

**STINSON BEACH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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June 25, 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

RE: Grand Jury Report – Marin on Fire! Not if, but When.

Dear Judge Adams and Foreperson Robinson,

At the regular Board of Directors meeting held on June 23, 2008, the Directors took under consideration the above referenced report. Enclosed is the completed Response to Grand Jury Report Form. This letter shall serve as the attachment for further explanations to the response.

FINDINGS

We find we can not agree or disagree with findings F1 through F9 and F12 as we can not verify the information presented therefore we have no comments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: The Stinson Beach Fire Protection District continues to take very seriously the threat of wildfire. To that end, on November 29, 2007, the Board of Directors, along with other jurisdictions in Marin County, adopted Ordinance 11-07 adopting the 2007 California Fire Code, International Fire Code, and Uniform Fire Code Prescribing Regulations Governing Conditions Hazardous to Life and Property from Fire and Explosion; Providing for the Issuance of Permits for Hazardous Uses or Operations; and providing Officers Therefore and Defining Their Powers and Duties. Within these codes, vegetation management and defensible space codes are addressed.

The District will review, and if necessary, update homeowner educational materials to be sure they are easily understood and current. We will make these materials available by June 30, 2008.

R2: The Stinson Beach Fire Protection District does not feel they can comply with this recommendation as it is presented.

A key issue affecting our particular jurisdiction is the availability of sufficient staff and funding to aggressively undertake enforcing all code compliance among homeowners. As a top priority, the District has chosen to focus on ensuring safer public access and egress by addressing the overgrowth of vegetation in the roadways. This is a serious safety issue; one we feel we can address within our current means.

Another serious issue affecting our ability to comply with this recommendation is the great expense attributed to mechanical removal of ground vegetation and dead and dying trees. Our area has been negatively impacted to a great degree by Sudden Oak Death and, more so, by Pine Pitch Canker. We have a very serious situation with an inordinate number of standing dead and dying trees that pose a hazard. Many residents would like to comply with the current defensible space codes but simply do not have the financial means to do so.

The District feels it can have the greatest impact by continuing to educate residents on the importance of vegetation management and defensible space and continuing to research funding opportunities.

Sincerely,



Kenny Stevens, Fire Chief

Enc.