

**Grand Jury Report
RESPONSE FORM**

RE: Report Titled: *Emergency Communication – Consolidation is Imperative*

Report Dated: June 3, 2010

Response Form Submitted By:

Gerry Gonzalez
Chief of Police
125 E. Commercial Street, #150
Willits, CA 95490

Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than: 8/14/2010

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:
1 thru 9
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have **attached, as required**, a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:

- The following Recommendation(s) have been implemented and **attached, as required**, is a summary describing the implemented actions:
1, 3
- The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, **attached, as required** is a time frame for implementation:

- The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and attached as required, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)

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- The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable, attached, as required is an explanation therefore:

I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:

Number of Pages attached: 2

I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury. The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.

I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:

First Step: E-mail (word documents or scanned pdf file format) to:

- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us
- The Presiding Judge: grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov
- The County's Executive Office: ceo@co.mendocino.ca.us

Second Step: Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 939
Ukiah, CA 95482

Printed Name: Gerardo "Gerry" Gonzalez

Title: Chief Of Police

Signed: 

Date: June 22, 2010

Mendocino County Grand Jury Report

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CONSOLIDATION IS IMPERATIVE

Willits Police Department Response

Narrative Summary of Required Responses to Grand Jury Findings:

None Required

Narrative Summary of Required Responses to Grand Jury Recommendations:

- 1. the FBPD, UPD, WPD, and the MCSO determine the cost of the project and their share of the cost. (Findings 2-3, 5, 7, 8)**

Currently all PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) agency representatives are meeting on a regular basis with the 911 County Coordinator and consolidation continues to be a topic of discussion as well as logistical, technological, and budgetary concerns. Recently all the County PSAPs were visited by the State of California when a Fiscal and Operational Review was conducted. State representatives are aware of a conceptual plan proposed to the State by the various Mendocino County agencies concerning a virtual consolidation. The plan is currently being reviewed by the state for further study and potential funding.

- 2. the FBPD, UPD, WPD, and the MCSO set a timeframe within the previously suggested three-year parameter for implementation of the consolidated emergency system plan. (Finding 2)**

Fiscally every agency has had to cut back in all areas in order to meet the most basic agency needs. While the eventual consolidation seems like a good idea in theory, its ultimate application in the various jurisdictions may give rise to financial and technological issues yet to be determined. Setting and adhering to a timeframe when it involves emerging technology is problematic at best. Ultimately serving our individual jurisdictions' emergency communication needs, while retaining the power to control costs may be the issue that either pushes this process further or slows it down.

The various agencies are currently waiting to see what the end result of the cooperative process involving the selection of the communication software package being looked at by MCSO yields. The integration of the selected software may help speed the consolidation process or slow it down depending on the needs of the

various individual involved agencies. The Willits Police Department PSAP is also currently looking at accessing its 9-1-1 CPE upgrade allotment funds through the State of California but is awaiting further information on a potential plan for a virtual consolidation of the 9-1-1 system equipment between the other two PSAPs in the county.

3. the GJ continue monitoring the consolidated 911 system project and usage of the microwave tower. (All Findings)

The Willits Police Department welcomes the Grand Jury's continued monitoring of the consolidation of county 911 service as it relates to service and cost savings to the entire county and individual communities served by 911 dispatch. Monitoring the County Microwave system and making sure that its access and resources are kept open to the various jurisdictions should be of continued interest to the Grand Jury.