services possible. As with many cities, Brisbane will need to replace our current mobile and portable radios. The San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association Technology Committee, is working on a development plan for this radio transition throughout San Mateo County. It is hoped that this plan, along with equipment recommendations will be completed within the next year. This will insure that new equipment and related programming is in place by the 2013 FCC deadline.

Thank you again for allowing me to review and respond to the report prepared by the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury and please pass on my thanks to them for the outstanding work that they perform.

Sincerely,

Clayton L. Holstine
City Manager



The City of Burlingame

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BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA 94010-3997

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FAX: (650) 556-9281
WEB: www.burlingame.org

September 18, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks

Dear Judge Hall:

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933, the Burlingame City Council provides the following comments to the 2005-2006 Civil Grand Jury report dated July 19, 2006.

On behalf of the City of Burlingame, we would first like to express my appreciation for the research and recommendations in the recent Grand Jury report, "Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks." The findings are timely, as many cities continue to prepare and refine future changes insuring that our communities are made as safe as possible when faced with disasters.

The City of Burlingame acknowledges the findings of the Grand Jury and agree with both the conclusion and the recommendations of the study.

The Grand Jury's research indicates that our public safety departments (police and fire) are currently using an analog radio system. Based on the information provided thus far, the City of Burlingame public safety departments' will be working to comply with the FCC mandated bandwidth with our current analog system by the year 2013. The City of Burlingame will do this by ensuring:

- 1) That all communications equipment performs satisfactorily in all parts of our city, and we will cooperate with other cities, and
- 2) We work cooperatively with the Sheriff and the County Information Services Department (ISD) to ensure that communications systems in the County will

Judge Stephen M. Hall

Re: Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks

September 18, 2006

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comply with the FCC regulations that take effect in 2013 (and match or exceed the performance of our existing radio systems).

As with many cities, Burlingame will need to replace our current mobile and portable radios. The San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association Technology Committee, is working on a development plan for this radio transition throughout San Mateo County. It is hoped that this plan, along with equipment recommendations, will be completed within the next year. This will insure that new equipment and related programming is in place well prior to the 2013 FCC compliance date.

Sincerely,

Cathy Baylock, Mayor

cc: City Council
Chief of Police

CITY COUNCIL

MICHAEL P. GUINGONA
MAYOR

SAL TORRES
VICE MAYOR

JUDITH A. CHRISTENSEN
MAGGIE A. GOMEZ
CAROL L. KLATT

PATRICIA E. MARTEL
CITY MANAGER

MARIA E. CORTES
CITY CLERK

ANTHONY ZIDICH
CITY TREASURER

PHONE (850) 991-8125



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF DALY CITY

333-90TH STREET

DALY CITY, CA 94015-1895

November 27, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

RE: FCC Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks

Dear Judge Hall:

The City of Daly City concurs with the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury regarding the need for law enforcement agencies to switch from wideband to narrowband radio frequencies by January 1, 2013.

The Daly City Police Department is fully aware of the FCC mandate and intends to migrate its emergency communications system well in advance of the deadline.

Emergency communications are a top priority for the Daly City Police Department. The topography of our City has presented communications challenges in the past, but the deployment of new and better communications technology has helped to improve communications capabilities. It is our hope that the technology will continue to improve, allowing a seamless transition from the existing analog network to a state-of-the-art narrowband frequency radio system.

On behalf of my colleagues on the City Council, I would like to express our appreciation to the Civil Grand Jury for reviewing the current state of San Mateo County's law enforcement radio networks in light of the looming FCC mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Guingona", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Michael P. Guingona
Mayor



**CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

RONALD L. DAVIS
CHIEF OF POLICE
(650) 853-3125
rdavis@cityofepa.org

**RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY INQUIRY REGARDING THE CITY OF EAST
PALO ALTO'S PLAN TO UPGRADE ITS ANALOG RADIO SYSTEM TO DIGITAL IN
ACCORDANCE WITH FCC RULES**

Inquiry

In a letter dated July 19, 2006, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury requested an update report on the City's efforts to meet new FCC rules regarding upgrades to the analog radio system required by 2013. Specifically, the Grand Jury requested responses to the following recommendations.

