



## San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

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August 27, 2020

Via US Mail and Email: [ctadmin@contracosta.courts.ca.gov](mailto:ctadmin@contracosta.courts.ca.gov)

Anne N. Granlund, Foreperson  
2019-2020 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 431  
Martinez, CA 94553

**SUBJECT: SAN RAMON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT NO. 2007, "WILDFIRE  
PREPAREDNESS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY"**

Dear Jury Foreperson Granlund:

In accordance with your request and California Penal Code Section 933 et seq., the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District ("District") is submitting responses to Findings 1 through 8 and Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 in the subject Grand Jury Report. The response was reviewed and authorized by District's Board of Directors at the August 26, 2020 Board meeting:

**RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY FINDINGS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8:**

**GRAND JURY FINDING #1:**

During a Red Flag Warning, fire districts and fire departments in Contra Costa County often deploy pre-positioned firefighting strike teams to maximize the ability to respond to wildfires.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

**GRAND JURY FINDING #2:**

Fire districts and fire departments in Contra Costa County require property owners to perform weed abatement on their property to reduce the risk of fire spread.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

**GRAND JURY FINDING #3:**

Not all fire districts and fire departments in Contra Costa County use predetermined polygons and routing algorithms in their evacuation plans.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

**GRAND JURY FINDING #4:**

Fire districts and fire departments in Contra Costa County recommend that residents comply with law enforcement's orders to evacuate during an emergency.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

**GRAND JURY FINDING #5:**

Not all fire districts and fire departments in Contra Costa County use new technologies, such as ground sensors, drones, satellites, and fire spotting cameras, for early detection of fires.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

**GRAND JURY FINDING #6:**

The October 2019 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events disrupted emergency response efforts and communications in Contra Costa County.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

**GRAND JURY FINDING #7:**

Fire districts and fire departments in Contra Costa County are not always informed by PG&E when the utility is performing non-emergency maintenance work that presents a high fire risk during a Red Flag Warning.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

**GRAND JURY FINDING #8:**

An ordinance passed by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, requiring PG&E to give advance notice of non-emergency maintenance work that presents a high fire risk, enables the fire district to pre-position a team at the utility worksite and recover labor and equipment costs.

**RESPONSE:** The District agrees with the finding.

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**RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS 1, 2 and 4**

**RECOMMENDATION #1:**

The Board of Directors of Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District, and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District should consider directing their Fire Chief to update wildfire evacuation plans and incorporate pre-determined polygons and advanced routing technology, by June 30, 2021.

**RESPONSE:** The recommendation has been implemented in part as the District is in the process of updating wildfire evacuation plans, and should be completed by June 30, 2021.

**GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #2:**

The Board of Directors of Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District, and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District should consider identifying funds to adopt or expand the use of new technologies, such as ground sensors, drones, satellites, and fire spotting cameras, to help detect fires in high-risk areas, by June 30, 2021.

**RESPONSE:** The recommendation will not be implemented until such time as the use of the suggested new technologies have a proven track record of success and reliability.

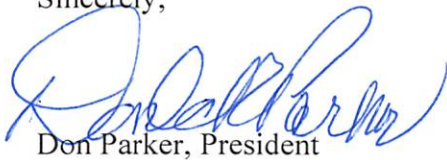
**GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #4:**

Board of Directors of Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, and Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District should review and consider mechanisms, such as the ordinance passed by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, that would enable their fire district to recover labor and equipment costs from PG&E for overseeing electrical utility work that presents a high fire risk, by June 30, 2021.

**RESPONSE:** The recommendation has been implemented.

The District thanks the Contra Costa County Grand Jury for the opportunity to respond to its concerns. Please feel free to contact Paige Meyer, Fire Chief at (925) 570-4411 should you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Don Parker, President

cc: District Board of Directors