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**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
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**JACK ANDERSON
ACTING AS THE
SHERIFF-CORONER**

**EXECUTIVE COMMAND STAFF
J. B. DAVIS
RICK DOSTAL
CHARLES WALTERS**

May 19, 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, "PARADISE LOST: If a Tsunami Strikes the Orange County Rivera..."

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 Assistant Sheriff J. B. Davis at (714) 647-1804

Respectfully,

Jack Anderson, Assistant Sheriff
Acting as Sheriff-Coroner

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

PROUDLY SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE COUNTY AND THE FOLLOWING CITIES AND AGENCIES:

ALISO VIEJO • DANA POINT • LAGUNA HILLS • LAGUNA NIGUEL • LAGUNA WOODS • LAKE FOREST • MISSION VIEJO
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA • SAN CLEMENTE • SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO • STANTON • VILLA PARK
OC PARKS • DANA POINT HARBOR • JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT • OCTA • SUPERIOR COURT

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IS
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Response to the Grand Jury

“PARADISE LOST: If a Tsunami Strikes the Orange County Rivera...”



**Assistant Sheriff Jack Anderson,
Acting as Sheriff**

Orange County Sheriff's Department

**J. B. Davis, Assistant Sheriff
Chief of Emergency Management
Santa Ana, California**

May 19, 2008

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Orange County Sheriff Department Response to The Grand Jury Report

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 "PARADISE LOST: If a Tsunami Strikes the Orange County Rivera..." We have discussed the findings in a collaborative effort with the coastal cities named in the report and have prepared the following response for the OCSD Emergency Management Bureau:

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

We agree with the above-entitled finding.

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, with a timeframe for implementation. 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

We agree with the above-entitled finding.

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 has not been implemented by the County, but will be partially implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation. To reduce the costs of sign purchase and replacement, as the small 12-inch signs are damaged or stolen at Sunset Beach and as current sign stocks are depleted, these signs will be replaced with 18-inch medium signage. We believe that the 18-inch signs will be sufficiently large for better legibility and greater public visibility without unnecessarily disrupting or affecting local public sentiment.

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

This recommendation requires further analysis. The Emergency Management Bureau will collaborate with Orange County Public Works Traffic Engineering to study the feasibility and necessity of placing additional signage at Sunset Beach and the placement of signage if needed. Any additional signage will be of the 18-inch medium size for the reasons listed in Recommendation No.2a. The anticipated timeframe for completion will be October 13th, 2008.

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

We agree with the above-entitled finding.

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, with a timeframe for implementation. An additional section in the Orange County Operational Area Tsunami Annex focusing solely on Public Education will be developed during the planned revision during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This section will include a public education plan and materials to be distributed to various locations that reach beach visitors to possibly include beach kiosks and life-guard towers, hotel lobbies, rental car agencies and other locations as found necessary. Additionally, San Diego County is developing a broad-based Public Safety Advisory regarding tsunami safety, which will be made available to other counties. This advisory will also be considered for incorporation into a comprehensive public education campaign.

In the past, the Emergency Management Bureau has requested the addition of staff positions specifically for public education. At this time, the Board of Supervisors has not approved additional positions. The Emergency Management Bureau will continue to seek funding for positions dedicated to the public education of our community members.

We thank the Grand Jury for their hard work and dedication and appreciate their well-researched and helpful recommendations for improving public safety in the county. Although Orange County has already been recognized as a national leader for tsunami planning and preparedness, the implementation of the agreed-to recommendations will only strengthen and reinforce that national recognition and further cement our reputation for maintaining continual improvement on excellence.