Recommendations

2. The Grand Jury also recommends that the City Council of every city or town that plans to employ narrowband analog radios in 2013 should ensure that that equipment will perform satisfactorily in all parts of their jurisdiction.
3. The City Council of every city or town should ensure that its city cooperates with other cities and with the Sheriff and ISD 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

The City of East Palo Alto currently contracts with the San Mateo County Public Safety Communications for its radio and dispatch services. It is therefore appropriate for the County to respond to the Grand Jury with regard to that system. However, the Police Department does currently use an analog system for both its hand-held and vehicle-based radio systems. To comply with new FCC rules, the City will establish an equipment purchase and/or upgrade plan in conjunction with other cities in the County.

Because the Department is small, the City will be able to use either California Supplemental Law Enforcement Funds (SLEF) or general funds to upgrade this equipment. The Department will incorporate these expenditures as part of the 2010 – 2011 budget process. This will allow the City two years before the 2013 deadline to upgrade the system.

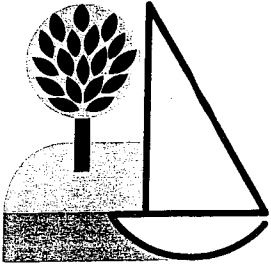
The City will not transition the analog system at this time because the City may elect to establish a communications (dispatch center) function within the next few years. If this occurs, the City would transition to digital radios as part of this process.

The Communications and Technology committee of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association has been working in collaboration with the County and cities to identify the best collaborative way for all cities to comply with the new FCC rule (See San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association letter).

The City will continue to work closely with the Association and develop a replacement and/or upgrade plan well in advance of the 2013 FCC deadline, and provide the Grand Jury a copy of the plan upon its completion.

Respectfully,

Ronald L. Davis, Chief of Police



City of Foster City

ESTERO MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

POLICE DEPARTMENT
1030 E. HILLSDALE BLVD.
FOSTER CITY, CA 94404
(650) 286-3300 • FAX (650) 349-0790

August 31, 2006

Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Hall,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2005-2006 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury's report on the FCC mandated changes in law enforcement radio networks for San Mateo County. Foremost among those changes is the call for all agencies to convert from utilizing wideband to narrowband radio frequencies by January 1, 2013. The Foster City City Council and Police Department applaud the Grand Jury's efforts and concern for the future communications needs of law enforcement.

We agree with all the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. Those recommendations that have yet to be implement in Foster City, will be implemented by January 1, 2013.

At this time, the Foster City Police Department already utilizes analog equipment capable of meeting or exceeding the aforementioned 2013 mandate. The quality of radio communications throughout our city utilizing that equipment is excellent. In addition, the Police Department will ensure that any new radio equipment that is purchased will have narrowband capability as well.

The biggest challenge facing law enforcement agencies in the county relative to the 2013 mandate, is the well-planned, synchronized and timely switch-over of all base stations, mobile and portable radio units to narrowband frequencies. This coordinated countywide effort will be planned and developed by representatives of the Police Chief and Sheriff's Communications & Technology Committee who will then work with individual cities to ensure an orderly conversion before the January 1, 2013 deadline. Foster City will cooperatively participate in that process.

Honorable Stephen M. Hall
August 31, 2006
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Please feel free to contact me if you seek additional information or have any questions regarding this response to the Grand Jury's report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Koelling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Mayor Linda Koelling

cc: Members of the City Council
James C. Hardy, City Manager
Craig Courtin, Chief of Police
Therese Calic, City Clerk

September 22, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2ndFloor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Hall,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2005-2006 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury's report on the FCC mandated changes in law enforcement radio networks for San Mateo County. On behalf of the City of Half Moon Bay, we applaud the Grand Jury's efforts and concern for the future communications needs of law enforcement.

