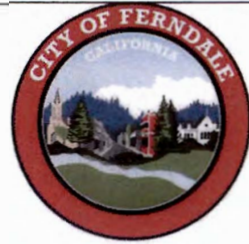


CITY OF FERNDALE

POB 1095

FERNDALE, CA 95536

"A Historic Victorian Village"

TO: The Honorable Judge Timothy A. Canning
California Superior Court for Humboldt County
825 5th Street, Eureka CA 95501

Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 657
Eureka, CA 95502

FROM: FERNDALE CITY COUNCIL
City of Ferndale
PO Box 1095
Ferndale, CA 95536

RE: Emergency Preparedness – The Role of Local Law Enforcement Agencies

DATE: 7/29/2026

Dear Judge Canning and Members of the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury:

The City of Ferndale is in receipt of the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Emergency Preparedness - The Role of Local Law Enforcement Agencies," released June 17, 2026. The Ferndale City Council reviewed the report and approved this response at its meeting on August 19, 2026. The City provides the following responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS:

F1. Agree.

F2. Partially Agree. The City agrees with the finding insofar as it recognizes that attendance at regular Office of Emergency Services meetings may be affected by time constraints or higher-priority obligations. The City disagrees with any broader implication that Ferndale does not meaningfully coordinate with other law enforcement agencies or share law enforcement experience concerning emergency operations. The Chief of Police attends monthly Law Enforcement Chiefs' meetings with the leaders of local law enforcement agencies. Emergency operations are often a topic of discussion during those meetings. After-action reports are provided concerning real-world incidents, the strengths and weaknesses of the response are discussed, and participants discuss future training for area first responders based on needs or deficiencies identified during actual events.

F3. Partially Disagree. The City agrees that representatives attending Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services meetings should communicate the priorities and requirements of local law enforcement agencies. The City disagrees with the implication that Ferndale lacks a mechanism to identify and communicate its local law enforcement and emergency-response priorities. The City of Ferndale holds a monthly Disaster Preparedness Meeting with City stakeholders, including the City Manager, a City Council representative, and the Chief of Police. The group also includes two representatives of the Ferndale Fire Department, the Principal of Ferndale High School, and the Humboldt County Fair Manager, among others. The group has hosted guest speakers, including the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services Coordinator and a former Office of Emergency Services Director. These meetings allow participants to identify local priorities and share them with the Office of Emergency Services and the City Manager.

F4. Agree.

F5. Agree.

F6. Agree.

F7. Agree.

F8. Agree.

F9. Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Chief of Police currently attends monthly Law Enforcement Chiefs' meetings at which emergency operations, after-action reports, and training needs are discussed. No later than December 31, 2026, the City Council will direct the Chief of Police to designate the Chief or another Police Department representative to attend regular Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services meetings and provide input concerning the County's emergency plans.

R3. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City adopted the Safety Element of its General Plan in May 2024 and maintains an Emergency Response Handbook last updated in 2022. The City will review and, as necessary, supplement its disaster-response documentation to ensure that it includes a complete list of local disaster-response needs, priorities, and protocols. This review and any necessary updates will be completed no later than March 31, 2027.

R7. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Training is currently listed as a separate Police Department budget line item, and the City has provided sufficient funding to send officers to training. The primary challenge to completing training has been staff turnover. During preparation of the FY 2027-2028 Police Department

budget, the City Council, after consultation with the Chief of Police, will add scenario-based Incident Command System Field Response Training as a separate budget line item.

R8. Implemented

R9. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Ferndale Police Department currently has a separate budget line item for emergency-response equipment. During preparation of the FY 2027-2028 Police Department budget, the City Council, after consultation with the Chief of Police, will ensure that specialized disaster-response equipment, equipment maintenance, and required operator training or certification are identified as separate line items or otherwise separately identifiable appropriations.

The City of Ferndale appreciates the opportunity to provide a written response to the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury.

The foregoing response was considered and approved by the Ferndale City Council at its duly noticed meeting on August 19, 2026. The Chief of Police has reviewed and concurs in the response and joins in it as an invited respondent.

Sincerely,



Randy Cady

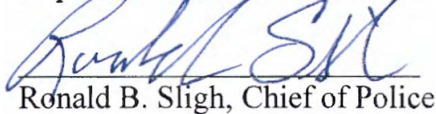
Mayor, City of Ferndale

On behalf of the Ferndale City Council

cc: City Manager
City Attorney
Chief of Police

Chief of Police Concurrence

The Chief of Police has reviewed the foregoing response, concurs in the City Council's responses to the findings and recommendations, and joins in this response as the invited ~~responde~~nt identified in the Grand Jury report.



Ronald B. Sligh, Chief of Police

Date: 8/19/26