

---

## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST REPORT

---

**Date Issued:** September 2, 2008

**IBA Report Number:** 08-90

**City Council Docket Date:** September 9, 2008

**Item Number:** TBD

---

# Response to Grand Jury Report Titled “The Fire Next Time – Will We Be Ready?”

On May 29, 2008 the San Diego County Grand Jury issued a report to the Mayor, City Council, and the County of San Diego entitled “The Fire Next Time – Will We Be Ready?” The stated purpose of the Grand Jury Report is “to examine and review the efforts, cooperation, and results of actions taken by authorities and personnel in charge of management and response to emergency disasters; to assess what lessons were learned; to make recommendations for improving the ability of the community to respond to the threat of wildfire; to recommend suggestions for improving response efforts in emergencies; and to commend the exemplary actions of front line responders who serviced the needs of 500,000 people affected by the wildfires.”

The Grand Jury Report includes eleven findings and eleven recommendations; of these findings and recommendations, two findings and three recommendations are directed towards the City of San Diego. Both the Mayor and the City Council are required to provide comments to the Presiding Judge of the San Diego Superior Court on each of the findings and recommendations made in the Grand Jury Report within ninety days. However, due to the legislative calendar of the City Council, the Presiding Judge granted an extension for the City Council’s response to September 19, 2008. This report presents the City Council’s response as recommended by the IBA. If the actions are adopted by the City Council, the Council President will be authorized to deliver the Council’s response to the Superior Court.

In preparing these recommended responses, the IBA worked in coordination with the Mayor’s Office and staff from the Fire-Rescue Department. For each finding and recommendation, the City Council may 1) join the Mayor’s response; 2) respond with a modification of the Mayor’s response; or 3) respond independently of the Mayor.

The table below provides a summary of the IBA’s recommendations.

Finding(s):	11	<i>Join the Mayor’s Response</i>
Recommendation(s):	--	
Finding(s):	1	<i>Respond with Modification of the Mayor’s Response</i>
Recommendation(s):	08-105, 08-106, 08-115	
Finding(s):	--	<i>Respond Independently of the Mayor</i>
Recommendation(s):	--	

The full text of the Mayor’s responses and the IBA’s recommended responses on behalf of the City Council can be found in the attachment to this report.

**[SIGNED]**

---

Lisa Celaya  
Fiscal & Policy Analyst

**[SIGNED]**

---

APPROVED: Andrea Tevlin  
Independent Budget Analyst

Attachments