



Lathrop-Manteca Fire Protection District

800 East 'J' Street, Lathrop, California 95330

• (209) 941-5100 • Fax (209) 941-5115 • www.lmfire.org •

August 17, 2017

Honorable Jose L. Alva, Presiding Judge
San Joaquin County Superior Court
180 West Weber Avenue, Suite 1306
Stockton, CA 95202

Re: Lathrop-Manteca Fire District Response to Grand Jury Report: Countywide Dispatch for Fire

Honorable Jose L. Alva, Presiding Judge:

The Lathrop-Manteca Fire District ("LMFD" or "District") has reviewed the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury Report titled "Countywide Dispatch for Fire *Two Are Not Always Better than One* 2016-2017 Case No. 0616" ("Report"). Please consider this letter the District's response to Findings F1.2, F1.3, F2.1; F2.2, F3.1 and Recommendations R1.3 and R2.2. The District is also taking this opportunity to clarify statements made in the Report.

COMMENTS ON BACKGROUND

The District is a voting member of the San Joaquin County Regional Fire Dispatch Authority ("SJCRFDA"). The District Fire Chief is the designated member of the District on the SJCRFDA Board of Directors. While there are differences in the governance of the two fire dispatch centers in San Joaquin County, private for profit vs. a public agency, the report does not accurately characterize the provision of dispatch services by the Stockton Dispatch Center. The technology utilized by the Stockton dispatch center is in the process of being updated. The SJCRFDA Board of Directors have been requesting that the technology at the dispatch center be upgraded, which will be operational in the beginning of December, 2017. The Report characterizes the dispatch center infrastructure as nearing "End-of-Life" without properly characterizing the relatively short life span of all technology used in dispatch operations and fails to identify that this situation is not unique to the Stockton Dispatch Center.

COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION

The "Discussions, Findings and Recommendations" section of the Report states that the vast majority of fire agencies are in favor of a single county wide emergency fire dispatch center. The District, as one of the fire departments that participated in the creation process of the SJCRFDA, acknowledges that the SJCRFDA was created to be the county wide emergency dispatch center.



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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Report.

Respectfully Submitted,


_____, Fire Chief
Lathrop-Manteca Fire District