



CITY OF DALY CITY

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May 15, 2012

Honorable Gerald J. Buchwald
Superior Court Judge, County of San Mateo
Hall of Justice and Records
400 County Center, 8th Floor
Redwood City, California 94063-1665

RE: Grand Jury Report "The County, San Carlos, and Cal-Fire, A Missed Opportunity"

Dear Judge Buchwald:

On behalf of the City Council of Daly City, I am submitting this response to the 2011-2012 San Mateo County Grand Jury Report filed February 15, 2012 titled "The County, San Carlos, and Cal-Fire, A Missed Opportunity". This response was presented to and approved by the Mayor and City Council at its regular meeting of May 14, 2012.

With regard to the findings contained within the Grand Jury Report, the City of Daly City was not part of the study, process or the discussions regarding the dissolution of the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department and therefore does not have the knowledge necessary to agree or disagree with the findings.

The following are Daly City's responses to the recommendations contained with the report:

Recommendation 1. – When assessing alternative approaches to local fire protection, CAL-FIRE should be considered as one alternative. The City of Daly City, along with the Cities of Brisbane and Pacifica have operated as the North County Fire Authority (NCFA) since 2003. This JPA has proven to be a very beneficial and cost effective approach to delivering fire protection and emergency medical services for these jurisdictions. Therefore, this recommendation has not been implemented, but would be considered should the City of Daly City determine the need to examine alternative approaches to NCFA in the future.

Recommendation 2. – Include local fire union representatives in community discussions concerning department consolidation, regionalization or replacement; make financial considerations and differing expense models known to all concerned parties and citizens. As with the development and implementation of the North County Fire Authority, an interest based approach was utilized involving all stake holders. The same approach would be considered for any potential future enhancements to fire or emergency medical services or if there was a need to make other decisions regarding those services in the North County.

Should you need any additional information or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (650) 991-8127.

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Martel
City Manager