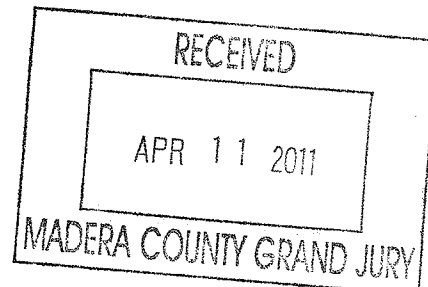


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March 21, 2011

The Honorable Mitchell C. Rigby
Presiding Judge
Madera County Superior Court
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, California 93637

Subject: Response to the 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report on "Madera City Fire Station #6."

Dear Honorable Judge Rigby:

In accordance with Penal Code Section 933, the Madera City Council submits this response to the Final Report of the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury has requested a response to the Recommendations in the 2010-11 Madera County Grand Jury Report on the "Madera City Fire Station #6". See Attachment A.

The following are the Grand Jury's recommendations in their Final Report, and the Fire Department and Council's responses to the recommendations:

1. *The Grand Jury recommends that training and upgrading the levels of expertise of those staffing Station #6 should continue.*

Mandatory training of all emergency responders is one of the fire department's highest priorities. Currently, additional training classes are approved based on the availability of the classes and the allocated training budget. Each employee is limited to two additional classes per year.

2. *The Grand Jury recommends the City of Madera add a second bathroom and remodel the sleeping quarters at Station #6.*

Both of these projects are complex and would be very expensive improvements. The facility has cement floors and brick walls and is approximately 43 years old. This type of construction limits the ability to remodel and causes the project to be very expensive to complete. The Madera City Fire Department suggests these projects be completed in phases when funding becomes available. The remodeling of the bathroom is the highest priority since there is currently only one shower for both sexes. Lockers and partitions are being used between the beds to allow for some privacy in the sleeping quarters.

3. *The Grand Jury recommends Madera City Fire Department establish an inventory pool of equipment, i.e. turnout kits.*

The Madera City Fire Department maintains an adequate supply of equipment available, including turnouts. The equipment that is readily available, i.e. items that can be received within a week from sales representatives, isn't kept in large supply. The high cost of turnouts and their ten year wear out cycle are two of the main factors for keeping a limited, but adequate, supply on hand. Madera City Fire Department has the ability to exchange its inventory of turnouts with Madera County Fire Department, Merced County Fire Department and CAL FIRE as needed to accommodate employees.

4. *The Grand Jury recommends the City of Madera standardize breathing apparatus, making it compatible with Madera County equipment.*

Currently Madera City Fire Department uses the same breathing apparatus system as CAL FIRE and Merced County Fire Department. Madera County Fire Department uses a separate system. There is nothing wrong with the current system and changing it to comply with the current Madera County Fire Department isn't a cost effective move at this time. Due to the large cost of this change, this purchase needs to be put on hold until both Madera City and Madera County Fire Departments are in agreement and are ready to purchase new breathing apparatus. Also, the joint Madera-Merced Hazardous Materials Team is in the process of purchasing new breathing apparatus which are not compatible with the current system being used by Madera County Fire Department.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Poythress, Mayor
City of Madera