For many years now, the Communications & Technology subcommittee of the San Mateo County Chiefs Association as well as the Communications Managers Association has kept radio coverage issues at the forefront of their respective agendas. Over the years, we have also been closely tracking the evolving dates of mandatory FCC frequency re-farming requirements as a member of these groups. I am told that in the early 1990's it was announced that there was a mandatory narrow band migration date set for 1998. That date was then postponed out to 2004 and of course as we know now, that revised migration date is January 1, 2013. All the while, San Mateo County agencies, such as the City of Half Moon Bay, were positioning themselves to budget and acquire base station, mobile and portable radio units that would meet or exceed the inevitability of the FCC narrow band migration requirements.

At the time of this writing, the cities contracting with San Mateo County already possess the equipment necessary to meet or exceed the aforementioned 2013 mandate. The City of Half Moon Bay contracts with San Mateo County for dispatch services. Other services, such as all the radio equipment, has been budgeted for capital replacement radio plans by 2013.

The biggest challenge that faces us relative to the 2013 mandate is the well planned, synchronized and timely switch over of all the base stations, mobile and portable radio units to narrow band for all the cities using analog systems. This county-wide coordinated effort will be developed and orchestrated by representatives of the Communications & Technology committee who will then work with all the individual cities to ensure an orderly conversion.

We feel that the recommendations in the Grand Jury's report (1; 1.1; 1.2; 2; & 3) are both reasonable and forward thinking. We are in agreement on all the suggested points.

Hon. Stephen M. Hall

September 22, 2006

Page 2

The City of Half Moon Bay is committed to providing our citizens with the highest quality emergency services possible, and complying with the 2013 FCC mandate is one piece of this strategy which we are aggressively meeting head-on.

Thank you again for allowing us to review and respond to the report prepared by the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Debra C. Auker
City Manager

cc: Half Moon Bay City Council
Half Moon Bay Police Chief Israel Ortiz
Paul Nagengast, Deputy City Manager

NICHOLAS JELLINS
MAYOR

KELLY FERGUSSON
MAYOR PRO TEM

ANDREW COHEN
COUNCIL MEMBER

LEE DUBOC
COUNCIL MEMBER

MICKIE WINKLER
COUNCIL MEMBER



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November 6, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Hall,

Please accept this letter in response to the Civil Grand Jury's report dated July 19, 2006 regarding the preparation for FCC-mandated changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks. We are aware of the issues regarding both technologies and appreciate the effort of the Grand Jury in this regard.

1. The respondent agrees with the findings that the Board of Supervisors ensures that the Information Services Department (ISD) vigorously pursues its current efforts to improve the performance of the county's digital radio system and; that the Sheriff and ISD work together with local police departments to ensure that the communications 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.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but the Menlo Park Police Department has begun a preliminary study into the project and plans on attaining compliance by 2013.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to our attention and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (650) 330-6610.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Goitia
Chief of Police

August 3, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Government Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: 2005-06 Grand Jury Reports

Dear Judge Hall:

Thank you for your letter dated July 19, 2006, and the attached Grand Jury reports regarding training residents in disaster preparedness and the implementation of improvements to law enforcement radio networks.

Disaster preparedness is obviously critical to our communities. It is estimated that it could take up to 3 to 6 days after a major event before local government or outside resources could provide any assistance to residents in a significant emergency. Thus, there exists the need for training and organization of residents and neighborhoods to assist one another. Millbrae started to organize neighborhoods and to designate a neighborhood block captain for the purpose of disaster response as well as neighborhood watch. This effort started in the spring and there have been four neighborhood organizational meetings and two more are scheduled.

From the neighborhood meetings, the City is recruiting volunteers to take the CERT training. This will begin in the fall. To date, twenty five residents have been through the CERT training. The Fire Department, which is taking the lead in the training, expects to instruct another twenty five persons over the next nine months.

