SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
RESPONSE TO THE 2004-2005 GRAND JURY REPORT

A Disaster Waiting To Happen!

A Joint Response to Findings and Recommendations is being submitted separately.

Housing Assistance for Sworn Officers

FINDINGS, Page 47

F2. Sonoma County invests money and time into the training of officers. The goals are to retain these trained officers long term and have all law enforcement sworn officers live within the county boundaries, not only for safety reasons but to be an integral part of the community.

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding, however, reaching that goal may not be attainable. The Sheriff's Department currently retains a very high percentage of its sworn personnel with very few leaving to work for other law enforcement agencies. Current housing costs are placing a burden on our current and future employees. Due to the geographics of our county, the fact that a deputy lives in the county does not necessarily guarantee a quicker emergency response time. For example, a deputy who lives in Middletown (Lake County) would have a quicker response time than a deputy who lives in Sea Ranch or other areas of our county. The Department agrees that the community benefits when sworn law enforcement officers live in Sonoma County, as they can be a positive force within the community.

The Sheriff's Department would be willing to participate in county or regional discussions on this issue.

F3. In some law enforcement agencies, more than 10% of the sworn officers live outside of Sonoma County due to the high cost of housing.

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.

For the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, less than 10% of the sworn officers live outside of Sonoma County. The Department agrees this is an important issue, and is monitoring the percentage rate for any increases in the number of deputies living outside the county.

Protecting the County Assets

FINDINGS, Pages 61-62

F23. As well as the Dispatch Center, the Sheriff's Department has other technology bases that are critical to its operation (or will increasingly be so). The "A Disaster Waiting to Happen" report noted that the current radio network design had a good level of redundancy and more was in the planning stage. The report also noted that the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Consortium (SCLEC) was housed on a single computer system that was a single point of failure, and a plan is needed to reduce such exposure.

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F24. The Sheriff's Department has the capability to develop internal systems for use by the deputy sheriffs. ISD is not involved in the development of such systems, but it may well house the equipment on which they are based. The backup and recovery of such systems is not visible to ISD, unless the Sheriff's Department specially requests it.

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS, Page 64

This response covers both the Sheriff's and the Dispatch Manager's responses.

R16. Work with ISD to identify a cost-effective "non-stop" solution to protect the SCLEC system.

RESPONSE:

The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Department has been working with ISD to identify a workable solution and concurs with the ISD response, which is as follows:

County ISD Response: A "non-stop" solution can be made, at significant expense. This would require new connections between each agency and the separate locations, as well as a real time transfer of information between the two locations. There are many different network designs that could be deployed, but there are not "many" solutions for this that is financially feasible. The Department will evaluate backup systems and related costs with the consortium partners as part of the SCLEC program planning process.

The timeframe for implementation is undetermined at this point, however, the evaluation by the SCLEC will be included in the program planning process.

Protecting the County Assets
(Cont'd)

RECOMMENDATIONS, Page 64

R17. Work with ISD to determine cost-effective back-up solutions for internally developed systems.

RESPONSE:

The recommendation has been implemented.

After reviewing all internal Department systems used by deputies, only one does not have an adequate backup and recovery system. All other noted systems already have backup and recovery systems controlled either by ISD or by Sheriff Personnel, which involve moving data off-site. The backup and recovery of the electronic Policy and Procedure Manual files, however, will be changed. Currently "hard copies" (paper copies) of the Department Policy and Procedure Manual are available at all times throughout the county. Copies are also located in four electronic locations (the Sheriff's Intranet server housed in the Sheriff's Department, 2 IT staff workstations in the Sheriff's Department, and an additional copy on a backup web server at ISD). Although this does allow easy access to the information, none of the electronic data is moved off-site. The Sheriff's Department will now maintain an additional copy of the Department Policy and Procedure Manual on the Sheriff's ISD server (where all files are part of an ISD backup and recovery system).