

VACAVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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HOWARD F. WOOD
FIRE CHIEF

October 13, 2021

Honorable Judge Donna L. Stashyn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Solano
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Honorable Judge Stashyn:

Re: 2020-2021 Grand Jury Report Entitled: **Wildfire on the Horizon Solano Homes at Risk!**

In response to the Grand Jury Report here are the findings and recommendations from page seven of the report with our responses:

V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDING 1 – Solano County's Fire Protection Districts are critically understaffed, under equipped, and underfunded to protect rural areas and adjacent cities from this season's wildfires and future wildfires.

AGREE

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Solano County and the Solano County Local Agency Formation Commission support immediate funding for the four FPDs.

AGREE WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT ALL FIRE DISTRICTS IN SOLANO COUNTY NEED ASSISTANCE.

FINDING 2 – While LAFCO is bringing expert advice to the table to determine the path forward to address the increasing danger from wildfires, the pace at which it is going is too slow to address immediate wildfire concerns.

AGREE

RECOMMENDATION 2 – LAFCO and Solano County separate the more immediate concerns of wildfire exposure and address those with urgency.

AGREE WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT MOST OF VACAVILLE, SUISUN & CORDELIA DISTRICT ARE IN STATE RESPONSIBILITY RESPONSE AREA. THE CODES DOES NOT RECOGNIZE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCESS AND STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION, THE DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY IS MOSTLY ON STRUCTURES. WITH THAT BEING THE CODE THE DISTRICT AND CAL-FIRE WORK TOGETHER ON THE WILDLAND SIDE OF THE FIRE. THERE HAS BEEN A PUSH TO HAVE RESIDENTS BE INVOLVED IN A "FIRE SAVE PROGRAM" WHICH IS BEING DEVELOPED CURRENTLY.

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FINDING 3 –Transitional financing is needed to equip the FPDs with new equipment and resilient firefighting techniques to adapt to the environmental changes now presented by the combined challenges of extreme heat, drought, and gale force winds along with random power outages.

AGREE

RECOMMENDATION 3 – Solano County immediately make resources available to the FPDs to deal with the new wildfire environment.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ARE WORKING ON ASSISTING VACAVILLE FIRE DISTRICT AND CORDELIA FIRE DISTRICT AT THIS TIME. IT WILL TAKE HIGHER AGENCY THAT CURRENT FIRE DISTRICT LAW OF 1964 WHICH LIMITS WHAT FIRE DISTRICTS CAN DO. I FEEL THE CODE NEEDS UPDATES BUT HAS NOT BEEN A PRIORITY FOR FIRE DISTRICTS ADVANCEMENT.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, phone 707-447-2252.

Respectfully,



Howard F. Wood
Fire Chief