



INVERNESS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

FIRE DEPARTMENT ♦ WATER SYSTEM

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May 1, 2008

The Honorable Verna Adams
Marin County Superior Court
P. O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Roberta Robinson, Foreperson
Marin County Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Grand Jury Report – Marin on Fire? Not if, but when
Report Date: April 1, 2008

Dear Judge Adams and Foreperson Robinson:

The Board of Directors of the Inverness Public Utility District met yesterday to consider the above-referenced report and respond to the Findings and Recommendations contained therein.

Enclosed please find the completed Response to Grand Jury Report Form. This letter shall serve as the attachment for explanations of the various responses.

FINDINGS

Findings F2, F4, F5, F7, F8 and F12: We cannot comment on these Findings as we are unable to verify the information presented in the individual Findings as stated; therefore we are not able to agree or disagree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: The Board of Directors has reviewed and updated its vegetation management and defensible space codes. In fact, on November 14, 2007, the Board of Directors adopted Ordinance 71-2007 adopting the 2007 California Fire Code, International Fire Code, and Uniform Fire Code, with amendments; the Findings of Fact and Need for Changes or Modifications to the California Fire Code, International Fire Code and Uniform Fire Code Because of Local Conditions; and Resolution 168-2007 ratifying Ordinance 71-2007 and Related Findings of Fact adopted by the Inverness Public Utility District and delegating enforcement of the Ordinance to the Fire Chief of the Inverness Volunteer Fire Department.

The District is in the process of reviewing various homeowner educational materials available and will make these materials available to property owners within the District by June 30, 2009.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: SCOPY A. ZOOK, PRESIDENT • MICHAEL D. MCENEANY, VICE PRESIDENT
LAURA B. ALDERDICE, TREASURER • MARK R. KRISS • KENNETH J. EMANUELS

KAAREN S. GANN, GENERAL MANAGER
JAMES K. FOX, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS (FIRE CHIEF, WATER SYSTEM SUPERINTENDENT)

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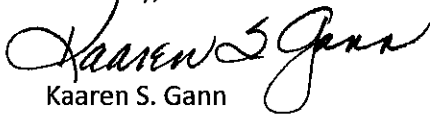
May 1, 2008

Recommendation 2: The Directors of the Board do not feel that they can agree with this Recommendation in the form that is presented and that the Grand Jury missed one of the most pressing issues facing fire departments – the effects of Sudden Oak Death.

The emphasis in this district cannot be on the enforcement of vegetation management and defensible space at this time. Sudden Oak Death has resulted in hundreds of dead and dying tan oaks and live oaks, leaving an enormous amount of fuel standing. The immediate problem is finding a way to assist public and private land owners with the cost of felling these trees on their properties. This poses a very serious public safety problem and one that should be addressed.

The District is working with federal, state, county, and local agencies in trying to find funds to fell these trees on the affected properties. This is an ongoing problem and no date for completion can be ascertained at this time.

Sincerely,



Kaaren S. Gann
General Manager

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