



City of Brea

April 3, 2003

Mr. Frederick P. Horn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Orange County Grand Jury Report, Wood Roofs are Dangerous

Dear Mr. Horn:

The Grand Jury report, "Wood Roofs Are Dangerous," has been reviewed and the following are the City's responses to the Findings and Recommendation of the report:

FINDINGS

- 1. There is a lack of uniformity in local building codes involving roofs for identical environmental conditions within Orange County.**

The City staff person responsible for overseeing the development of and the adoption process for the building codes is a member of the Orange Empire Chapter of the International Conference of Building Officials. This Chapter has a subcommittee assigned the task of promoting code uniformity throughout the county. At each adoption cycle this committee issues a set of proposed code modifications and each jurisdiction is encouraged to adopt these modifications. We will encourage this committee to review this issue raised by the Grand Jury and develop a recommendation.

- 2. The testing and qualification standards of wood shakes and shingles are below the environmental conditions of Orange County.**

The response to this finding is essentially the same as for Finding #1.

- 3. The cities' and county's roofing codes do not adequately take into account the climate, particularly the Santa Ana winds, and topographical conditions unique to Orange County.**

The response to this finding is essentially the same as Finding #1.

City Council

Bev Perry
Mayor

John Beauman
Mayor Pro Tem

Bill Lentini
Councilmember

Roy Moore
Councilmember

Marty Simonoff
Councilmember

Mr. Frederick P. Horn
February 12, 2003
Page Two

4. Fire conflagrations stress the finite fire fighting resources especially during the period of Santa Ana winds.

We concur with this statement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Each responding jurisdictional agency should consider amending the building code to require the most fire retardant class of roof covering (Class A) for new construction of all residential structures (Group R) in all fire zones.**

As indicated for Finding #1, this issue will be evaluated as part of the next code cycle adoption process.

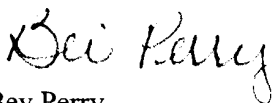
- 2. Each responding jurisdictional agency should consider amending the building code to require the most fire retardant class of roof covering (Class A) for reroofing of all residential structures (Group R) in all fire zones when more than 50 percent of the roof is replaced within one year.**

The response to this recommendation is the same as for Recommendation #1.

The City of Brea has a long history of protecting the health and safety of the general public and, during our next code adoption cycle, we will review these issues for possible inclusion as additional safety measures.

If you have any questions, please contact Brea's Building and Safety Manager, Richard Mitchell, at (714) 990-7769.

Sincerely,



Bev Perry
Mayor

cc: Richard Mitchell, Building and Safety Manager

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