With respect to the Grand Jury's findings regarding law enforcement (and other public safety) radio communications, I would share my thoughts as to what might best serve Millbrae and our residents. Though I recognize the FCC mandate to implement the bandwidth change by 2013, that is still six years away, and it will have limited enhancement for law enforcement. I believe that time and resources would be better spent implementing 911 capability of cellular telephones, a matter mandated by the FCC to be implemented over a year ago.

Currently, all 911 calls on cell phones are answered in Vallejo by the California Highway Patrol. These calls are then transferred to the appropriate call center (Millbrae moved to San Mateo County last January and does not operate a law enforcement dispatch center). Thus, all 911 calls

Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
August 3, 2006
Page 2

on a cell phone for police, fire, and medical are delayed by transfer. Emergency response would be faster if the technology were put in place to have those calls answered directly by the responding agency (in Millbrae's case that would be San Mateo County in Redwood City). This requirement of 911 calls being directed to the responding agency was mandated by the FCC over a year ago, and has been implemented in many other states and regions. San Mateo County is currently studying this implementation. I believe that for our community, with so many cell phone users, this should be a priority over the implementation of 2013 bandwidth changes.

Thank you for the reports and for receiving my comments.

Sincerely,

Ralph L. Jaeck
City Manager

cc: City Council
Dennis Haag, Fire Chief
Tom Hitchcock, Police Chief

August 11, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

**Re: Pacifica's Response to FCC-Mandated Changes in
County Law Enforcement Radio Networks**

Dear Hon. Judge Hall:

The following is our response to the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury:

- 1) N/A - Does not apply to the City of Pacifica
- 2) We agree with the finding that Pacifica will ensure that equipment will perform satisfactorily in all parts of the City. This has already been performed and we continue to monitor this aspect on a continual basis.
- 3) We also agree with the finding that Pacifica will cooperate with other cities and with the Sheriff and ISD to ensure communications systems in the county will comply with the FCC regulations that take effect in 2013 and will match or exceed the performance of existing radios.

A time table in this finding is not appropriate as this finding is ongoing at the present time with no plans to change or alter our policies. We continually adhere to this finding.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Tanner
City Manager

JMT:yfd

Cc: Mayor and City Council
Chief of Police – Jim Saunders

Mayor Barbara Pierce
Vice Mayor Rosanne Foust

Council Members
Alicia Aguirre
Ian Bain
Jim Hartnett
Diane Howard
Jeff Ira



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October 9, 2006

The Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice, 400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report: "Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks"

Dear Judge Hall:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury recommendations as contained in its report dated July 19, 2006. Specifically, I am responding to recommendations two and three, as those are the ones which apply to municipalities.

The City Council and the Redwood City Police Department concur with the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury regarding the need to optimize the performance of law enforcement radio networks.

City police staff continues to work with the San Mateo County Information Services Department to this end, and we're happy to report good progress as the result of our mutual efforts thus far. Additionally, the City will continue to work cooperatively with other agencies within the County to ensure that our radio network is compliant with FCC regulations that will take effect in the year 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Pierce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" being more prominent than the last name "Pierce".

Barbara Pierce
Mayor

cc: Members, City Council
Ed Everett, City Manager
Carlos Bolanos, Police Chief



Larry Franzella
Mayor

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

MAYOR

September 28, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Hall,

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the report prepared by the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury as it relates to FCC Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks. The report correctly identifies and summarizes the critical issues associated with law enforcement communication now and in the immediate future.

The City of San Bruno, along with other public safety agencies throughout San Mateo County, has a long standing commitment to provide and maintain a radio system for public safety personnel that meets their current needs and insures interoperability should the need arise. Consistent with that objective, equipment purchases in recent years have considered the transition to a narrow band format as mandated by the FCC. In addition, equipment reserve funding is evaluated on an ongoing basis and any acquisition of mobile, portable or base station radio equipment that is required will be completed prior to the FCC mandated implementation date.

We have reviewed the response prepared by the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association and concur, in all respects, with those comments. For many years San Mateo County has maintained a radio system that included features that have been envied by other counties. We are confident that the current system will continue to evolve and provide the communication that residents and law enforcement staff have come to expect.

