



CITY of BELVEDERE

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March 8, 2021

Lucy Dilworth, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Responses to Grand Jury Report – “Roadblocks to Safer Evacuations in Marin”

Dear Foreperson Dilworth,

Please find the City of Belvedere’s responses to the report of the Civil Grand Jury, dated December 14, 2020, entitled “Roadblocks to Safer Evacuations in Marin.”

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES.

F1. No single agency or jurisdiction is taking responsibility and authority for building infrastructure for safe evacuation routes across jurisdictions in Marin County.

Response – Agree with the finding. No single countywide agency is solely responsible for this task. However, most neighboring agencies collaborate to identify evacuation routes and infrastructure constraints when planning joint projects.

F2. There is confusion in the county as to who has ultimate responsibility and authority for ensuring that Marin has safe evacuation routes

Response – Agree with the finding. To date, no single agency has taken the lead on evacuation planning for all of Marin.

F3. Marin County Board of Supervisors and town and city councils have the responsibility for safe evacuation routing, and they have not sufficiently considered evacuation as a criterion when approving improvements to road and traffic infrastructure in their jurisdictions.

Response – Partially Disagree with the finding. Belvedere does factor in evacuation issues when considering whether to move forward on new capital projects. In terms of existing infrastructure or road placements and alignments, it is clearly beyond the financial capacity of

the city government to address the fact that such concerns may not have been considered in past decisions. We are focusing on eliminating bottlenecks and improving our existing systems of egress so as to improve evacuation outcomes, and understand that largescale infrastructural changes will require outside funding.

F4. County and municipal administrators, public works, and traffic engineers have not adequately considered mass evacuation as a criterion for planning and funding traffic infrastructure improvements.

Response – Partially Disagree with the finding. The Belvedere Public Works Department includes evacuation within its grading criteria when recommending Capital Improvement projects. This is re-evaluated on an annual basis.

F5. Most Marin jurisdictions have not yet included urgently needed evacuation plans as required by state law and as recommended by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

Response – Partially Disagree with the finding. Belvedere’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses evacuation and sets goals for improving emergency egress through capital projects and the planning approval process.

Response to Recommendations:

R1. Within 180 days of the date of this report, the governing boards of the County of Marin and its cities and towns should direct their respective planning and public works departments to include evacuation needs among their criteria for evaluating and recommending public works projects.

Response – This recommendation is already being implemented within the Public Works department when considering priorities for transportation and infrastructure Capital Improvement projects.

R2. Within 180 days of the date of this report, the governing boards of the County of Marin and its cities and towns should adopt resolutions call on the Transportation Authority of Marin to include evacuation needs among its criteria it considers when planning and funding public works projects.

Response – The Transportation Authority of Marin’s role has been to assist local jurisdictions in identifying and directing sources of funding for capital projects. TAM provides high level support throughout this process, and each agency is responsible for assessing their own needs and priorities.

R3. In calendar year 2021, the County of Marin and its cities and towns should update the safety elements of their general plans to include evacuation planning.

Response – This recommendation has been implemented in Belvedere through the Safety Element of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan will be further refined through integration of evacuation software and recommendations from evacuation planning firms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Middleton", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Craig Middleton

City Manager

Responses to Findings and Recommendations
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
"Roadblocks to Safer Evacuations in Marin"

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

REPORT TITLE: "Roadblocks to Safer Evacuations in Marin"
REPORT DATE: December 14, 2020
RESPONSE BY: City of Belvedere
FROM: James Campbell, Mayor

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

We agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2
We partially disagree with the findings numbered: F3, F4, F5

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations numbered R1 and R3 have been implemented.

Recommendation R2 will not be implemented because the recommendations are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: 3/10/2021

Signed: James Campbell

James Campbell, Mayor