

AUG 24 2007



COUNTY OF SONOMA
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FIRE SERVICES • EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT • HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

VERNON A. LOSH II, DIRECTOR

August 24, 2007

GRAND JURY

SEP 18 2007

RECEIVED

Hon. Robert S. Boyd
Presiding Superior Court Judge
Sonoma County Superior Court
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Department Of Emergency Services Response to Grand Jury Report
"Sonoma County Employees – Waiting to be Trained for Disaster"

Dear Honorable Judge Boyd:

The following is the response to the 2006 Grand Jury Report investigation report titled "Waiting to Be Trained for Disaster", Recommendation R4 (page 22).

Develop, implement, and monitor a strategy and plan that ensures all County Employees complete the National Incident Management System course by the end of calendar year 2007.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented.

Our goal is to have all County employees trained in NIMS by the end of 2007, which we are confident we will meet. As of July 24, 2007, fifty-four SEMS/NIMS trainings have been conducted with an additional fifty-five scheduled through the end of the year with approximately 54% of County employees receiving the training to date.

The County received training, in August 2006, that enabled us to implement NIMS. The Board of Supervisors quickly adopted NIMS as our emergency management system in September 2006 (See Resolution 06-0840), and the Department of Emergency Services (DES) has been providing federally mandated NIMS training since October 2006. In addition, the County has long had a robust Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) training, which was implemented in 1996. SEMS is very similar to NIMS. A formal SEMS/NIMS implementation plan was developed and executed in November 2006. NIMS training opportunities are offered in several ways including: the County's New Employee Orientation, Human Resources "Dealing with Disasters" course, individual County department presentations, and the Sheriff's Department POST-approved curriculum for their sworn personnel. The Human Resources Department has

approved curriculum for their sworn personnel. The Human Resources Department has developed a database to document and track all SEMS/NIMS training for County employees.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Covall-Alves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sandy Covall-Alves
Emergency Services Coordinator

- c: Board of Supervisors
- Denise Gordon, Court Executive Officer
- Bob Deis, County Administrator
- Janice Atkinson, County Clerk