

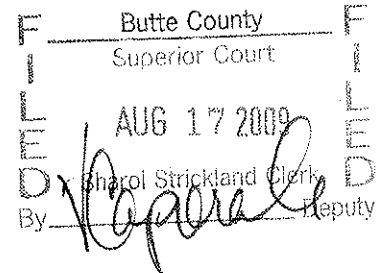


TOWN OF PARADISE

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August 11, 2009

The Honorable James F. Reilley, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Butte
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965



Re: Response by the Town of Paradise to the Final 2008/2009 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Reilley:

We are very appreciative of the 2008/09 Grand Jury studying a number of fire safety and emergency-preparedness related issues that affect the safety and security of our citizens.

None of the Grand Jury's findings were specifically directed to the Town of Paradise, or to its fire department. However, there are findings that clearly involve the Town by virtue of the issues studied by the Grand Jury and their findings.

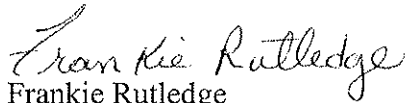
More specifically:

1. The Town of Paradise Town Council last year adopted a resolution calling for the development of alternative emergency evacuation routes and improvements to existing routes that have adequate carrying capacity during an evacuation.
2. Following the fires, the Town of Paradise submitted, last February, to the Town of Paradise/Butte County Ad Hoc Committee an initial report and recommendations to specifically improve fire prevention, emergency preparedness and fire protection/suppression through the formation of a Mello-Roos Community Facilities district. This proposed district would include the Upper Ridge, the Town of Paradise, the south Paradise unincorporated area and Butte Creek Canyon. The draft of the final report is being presently distributed to a working committee this week, with the final report being submitted to the Town of Paradise/Butte County Ad Hoc Committee, in late August.

3. None of the findings concerning the lack of emergency evacuation plans, emergency communications, or notifications are applicable to the Town of Paradise. In fact, the Town of Paradise was the forerunner on the Ridge in the development of an evacuation plan. The County had an adopted evacuation plan which they implemented during the Camp Fire Lightning Complex fires. Furthermore, the Town's Emergency Operations Center's public information and emergency communications system has not only proven in major emergencies to be highly effective and reliable, but it is the most advanced on the Ridge.
4. The Town appreciates the Grand Jury's endorsement of a benefit-type assessment district to help fund adequate evacuation routes in our area.

Finally, to reiterate, the Town of Paradise sincerely appreciates the Grand Jury looking at this important public safety issue and challenge.

Sincerely,


Frankie Rutledge
Mayor

FR;slb