

3152 Shad Court
Simi Valley, CA 93063
July 22, 2024

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Agenda Item No. 103 (Approval of Response to the
2023-2024 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Entitled,
Linking First Responders - Ventura County Regional
Radio System for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of
the Superior Court).

Dear Members of the Board:

When I read the City of Simi Valley City Council's
June 24, 2024 Agenda Item No. Consent(5), it was mind
boggling to learn that "The City's Information Services
Division, which has primary responsibility for the Simi
Valley Police Department (SVPD) radio system, was not
consulted during the design phase of the VCRRS project.
On February 15, 2024, the subject of interoperability was
discussed during a meeting with the county; this was
months after the design was finalized."

Because our City Council to date has not updated the
Simi Valley Municipal Code Section Title 4 - PUBLIC SAFETY,
Chapter 5 (EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS), and Chapter 6 (FIRE
PREVENTION)--I requested this be done in my October 16,
2020 email--I have been extremely concerned! I was even
more concerned after reading my City's response to the V.C.
Grand Jury's Recommendation R-09 that "SVPD will have the
ability to communicate with the VCRRS participating
agencies provided SVPD receives cooperation from the county
and purchases additional licenses from Motorola.
Alternatively, the city may be able to patch the systems
together but as noticed in the report this is not as
efficient. The City will work with the County to create a
detailed plan to ensure interoperability testing is
performed prior to July 2025."

My faith was restored when I read "Discussion Ref-
10 (Page 7) "The City of Simi Valley plans to install a new
communication tower and rehabilitate an existing tower at

the city's expense." But then reality set in upon reading "Response to Discussion Ref-10 (Page 7) (disputed)" "At the time of this report, The City of Simi Valley has not made this decision." Once again I fought long and hard for the City Council to move ahead with these tower projects only to learn my efforts have been in vain!!!!

I had pinned my hopes, and prayed for the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council to come through with the CWPPs (Community Wildfire Prevention Plans) for the cities of Moorpark, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks, but there is presently no funding available to undertake the CWPPs!!!!

During the first week in July 2024, there were 4 wildfires reported in Simi Valley, and the hills around us: the Sharp Fire, the Sentinel Fire, the fire near the SSFL (Rocketdyne), and the Sequoia and Aspen area fire!!!! Air tankers, and helicopters flew over our neighborhood and sometimes the aviation equipment passed at what seemed about 500 feet or less over the houses!!!! I stayed indoors instead of looking at them so as not to possibly distract them from the emergency job they were performing. I was very concerned for the areas that were burning, but also for my family, and neighbors properties, and lives!!!!

Members of the Board, it's great that the "County's law enforcement and emergency response agencies, including the Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO), the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and various city police and fire departments, are now better equipped to communicate during emergencies" but frustrating that "there is still some remaining work to be completed." (Page 2 of your letter). As has been the case with government at the local, county, state, and federal levels emergency management and emergency preparedness are not priority 1, yet governments at all levels are the first to have their hands out for recovery funding while constituents struggle to get the needed help to rebuild their properties, and get back to a somewhat normal life!!!! Keep the County's "Community-wide effort" alive and well when it comes to emergencies!

Sincerely,

Teresa Jordan

