



**CITY OF CORONADO
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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**SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY**

July 25, 2006

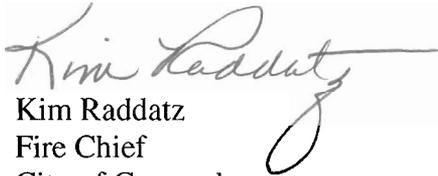
Jim Vlassis, Foreman
San Diego County Grand Jury
County of San Diego, Hall of Justice
330 W. Broadway, Suite 477
San Diego, CA 92101-3830

Dear Mr. Vlassis

Attached you will find the requested response, from the Coronado Fire Department, as to the recommendations detailed in the Grand Jury Report entitled "Lack of San Diego Evacuation Preparations"

If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me at (619) 522-7374.

Respectfully,


Kim Raddatz
Fire Chief
City of Coronado

**CITY OF CORONADO
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

July, 10, 2006

TO: Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of the County of San Diego

FR: Fire Chief Kim Raddatz, Coronado Fire Department

RE: Grand Jury Report entitled: "*Lack of San Diego County Evacuation Preparations*"

As Fire Chief of the City of Coronado, I am responding in accordance with California Penal Code 933.05(a), (b), (c), to Grand Jury Report 2005/2006 – Lack of San Diego County Evacuation Preparations. The following statements are in response to the Grand Juries mandatory requests in the above report.

Recommendation 06-67

Install emergency signage along the San Diego coastal corridor, directing citizens and visitors to safety in case of a tsunami emergency?

Answer:

*Until the City of Coronado can obtain more accurate and diverse data on tsunami inundation maps, we are reluctant to post evacuation signage identifying escape routes. With only two ways to gain access, into or off of the island, placing signs identifying escape routes may in fact create more of a traffic or safety hazard to Coronado. Please review Attachment A, it projects the time needed to evacuate the City of Coronado using surface streets. You should also be aware that attachment A shows evacuation times under **ideal** circumstances, no vehicle accident and Interstate 5 is not congested or grid locked.*

Recommendation 06-68

Find funding sources for the installation of warning sirens for in immanent devastating tsunami.

Answer:

The City of Coronado current has a siren warning system in place that is tested monthly (silent test) and annually (audible test for 2 minutes).

Conclusion:

As I stated in our Grand Jury meeting on February 16, 2006, any action that the City of Coronado takes to protect the Community of Coronado needs to be made using the best information and data available. Currently this information does not exist. The county is using inundation maps that are based on a 12 meter tidal surge (40 ft) on a

topographic map. This does not take in account what affect structures, direction of the tsunami, or the barriers that the city has on its beaches. All the items I just mentioned have an affect on how far the tidal surge will inundate the City of Coronado, along with how high the tidal surge will be throughout the City of Coronado. The County has admitted that better mapping would in fact provide for a more complete and accurate information that would assist Coronado in making better decisions on where to post emergency evacuation signage.

Coronado is currently working with San Diego County and OES to try to improve the inundation maps available to the City of Coronado. Until such time Coronado is provided with more accurate inundation maps, coming up with emergency signage and a tsunami evacuation plan will at best have a questionable effect on the City of Coronado. Its should be noted that the City of Coronado currently does have a city wide evacuation plan in place for other emergencies we just do not know if it will be effective in the event of a tsunami.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Raddatz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kim Raddatz
City of Coronado Fire Chief