Sincerely,

Larry Franzella, Mayor
City of San Bruno

Date

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

**Re: Grand Jury Report: Summary of Preparing for
FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks**

Dear Judge Hall:

Please consider this letter the response of the City Council of the City of San Carlos to the above Grand Jury Report forwarded by letter of July 19, 2006 from John C. Fitton. The letter requested a response on or before October 17, 2006.

Grand Jury Report: Summary of Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks

Response to Findings

1. All law enforcement personnel interviewed stated that the county-wide digital radio network does not currently perform as well as expected. The initial trial of digital radios by the Redwood City Police Department was marred by coverage gaps and the poor performance of handheld radios inside buildings. The Redwood City Police Department has subsequently switched to the digital radio network and is working with ISD to optimize its performance in Redwood City.

Response - We agree with this finding.

2. The proponents of the digital network in ISD believe the following:

The digital system offers capabilities not available with analog equipment, e.g., message encryption and data transmission.

Analog radio equipment will not perform as well as digital equipment with narrowband channels.

Their current efforts to improve system performance will correct both the real and perceived shortcomings.

Response - We agree with this finding.

3. Most of the local police departments are reluctant to forsake their existing analog radio systems and migrate to the County's digital system because the digital system does not perform as well as their existing systems.

Response - We agree with this finding. In addition, the digital radio equipment currently costs between three and five times more than equal quality analog equipment.

4. It is critically important that handheld radios function properly in all locations, including within buildings. Most local police departments have installed enough analog receivers to guarantee satisfactory performance of their current systems.

Response - We agree with this finding.

5. Some local police departments have purchased analog radios that are capable of either wide or narrowband operation, and those agencies have stated that they plan to convert their radios to narrowband channels when necessary, i.e., before 2013.

Response - We agree with this finding.

6. Local police departments have conducted some experiments with narrowband channels, and the results show that they can expect to successfully convert their existing analog networks to conform to the FCC mandate.

Response. We agree with this finding.

7. There is a significant difference in the cost of the two types of radio: a mobile radio suitable for use on the county digital network costs roughly three times as much (\$3500 vs. \$1200) as an analog radio used by local police departments. A digital receiving/transmitting station costs more than an analog station. The station recently added atop the Hall of Justice cost approximately \$500,000.

Response - We agree with this finding.

8. When officers from different local police departments communicate by radio, their conversations must travel over the County digital network. The call originates from a handheld or mobile radio and is transmitted as an analog signal to a base station. There the signal is digitized and transmitted over the County digital network to a base station in the second jurisdiction. The signal is then converted back to analog and transmitted to an officer in the field.

Response - We agree with this finding.

9. The typical life of base station radios is 12 to 15 years. Mobile radios typically last seven to ten years and handheld radios five to seven years. Analog radio technology is mature and will be less commonly used in 20 years. Digital radio technology is much newer and is still evolving. It is expected to become less expensive in the future and it may eventually replace analog technology.

Response - We agree with this finding.

Response to Conclusions

1. It is essential that the acknowledged performance shortcomings of the County's digital radio network be corrected so that the safety of officers in the field is not compromised.

Response - We agree with this conclusion.

2. Local police departments are correct to insist that any radio technology they employ must provide excellent performance with both mobile and handheld radios.

Response - We agree with this conclusion.

3. The analog radio users that plan to convert their radios to narrowband operation need to know with certainty that narrowband analog equipment will perform satisfactorily and meet future requirements.

Response - We agree with this conclusion.

4. The proponents of the digital radio network and the users of the many analog radio networks disagree on whether analog radios will perform satisfactorily with narrowband channels.

Response - We agree with this conclusion.

5. Given the interdependence of the radio users and the climate of changing radio technology, the parties involved need to manage the evolution of the public safety communication system with minimum disruption and maximum efficiency.

Response - We agree with this conclusion.

Response to Recommendations

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors 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.

