Board of Supervisors Response to
“Weathering A Disaster” Grand Jury Report

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Board of Supervisors provide a continuing protected source of revenue to improve and maintain the deteriorating County Road System.

Response: Recommendation has been implemented.

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2001-2002, annually the Board of Supervisors has allocated an average of $7.4 million in ongoing General Fund Revenues. The lowest allocation during that time period was in FY 2011-2012, when the General Fund contribution was reduced to $5.3 million, as a result of extreme countywide budget reductions. In both FY 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 the Board allocated $7.5 million in ongoing General Fund support, as well as contributing an additional $8 million from other one-time sources to provide road maintenance and pavement preservation activities, and improve safety and pavement quality in the unincorporated County.

R2. The Fire and Emergency Services Department monitor the progress of the Telephone Emergency Notification System and devote resources to inform the public of the activation and benefit of the system.

Response: Recommendation has been implemented.

With the support of the Board of Supervisors, the Fire & Emergency Services Department, Sheriff’s Office and Information Systems Department is working to install, test and implement a more robust and capable Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS). The Board recently approved a cost sharing and usage agreement with the City of Santa Rosa that allowed for a 33% increase in the TENS dialing capacity. Department staff monitor the system and dedicate a portion of their time to inform the public about the system.

R3. The Fire and Emergency Services Department work with the Board of Supervisors to create and continually fund a position dedicated to outreach education and disaster preparation of residents.

Response: Recommendation has been implemented.

The Board of Supervisors believes that the Fire and Emergency Services Department has sufficient staff to respond to requests for public outreach and education on disaster preparedness. There are three staff members who have outreach included in their job duties and the responsibilities are shared among the staff.
R4. The Department of Health Services update the “Pocket Guide to Emergency Preparedness” and continue to maintain it with current information.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The paper version of the “Pocket Guide to Emergency Preparedness” is updated periodically with current information, as additional copies are printed. The Board of Supervisors encourages those who are not familiar with this useful guide to request a copy by calling 707-565-1152 or print an updated version from the Health Services website http://www.sonoma-county.org/health/topics/pdf/ep_guide.pdf

R5. The Fire and Emergency Services Department develop a program to distribute the “Pocket Guide to Emergency Preparedness,” particularly to rural residents.

Response: Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The Guide is widely available to the public as it is available at County offices, through the rural fire districts and volunteer fire companies, and on line. Also, Health Services and Fire and Emergency Services departments have made available the pocket guide by request to any individuals, community groups or organizations that wish to use or distribute them, regardless of their location within the County.