

**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM**

**Report Title:** MARIN ON FIRE! Not if but when.  
**Report Date:** April 1, 2008  
**Response by:** Governing Board, Tiburon Fire Protection District  
**By:** Fire Chief Richard Pearce

**FINDINGS**

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,and 9.
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 7 and 12

**(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommendations numbered 1 have been implemented.  
**(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)**
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
**(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)**
- Recommendations numbered 2 require further analysis.  
**(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the grand jury report.)**
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
**(Attach and explanation.)**

Date: 5/15/08 Signed: 

Number of pages attached 1

## **FINDINGS:**

**F7.** "Best practice" vegetation management policies require fire department access to the whole property in the company of the owner. No jurisdiction has a plan for this.

This "best practice" created by the grand jury is not a policy for any fire agency that we are aware of. No jurisdiction would adopt a policy that required homeowners to waive their fourth amendment rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore, no jurisdiction has a plan for this.

**F12.** Significant progress in enforcing vegetation management and defensible space codes will require additional resources and/or a change in direction by governing boards.

The Tiburon Fire Protection District added an additional full time position for fire prevention and public education. This position has the resources needed to be successful in those programs. What is needed for significant progress is a change in the public attitude. This was called out in the Grand Jury's report in several areas: "this report concentrates on the one area where residents of Marin have the most control" (page 2), "Vegetation management requires active homeowner participation" (page 3), "vegetation management requires the active participation of property owners" (page 5), there is a whole section titled "Apathetic public attitudes" (page 9). The change needed is from the public.

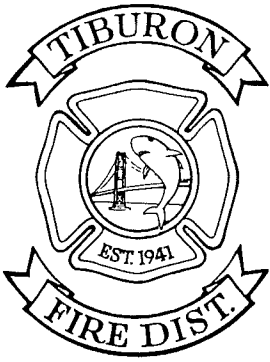
## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**R1.** Governing boards of all fire jurisdictions in Marin County review and update current vegetation management and defensible space codes and homeowner educational materials to be certain they are realistic, achievable, enforceable and easily understood by the public-at-large. The Boards should target completion by June 30, 2009.

Tiburon Fire Protection District personnel have begun a review of our codes, policies and educational materials. They will bring to the governing board a summary of what is currently adopted and in use and any proposed changes.

**R2.** All fire jurisdictions develop plans with specific goals for compliance and enforcement of vegetation management and defensible space codes by June 30, 2009.

The Tiburon Fire Protection District Board of Directors may develop plans with specific goals for compliance and enforcement of vegetation management and defensible space codes when recommendation R1 has been completed. The scope of the goals will be determined by the codes and regulations available to the District for enforcement.



## TIBURON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1679 TIBURON BOULEVARD, TIBURON, CALIFORNIA 94920  
TELEPHONE: (415) 435-7200 FAX: (415) 435-7205

RICHARD PEARCE, FIRE CHIEF

May 16, 2008

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

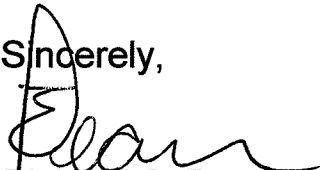
Subject: Grand Jury Report: "MARIN ON FIRE!"

Dear Ms. Robinson.

I have been directed by the Board of Directors of the Tiburon Fire Protection District to respond to the Marin Civil Grand Jury Report titled "MARIN ON FIRE! Not if, but when", dated April 1, 2008. Attached, please find our response.

The Tiburon Fire Protection District conducted this response in accordance with Penal Code section 933 (c) and was subjected to the notice, agenda, and open meeting requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Should you have any question or require additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,  
  
Richard S. Pearce  
Fire Chief