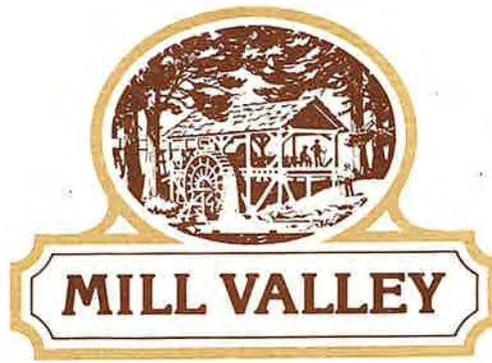


Sashi McEntee
Mayor

John McCauley
Vice Mayor

Jim Wickham
Councilmember



Urban Carmel
Councilmember

Tricia Ossa
Councilmember

Alan E. Piombo, Jr.
City Manager

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Judge Andrew Sweet
Marin Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, 94913-4988

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

Re: Mill Valley City Council Response to 'Roadblocks to Safer Evacuation in Marin,' Marin County Civil Grand Jury, December 14, 2020

Dear Judge Simmons and Foreperson Dilworth,

At its regular meeting on March 1, 2021, the Mill Valley City Council reviewed the report: 'Roadblocks to Safer Evacuation in Marin,' dated December 14, 2020.

The Council understands the importance of addressing evacuation safety and planning. In the attached statement, the City has commented on the findings and recommendations the Grand Jury has asked the City to address (F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, R1, R2, and R3). The responses have been made from the perspective of the City of Mill Valley. We do not have full insight into all aspects of general planning and evacuation plans of other Cities and Towns in Marin County.

Should the members of the Grand Jury require any additional information, please contact City Manager Alan Piombo at (415) 388-4033 or apiombo@cityofmillvalley.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sashi McEntee".

Sashi McEntee
Mayor

Cc: Mill Valley City Council
City Manager
City Clerk
File

Response to Grand Jury Report

Report Title: Roadblocks to Safer Evacuation in Marin

Report Date: December 14, 2020

Respondent: Mill Valley City Council

Response Date: March 1, 2021

FINDINGS

The City disagrees wholly or partially with findings F1, F2, F3, F4 and F5.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City disagrees wholly or partially with findings R1, R2, and R3.

Signed: *Sashi McEntee*

Date: 03/02/2021

Sashi McEntee, Mayor

Number of pages attached: 3

Attachment A

Report Title: Roadblocks to Safer Evacuation in Marin

Respondent: Mill Valley City Council

The responses below have been made from the perspective of the City of Mill Valley. We do not have full insight into all aspects of general planning and evacuation plans of other Cities and Towns in Marin County.

The Report listed the following Findings and Recommendations as being relevant to the City of Mill Valley and requested a response to F1-F5 and R1-R3.

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

Partially Disagree

Comment: This statement generalizes a need for a combined evacuation system for the County. With each disaster being different, evacuation routes may differ by event and needs to be appropriate for each disaster. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that no single agency should take overall responsibility, though they clearly should coordinate. The responsibility must be shared because many factors contribute to evacuation readiness and safety.

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

Disagree

Comment: Local emergency service personnel work very closely to address each incident. There is no confusion as to each jurisdiction's responsibility to protect the citizens within each jurisdictional area.

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 roads and traffic infrastructure in their jurisdictions.

Partially Disagree

Comment: The jurisdictional agencies within Marin have the responsibility to provide emergency services to its citizens, including providing emergency evacuations routes.

Southern Marin Fire and Mill Valley Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments work closely to accomplish this critical function. The Planning Department evaluates necessary improvements to roads and traffic infrastructure when considering new developments and new construction. This includes prioritizing alternate evacuation routes, street design and ability to use the roadway for evacuation purposes.

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.

Partially Disagree

Comment: Public Works departments within Marin utilize a rating criterion for CIP projects in order to prioritize projects to be implemented. The City of Mill Valley considers mass evacuation as criterion for planning and traffic infrastructure improvement. Factors to consider with mass evacuation criterion for planning and traffic infrastructure includes, but not limited to, signal light video and synchronization, contraflow to allow large roadways to be used as “one way” roadway to evacuation large numbers of residents simultaneously, alternative evacuation routes, and Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) roads.

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

Partially Disagree

Comment: Mill Valley staff has not assessed and is not responsible for assessing what other agencies have included in their General Plan. Evacuation Planning policies are included in the Hazards and Safety Element of the Mill Valley General Plan.

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.

Partially Disagree

Comment: The City of Mill Valley considers mass evacuation as criterion for planning and traffic infrastructure improvement. Mill Valley is not aware of and does not track other agencies’ criteria for developing or evaluating projects, nor which Departments participate in the process. At this time, it is premature to direct agencies or staff to include evacuation needs and improvement projects without knowing what criteria is already included, what is needed, where they need to be installed and the cost of these improvements. We recommend that MWPA initiate a countywide study that defines the following:

- a. Identification of various types of disasters that can occur within each jurisdiction.
- b. Identify primary evacuation routes for each type of disasters
- c. Identify constrained locations within each jurisdiction that may require improvements to improve evacuation
- d. Proposed improvements to be considered by each jurisdiction as funding becomes available.
- e. Identify funding sources to support Capital Improvement Projects related to these disaster events.

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 calling on the Transportation Authority of Marin to include evacuation needs among the criteria it considers when planning and funding public works projects.

Disagree

Comment: It is not the local agencies role to direct TAM how to administer their programs. The TAM board already includes representatives from each Marin Agency and may or may not be able to set their own criteria within the guidelines depending on the respective funding sources. Mill Valley is happy to participate in this process if TAM would like to explore further.

Local governing bodies including but not limited to the Board of Supervisors and Local City Councils are best suited to address the needs and priorities of the citizens they represent. Upon receiving recommendations for potential improvement projects each jurisdiction may choose to include these projects in their Capital Improvement Program depending on a number of factors including, but not limited to agency needs, priorities, resources, etc.

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.

Disagree

Comment: The City of Mill Valley already includes safety elements in their General Plan within the boundary of what State, Federal or Local agencies require.