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 - Not applicable to the City.

2. The Grand Jury also recommends that the City Council of every city or town that plans to employ narrowband analog radios in 2013 should ensure that that equipment will perform satisfactorily in all parts of their jurisdiction.

Response - We have already reviewed the capability of the equipment.

3. The City Council of every city or town should ensure that its city cooperates with other cities and with the Sheriff and ISD 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 - We agree to cooperate to meet the 2013 date.

As an additional response to this issue, please see the letter from the Police Chiefs Association, Exhibit A hereto, and also a letter of February 6, 2006 from San Carlos Police Chief Greg Rothaus.

Sincerely,

Mayor



Office of the City Manager
330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 522-7000
Fax: (650) 522-7001

October 15, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors 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.
 - 1.2. The Sheriff and ISD work together with local police departments to ensure that communications 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.
The City of San Mateo agrees with the finding. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented as part of the coordinated effort with the other cities, towns, and County under the leadership and direction of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association and San Mateo County Fire Chiefs Association.
2. The Grand Jury also recommends that the City Council of every city or town that plans to employ narrowband analog radios in 2013 should ensure that that equipment will perform satisfactorily in all parts of their jurisdiction.
The City of San Mateo agrees with the finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future as part of the coordinated effort with the other cities, towns, and County under the leadership and direction of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association and San Mateo County Fire Chiefs Association.
3. The City Council of every city or town should ensure that its city cooperates with other cities and with the Sheriff and ISD to ensure that communication systems in the County will comply with FCC regulations that take effect in 2013 and will match or exceed the performance of existing radio systems.
The City of San Mateo agrees with the finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future as part of the coordinated effort with the other cities, towns, and County under the leadership and direction of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association and Fire Chiefs Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Arne Croce
City Manager

August 7, 2006

Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Hall:

On behalf of the City of South San Francisco, I am responding to the Grand Jury's report, Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks, which contains findings and recommendations pertaining to our agency.

First, I would like to thank you and the Grand Jury for your study of the Law Enforcement Radio Network. As the report indicates, our agency is currently utilizing an analog system and plans to continue to do so.

Based on our information, we will be able to comply with the FCC-mandated bandwidth with our analog system by 2013. Our city will have to purchase new mobile radios, which coincidentally are due for replacement. The challenge to the county agencies is going to be the timing of the transition to minimize the reprogramming of each radio every time an agency complies.

Within this next year we will develop an implementation plan, which we will share with the other agencies in the county.

Again, I would like to express my appreciation for the time devoted to this study.

Sincerely,

Mark Raffaelli
Chief of Police

cc: Mayor Joe Fernekes



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.

(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.



SAN MATEO COUNTY POLICE CHIEFS & SHERIFF ASSOCIATION

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

September 09, 2006

Dear Judge Hall,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2005-2006 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury's report on the FCC mandated changes in law enforcement radio networks for San Mateo County. On behalf of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association, I applaud the Grand Jury's efforts and concern for the future communications needs of law enforcement.

For many years now, the Communications & Technology subcommittee of the Chiefs Association as well as the Communications Managers Association has kept radio coverage issues at the forefront of our respective agendas. Over the years, we have also been closely tracking the evolving dates of mandatory FCC frequency re-farming requirements. As memory serves, in the early 1990's it was announced that there was a mandatory narrow band migration date set for 1998. That date was then postponed out to 2004 and of course as we know now, that revised migration date is January 1, 2013. All the while, SMC agencies were positioning themselves to budget and acquire base station, mobile and portable radio units that would meet or exceed the inevitability of the FCC narrow band migration requirements.

At the time of this writing, most of the cities within San Mateo County already possess the equipment necessary to meet or exceed the aforementioned 2013 mandate. Those that do not have all the radio equipment have budgeted capital replacement radio plans that will ensure they do.

