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2nd response

June 2, 2008

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

Dear Judge Stock:

The City of San Clemente is grateful for the Orange County Grand Jury's efforts to examine and evaluate Orange County's readiness in the event of a tsunami. I applaud their efforts in conducting an in-depth report on the potential for a tsunami along the County's coastline while addressing the affected cities' ability to educate its residents and tourists on tsunami hazards.

As directed by the Grand Jury, and in accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the City of San Clemente has provided its response to the following findings.

F-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.

The City of San Clemente agrees with the finding.

F-2. Existing tsunami signs along roadways are small, difficult to read and, in at least one city, not visible to visitors driving into the tsunami hazard zone.

The City of San Clemente disagrees partially with the finding. The tsunami warning signs posted in the San Clemente community have been sanctioned, approved and specifically sized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in their certificated Tsunami/Storm Ready Program.

F-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.

The recommendation has been implemented on April 16, 2008. The City of San Clemente has included information on its website at <http://web1/sc/inf/weather/beach/beachreport.aspx>, short titled "The San Clemente Beach

Report." This website receives a high number of hits locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. In addition to the Tsunami Warning sign depicted on this page, the City of San Clemente has also provided links to frequently asked questions about tsunamis and also provides tsunami information that is contained in the City's "All Hazards Emergency Plan."

R-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.

The City of San Clemente agrees with the finding.

R-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.

The City of San Clemente disagrees wholly with the finding. The City has employed the largest signs available and sanctioned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Tsunami/Storm Ready Program and is confident the signs are serving as an effective informational tool for the public.

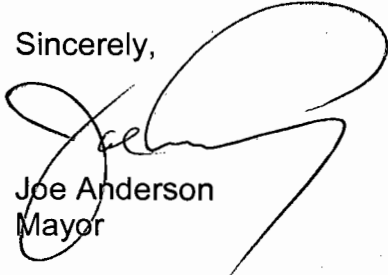
R-2b. All beach cities and the County on behalf of Sunset beach: Post the largest tsunami hazard zone signs visible to inbound traffic on major roads and on Pacific Coast Highway if tsunami hazard signs are not already posted there.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by June 6, 2008. In response to the recommendation, the City conducted a field review of the placement of the City's signage and discovered the need for two (2) additional tsunami warning signs for improved visibility to residents and tourists. These signs were just received by the City and will be placed this week on westbound Avenida Pico just before the intersection with Pacific Coast Highway and on northbound Pacific Coast Highway just before the intersection with Avenida Pico. The City believes the addition of these two signs will enable us to enhance our public outreach on tsunami warnings to visitors of the City's beaches.

R-4. All beach cities and the Sheriff Department's emergency Management Bureau: Develop methods to communicate tsunami public education messages to beach visitors.

The City of San Clemente agrees with this finding.

Sincerely,


Joe Anderson
Mayor

cc: City Councilmembers
George Scarborough, City Manager
David Lund, Director, Public Works
James Russell, Emergency Planning Officer