



May 27, 2008

Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Stock,

The City of Dana Point has received and reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report titled "PARADISE LOST: If a Tsunami Strikes the Orange County Rivera..." In the process of developing this response, the City's Emergency and Support Services Manager met with representatives from the other named coastal jurisdictions, and County of Orange Emergency Management Division, to coordinate our respective responses to this report and to identify potential efforts aimed at addressing several of the findings identified by the Grand Jury.

Please find below the official response to reported findings and associated recommendations in the City of Dana Point.

Finding No.1

The Sheriff Department's existing tsunami inundation maps are inconsistent with those used by the two largest coastal cities, appear to minimize the threat and could contribute to misinformed decision-making during a crisis.

Response

The City of Dana Point agrees with the facts identified in Finding No. 1.

Recommendation No.1

The Sheriff Department's Emergency Management Bureau: Develop a plan in coordination with beach cities to standardize tsunami maps for the entire Orange County coast.

Response

This recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. This plan will require additional analysis, preparation, and collaboration with affected jurisdictions due to the complexities of aligning inundation maps with differentiated city, county and state jurisdictional responsibilities and

boundaries. Additionally, the California Office of Emergency Services will complete an update of their Orange County Tsunami Inundation Map at the end of June or the beginning of July 2008. These new state inundation maps will be reviewed when finalized. The anticipated timeframe of completion of a standardized map will coincide with the planned revision of the Orange County Operational Area Tsunami Annex due during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Finding No.2

Existing tsunami sign along roadways are small, difficult to read and, in at least one city, not visible to visitors driving into the tsunami hazard zone.

Response

The City of Dana Point agrees with the facts identified in Finding No. 2.

Recommendation No.2a

All beach cities and the County on behalf of Sunset Beach: Replace all small and medium sized tsunami signs with the largest tsunami signs authorized by Caltrans.

Response

This recommendation will be implemented by the City in a phased manner in the future, but with the medium sized signs. The City will begin to deploy the 18-inch medium size signage as the existing signs require replacement due to damage, vandalism and/or theft. We believe that the 18-inch signs will be of sufficient size to provide better visibility as drivers approach the tsunami hazard zone and will not overly disrupt the public sentiment within our community. The process of sign replacement is anticipated to be completed by the end of the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Recommendation No.2b

All beach cities and the County on behalf of Sunset Beach: Post the largest tsunami hazard zone signs visible to inbound traffic on major roads and on Pacific Coast Highway if tsunami hazard signs are not already posted there.

Response

As we have previously indicated in our response to Recommendation No. 2a, the City will begin to replace all existing small size signage with the medium size 18-inch signs as we feel that this will communicate the same message in an effective and efficient manner. By adopting the medium sized sign, we will have a consistent message and theme throughout the City.

Finding No.4

Public education directed at beach visitors is inadequate, making them the least prepared and highest at-risk population in the event of a tsunami.

Response

The City of Dana Point agrees with the facts identified in Finding No. 4.

Recommendation No.4

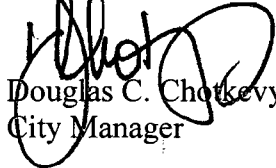
All beach cities and the Sheriff Department's Emergency Management Bureau: Develop methods to communicate tsunami public education messages to beach visitors.

Response

This recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City of Dana Point currently has tsunami related public education materials available in print at City Hall and at our Visitor Center kiosk located in the Harbor. The same information is also available on our website. We have identified several additional opportunities to reach out to the "transient" visitor population by partnering with the State Parks and having this information available at the entrance to the Doheny State Beach, and to provide the information to our County contract lifeguards at the County beaches in the City. We anticipate making these materials available, as described, by the end of the 2008 calendar year. Additional public outreach opportunities may be available through our government access television channel for future consideration.

The City of Dana Point would like to thank the Orange County Grand Jury for their dedication to public safety in Orange County. We appreciate the valuable feedback generated by this and previous reports. We hope that the City's efforts as a leader in disaster preparedness efforts in Orange County, and in the State, does not go unrecognized. The City has received national recognition as a leader in offsite nuclear power preparedness due to our level of preparedness for an emergency at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and we are proud to have been only the second City in the entire state to be recognized as "TsunamiReady" by the National Weather Service. We plan to continue our proactive efforts to make Dana Point the best city to live, work and play.

Sincerely,


Douglas C. Chotkevys
City Manager

cc: Orange County Grand Jury