The biggest challenge that faces us relative to the 2013 mandate is the well planned, synchronized and timely switch over of all the base stations, mobile and portable radio units to narrow band for all the cities using analog systems. This county-wide coordinated effort will be developed and orchestrated by representatives of the Communications & Technology committee who will then work with the individual cities to ensure an orderly conversion.

I feel that the recommendations in the Grand Jury's report (1; 1.1; 1.2; 2; & 3) are both reasonable and forward thinking. We are in agreement on all the suggested points.

The membership of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs & Sheriff Association are committed to providing the citizens of San Mateo County with the highest quality emergency services possible, and complying with the 2013 FCC mandate is one piece of this strategy which we are aggressively meeting head-on.

Thank you again for allowing me to review and respond to the report prepared by the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury and please pass on my thanks to them for the outstanding work that they perform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M" and last name "O'Connor" clearly distinguishable.

Chief Matthew O'Connor, President
San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association

cc: Members, San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association

September 26, 2006

Hon. Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center: 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Stephen M. Hall:

In February 2006 and at the request of the Grand Jury, the Town of Atherton responded to the Analog to Digital conversion of police radio systems. On July 24, 2006, we received the completed report that was a compilation of the input from the cities throughout the County.

The Town of Atherton is in agreement with the findings, conclusions and recommendations made by the Grand Jury. In my opinion, it is inevitable that radio technology will migrate to narrow band width and the digital format. As you are aware, most of the cities and towns in San Mateo County are smaller in area, population and employ less staff than the counties that surround us. The cost of the conversion will continue to be the biggest obstacle to individual jurisdictions as we approach the 2013 deadline. As pointed out in the report, the County and Redwood City spent \$24 million on a system that services just two jurisdictions out of the 21 within San Mateo County. An estimate for the Town of Atherton to convert to the digital format is in excess of \$700,000 and continued service costs during the life of the system. In personnel terms, that equals at least 7 police officer FTE's. With an authorized sworn staff of 23, it would have a devastating affect on departments our size.

I have been encouraged by the information coming from the Federal Government regarding the Homeland Security dollars being spent on compatible communications systems (Interoperability) for both Fire and Police. It is critical that the county spend these dollars toward a county wide digital system not only to defray costs to the cities and towns, but to create a Bay Area wide system that can serve all public safety.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Brennan
Atherton Police Chief



TOWN OF COLMA

1198 El Camino Real • Colma, California 94014-3212

Tel 650-997-8300 • Fax 650-997-8308

October 18, 2006

City Council

Helen Fiscaro
Mayor

Frossanna "Fro" Valleriga
Vice Mayor

C. R. "Larry" Formalejo
Council Member

Philip J. Lum, Jr.
Council Member

Joseph Silva
Council Member

City Officials

Diane McGrath
City Manager

Laura Allen
Assistant City Manager

Robert L. Lotti
Chief of Police

Rae P. Gonzalez
City Treasurer

Roger Peters
City Attorney

Richard Mao
City Engineer

Andrea Ouse
City Planner

Brian Dossey
Director of Recreation
Services

Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Please accept this letter as the response from the Colma Police Department regarding the upgrade of our analog radio system to meet the FCC requirements in 2013. With respect to the recommendations listed in the report the Town agrees with recommendation 1.2, 2, and 3, listed on page 32 of the report.

After discussing this matter with our consultant, and after his review of the FCC mandate from December of 2004, it appears that the Colma Police Department will be able to meet the FCC 2013 mandate. We recently completed a radio upgrade at a significant cost to the Town and our consultant ensured us we would be able to meet the new narrowband requirement.

Lastly, the Colma Police Department actively participates in the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association. Our association has discussed this issue and our President, Matthew O'Connor of the Hillsborough Police Department, has submitted a letter detailing the ability and desire of the local agencies, Colma included, to comply with the FCC mandate.

