



County of Orange  
C a l i f o r n i a

**Thomas G. Mauk**  
County Executive Officer

July 22, 2008

Ann Avery Andres, Foreperson  
Superior Court of California  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92702

**Subject:** Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Can the  
Emergency Operations Center at Loma Ridge Survive a  
Disaster"

Dear Ms. Andres:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, enclosed please find the County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Stanberry at (714) 834-3727 in the County Executive Office who will either assist you or direct you to the appropriate individual.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas G. Mauk".

Thomas G. Mauk  
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

TGM/tts

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10 Civic Center Plaza  
Third Floor  
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**2007-08 Grand Jury Report**  
**“Can the Emergency Operations Center at Loma Ridge Survive Disaster?”**  
**Response to Findings and Recommendations**

**Response to Findings**

**F-1**    **HVAC System:** The HVAC systems are inadequate for the Emergency Operations Center facility because they lack a smoke filtration system.

*Response:*    *Agrees with finding.*

**F-2**    **Sewage System:** The sewage system is barely adequate for the present staffing level. Any increase in staffing will overload the system and require daily, or more frequent, trips of the sewage pump truck.

F-2.1            In case of a blocked access road due to fire or earthquake the sewage would not be able to be pumped out, potentially rendering the Emergency Operations Center inoperable.

*Response F-2:*            *Agrees with finding.*

*Response F-2.1:*            *Disagrees partially with the finding.*

If a catastrophic event were to block the access road to the EOC, there is a contingency plan to dispatch portable restrooms to the site using unpaved access roads. Furthermore, the EOC would be relocated if it were ever to become inoperable at its current site during activation.

**F-3**    **Fire Suppression:** The Emergency Operations Center uses water for its fire suppression system in vital equipment areas that house computer servers, critical telecommunications systems, and backup batteries. The release of water will damage all electronic equipment in the vicinity and the system responds only when a fire has substantially developed.

*Response:*    *Agrees with finding.*

**F-4**    **Uninterruptible Power Supply:** The four Liebert Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems used in the critical electrical service are nearing the end of their rated design life of 20 years, according to the manufacturer specifications. The demand on these units has exceeded the desired “less than 50% of available capacity.”

*Response:*    *Agrees with finding.*

**Response to Recommendations**

**R-1b HVAC System:** The Board of Supervisors approve the request for the retrofit of the HVAC units for FY 2008-2009, labeled "Install Air Filtration System" at the Loma Ridge Facility to be submitted by the Sheriff-Coroner, and prioritize the budgetary process to support installation before the 2009 fire season.

***Response:***     *The recommendation has been implemented.*

**R-2b Sewage System:** The Orange County Board of Supervisors approve the aforementioned funding request upon submission.

***Response:***     *The recommendation requires further analysis.*

The Sheriff-Coroner is currently completing cost estimations for improving the disposal of sewage at the EOC. Sheriff-Coroner expects to complete its evaluation by July 31, 2008. Once the matter is placed on the Board agenda, it will be considered by the Board of Supervisors.

**R-3b Fire Suppression System:** The Orange County Board of Supervisors approve the aforementioned funding request upon submission.

***Response:***     *The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.*

In fiscal year 2007-2008, appropriations of \$800,000 were set aside to acquire a clean agent fire suppression system; however, the project was unable to begin. Funds of \$800,000 have now been appropriated in fiscal 2008-2009 to undertake the project.