



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: AMY S. NILSEN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO 2015-16 GRAND JURY REPORT EARTHQUAKE, FLOOD,
TSUNAMI
DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

The 2015-16 Grand Jury has issued a report titled "Earthquake, Flood, Tsunami," and I am recommending the Board of Supervisors issue the response below.

Recommendation No. R1: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services relocate the Emergency Operations Center into a larger, more functional facility that can accommodate the projected needs of a major disaster.*

This recommendation has not been implemented, but may be implemented when funding is available.

While this recommendation has merit, it will only be implemented if the county has sufficient levels of increased funding required for the creation of a facility or relocation of the Office of Emergency Services, as well as maintenance of the facility. Any future increased funding will be balanced against other community priorities.

Recommendation No. R3: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends a formal feasibility study of the formation of a Joint Powers Authority to consolidate the Emergency Response Dispatch Centers for Humboldt County to be conducted using research consultants who are not part of any county stakeholder agency.*

This recommendation has not been implemented, but may be implemented when funding is available.

The Sheriff's Office has been discussing this approach for a number of years with the appropriate entities, either through a Joint Powers Authority or by consolidation of centers under the control and authority of the Sheriff. Specifically, the county, and cities of Arcata, Eureka and Fortuna, have had lengthy discussions about forming a joint powers agreement that would create an entity that is responsible for dispatch and 9-1-1 emergency communication for law enforcement, fire protection and/or emergency medical. One particular issue has been that the staff for the participating agencies have widely varying pay grades, which has made it difficult to come to an agreement with those agencies and their unions.