Thank you for bringing the matter to my attention and allowing me to address these very important concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert Lotti
Chief of Police

cc: City Manager Diane McGrath
Town of Colma City Council



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

1600 FLORIBUNDA AVENUE

HILLSBOROUGH

CALIFORNIA

94010-6418

October 10, 2006

Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA. 94063-1655

re: ***FCC-Mandated Changes in County Law Enforcement Radio Networks &
Disaster Preparedness Training for Residents of Cities in San Mateo County***

Dear Judge Hall:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations in the above referenced reports. The Hillsborough City Council has been advised that the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association undertook the task of constructively analyzing and responding to the report on radio frequency migration relative to items that reference our local jurisdiction. The Hillsborough City Council was also provided with a comprehensive response on disaster preparedness from the San Mateo County Fire Chief's Association.

On behalf of the Town of Hillsborough, the Hillsborough City Council agrees with the findings of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association's collaborative response to this report. Please see attached President Matthew O'Connor's letter to the Grand Jury regarding the report on mandatory radio frequency migration to narrow band in San Mateo County.

Additionally, please see attached President Bill Reilly's response on disaster preparedness. The City Council will endeavor to lead by example by continuing to be active participants in disaster readiness training and will ensure that Hillsborough works in conjunction with Central County Fire representatives along with SMCO OES to provide awareness training and support for our residents.

The Hillsborough City Council appreciates the efforts that the Grand Jury has undertaken to maintain and improve the quality of public service to San Mateo County residents. We are confident that the recommendations made by the Grand Jury will ensure positive transitions for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Kasten", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas M. Kasten, Mayor
Town of Hillsborough

cc: City Council
City Manager
Police Department

November 9, 2006

Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

**Re: 2005 – 2006 Grand Jury Report - Preparing for FCC-Mandated Changes in
County Law Enforcement Radio Networks**

Dear Judge Hall:

The Town of Portola Valley has reviewed the above captioned Grand Jury Report and on behalf of the Town Council, I offer the Town's response.

The Town of Portola Valley does not operate its own radio system and is therefore not directly impacted by the FCC mandate concerning the bandwidth change. We receive our police services through a contract with the County of San Mateo and this includes radio service. We are fully prepared, however, to work cooperatively with the Sheriff and all other law enforcement agencies to ensure that the FCC mandate is met on a county-wide basis. We thank the Grand Jury for bringing this to our attention.

Please call our Town Administrator, Angela Howard, if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Steve Toben Mayor

cc: Town Council
Town Administrator
Town Attorney

July 26, 2006

The Honorable Stephen M. Hall
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

**RE: 2005-06 GRAND JURY REPORT – PREPARING FOR FCC-MANDATED
CHANGES IN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIO NETWORKS AND
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CITIES OF
SAN MATEO COUNTY**

Dear Judge Hall:

The Town of Woodside received a copy of each of the above captioned Grand Jury Reports on July 19, 2006, and the staff has studied the reports and recommendations contained therein. On behalf of the Town Council, I would like to offer the Town's formal response.

The Town of Woodside does not operate its own radio system and is therefore not directly impacted by the FCC mandate concerning the bandwidth change. We receive our police services through a contract with the County of San Mateo and this includes radio service. We are fully prepared, however, to work cooperatively with the Sheriff and all other law enforcement agencies to ensure that the FCC mandate is met on a county-wide basis. We thank the Grand Jury for bringing this to our attention.

The Town of Woodside is served by the Woodside Fire Protection District and the Citizens for Emergency Response and Preparedness Program (CERPP). The Town was instrumental in the formation of CERPP in the late 1990's and has provided over \$60,000 in direct financial support to the organization, in addition to staff support. We remain committed to CERPP's success and continuing training programs. It is gratifying to see that CERPP is responsible for one of the most active disaster preparedness training programs in the County. The members of the Town Council are also individually supportive of CERPP's mission and we are willing to commit ourselves to the training recommended by the Grand Jury in order to demonstrate leadership in this area.

On behalf of the Town Council, I would like to extend our thanks to the Grand Jury for its work and for an opportunity to respond to the work of the 2005-06 Grand Jury. Please do not hesitate to call our Town Manager, Susan George, should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gordon
Mayor
Town of Woodside