



CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

October 23, 2003

Mayor

Gary Thompson

Mayor Pro Tempore

Neil C. Blais

Council Members

Carol Gamble

Jerry Holloway

James M. Thor

City Manager

D. James Hart, Ph.D.

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

Re: 2002-2003 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wood Roofs are Dangerous"

Dear Judge Horn:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wood Roofs are Dangerous". The Orange County Grand Jury is requesting that the City of Rancho Santa Margarita provide a response to each of the findings and recommendations cited in the Report, and describe the implementation status.

The Rancho Santa Margarita City Council considered the Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wood Roofs are Dangerous", at its October 22, 2003, meeting and is pleased to provide the attached responses.

If you have any questions, please contact George Wentz, Assistant City Manager, at 949.635.1800 X-201.

Sincerely,

Gary Thompson
Mayor

Attachments: Responses to Grand Jury Recommendations
City of Rancho Santa Margarita Responses to the 2002-2003
Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wood Roofs are
Dangerous"

cc: City Council

CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA RESPONSES TO THE 2002-2003 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT, "WOOD ROOFS ARE DANGEROUS"

RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY FINDINGS

In accordance with California Penal Code § 933 and § 933.05, each Grand Jury recommendation requires a response from the governmental entity to which it is addressed.

| 2002-2003 Grand Jury Findings | City of Rancho Santa Margarita Responses |
|---|--|
| Finding 1: There is a lack of uniformity in local building codes involving roofs for identical environmental conditions within Orange County. | Agree. However, not every community in Orange County has identical environmental conditions. |
| Finding 2: The testing and qualification standards of wood shakes and shingles are below the environmental conditions of Orange County. | Generally, agree. |
| Finding 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. | Generally, agree. |
| Finding 4: Fire conflagrations stress finite fire fighting resources especially during the period of Santa Ana winds. | Agree. |

RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, each Grand Jury recommendation requires a response from the government entity to which it is addressed.

| 2002-2003 Grand Jury Recommendations | City of Rancho Santa Margarita Response/Implementation Status |
|---|--|
| Recommendation 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. | Agree. During the next code adoption cycle, we will consider amending the Building Code to require a more restrictive roof-covering requirement to enhance fire safety. |
| Recommendation 2: Each responding jurisdictional agency should consider amending the Building Code to require the most fire retardant class of roof covering (Class A) for all new construction of all residential structures (Group R) in all fire zones, when more than 50 percent of the roof is replaced within one year. | Agree. During the next code adoption cycle, we will consider amending the Building Code to add a more restrictive roof-covering requirement, when more than 50 percent of the roof is replaced within one year. |