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**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA**

**SANDRA HUTCHENS
SHERIFF-CORONER**

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June 20, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92702

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

Judge Wieben Stock:

Per your request and in accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find the Orange County Sheriff's Department response to the above referenced FY 07-08 Grand Jury Report.

If you have any questions regarding this response document, please contact Executive Director Rick Dostal at (714) 647-1803.

Respectfully,

Sandra Hutchens
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Ann Andres, Grand Jury Foreman
Members, Board of Supervisors
Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer

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ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF-CORONER
SANDRA HUTCHENS



CAN THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
CENTER AT LOMA RIDGE SURVIVE A
DISASTER?

JUNE 2008

GRAND JURY RESPONSE

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
GRAND JURY RESPONSE
CAN THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER AT LOMA RIDGE SURVIVE A DISASTER?

Dear members of the Grand Jury,

The Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Bureau has received and reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report titled "Can the Emergency Operations Center at Loma Ridge Survive a Disaster? We have discussed the findings in a collaborative effort with necessary personnel and have prepared the following response for the OCSD Emergency Management Bureau:

Finding 1

The HVAC systems are inadequate for the Emergency Operations Center facility because they lack a smoke filtration system.

Response: Agree with the finding

There is an existing Sheriff-Coroner Department "HVAC Damper" project, funded by Prop 172 savings, in process as referenced in the Grand Jury report (Pg. 4). The status of this project as of 5/6/08 is that the selected contractor is undergoing Insurance Review. The anticipated schedule for completion of this project is August 1, 2008. While this is not an air filtration system it does allow staff to shut off intake of outside air during heavy smoke conditions.

Finding 2

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.



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Response: Agree with the finding

Although the current system proved to be adequate during recent staffing and EOC activation requirements for the Santiago fires; the system was not "overloaded" during this activation period. The best long term solution requires tie in to local sewer lines that are estimated to be 2.7 miles away. This solution would prove to be very costly. Another solution would be the addition of a second sewage tank. This solution would be costly and would not eliminate the concern listed on item F-2.1.

Finding 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: Disagree partially with the finding

If normal access was not available, portable restrooms can be dispatched to the site using unpaved access roads. In a worst case scenario, we could revert to a secondary EOC location.

Finding 3

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.



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Response: Agree with the finding

The Sheriff-Coroner Department has an approved capital project that is funded by Prop 172 savings (14Q / Org P744) for a "Dry Fire Suppression System" at Loma Ridge. The scope of this project is limited to 4,135 square feet. The Grand Jury report refers to a total square footage of 5,021 (Pg. 6). Although funding has been reserved, there are concerns that the funding amount is inadequate to support either scope of this project based on recent feedback from another agency's dry fire suppression projects.

The status of this project as of 5/6/08 is Scope Development.

Finding 4

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: Agree with the finding

The Sheriff-Coroner Department has an approved capital project that is funded by Prop 172 savings (14Q / Org P624) for a "Replace UPS Systems at Loma". The scope of this project is noted in the Grand Jury report (Pg. 6).

The status of this project as of 5/6/08 is that the system design is in Plan Check. The target date for Board of Supervisors approval to take this project out for bid is July 29, 2008. The anticipated schedule for project completion is September 2009.



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Recommendation 1a

The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department complete the installation of the "HVAC Damper" project before the start of the 2008 summer fire season.

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

This project is in process with a timeframe for implementation on or before August 1, 2008. Insurance review is expected to be complete in two weeks. There is also an addition of CO2 sensors. Wiring installation for these sensors is complete. A purchase requisition for the sensor hardware is in process. These sensors are available and on the shelf. This project will be completed prior to HVAC Damper project completion.

Recommendation 2a

The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department submit a funding request to the Orange County Board of Supervisors for one of the following items:

- *A larger sewage holding tank to replace the existing tank, or an additional holding tank to supplement the existing tank*

or

- *Connect the Emergency Operation Center to the nearest public sewer system, near the intersection of Jamboree Road and Santiago Canyon Road, a distance of about 2.7 miles*



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

A funding request will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval after the completion of a costing estimation. The time frame for implementation is on or before July 31, 2008.

Recommendation 3a

The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department submit to the Orange County Board of Supervisors a request to adequately fund a clean agent fire extinguishing system in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2001 Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing systems, (2004 edition). This clean agent fire extinguishing system will cover the areas as detailed in the report.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation as stated below.

The dry fire suppression project is a funded project and is currently in Scope Development. At this stage of the project, a timeframe for implementation cannot be accurately stated. The Grand Jury recommendations for the type of clean agent will be included in the scope development process.

The recommended system coverage is greater than the original budgeted scope of work. This will require a cost analysis and a funding request to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval after the completion of a costing estimation.



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Recommendation 4

The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner's Department replace the existing four Liebert UPS units with four other units of 60 to 80 Kva each.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation on or before September 2009.

This project is in process. The current UPS replacement project includes the replacement of the current Liebert UPS systems. Four new 80Kva UPS systems will be installed. The system design is currently in plan check.

