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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 20, 2014

Honorable Arthur A. Garcia
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Reference: Follow-up to Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report titled, *Sheriff-Coroner's Bureau: The Manner of Death - A Final Diagnosis* (Published June 21, 2013 on Grand Jury Web Site)

Judge Garcia:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) previously responded to the above- referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. The Board would like to provide you with an update on the Recommendations 3A and 3B.

As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

Recommendation 3a:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors allocate the funds to retain a mechanical engineering firm to study and make design recommendations for the Coroner facility ventilation system.

This recommendation has been implemented.

On September 26, 2013, the mechanical engineering firm of Mechanical Engineering Consultants, Inc. (MEC, Inc.) conducted a field assessment of the ventilation system at the Coroner's Office. On October 28, 2013, the firm provided a report which included a series of recommendations and implementation cost estimates. The assessment was conducted with the allocation the Board made to the General Services Department through the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget.

Recommendation 3b:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors allocate the funds to implement the design recommendations for the ventilation system in the Coroner's facility.

This recommendation requires further analysis.

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As a result of the mechanical engineering firm's report, the Board of Supervisors now has cost estimates. The Board has also committed to the creation of a countywide Asset Management Plan Development Process to identify the condition of each facility and prioritize the backlog of deferred maintenance needs. A contractor was hired in September and the final report is scheduled for March 2014. The Board would like to integrate Mechanical Engineering Consultants, Inc.'s recommendations into the prioritization process resulting from the countywide asset management planning process. Health and safety concerns identified through the facility condition assessment will be given high priority for funding. It is estimated that Board consideration could occur in March or early April 2014.

Sincerely,

Steve Lavagnino, Chair

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Ted Sten, Foreman, 2013-14 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury