

**FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
OF
HUMBOLDT COUNTY**



President Ken Woods
Vice President Jeff Robison
Treasurer Ray Stonebarger
Secretary Rich Grissom

533 C Street, Eureka, CA 95501

June 25, 2015

Sam Giannandrea
Foreperson
Humboldt County Grand Jury
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Dear Foreperson Giannandrea,

On behalf of the Fire Chiefs Association of Humboldt County I would like to thank the Grand Jury for the extensive research performed in support of the report "Rural Safety". It is apparent that the Grand Jury's investigation displayed an accurate understanding of the fire service in our County.

The Chief's Association believes the report clearly describes the history of Humboldt County's rural fire service and the problems and challenges these rural department have face. As noted, the fire service as a whole has largely been historically neglected by the county resulting in a patch work of fire agencies that are underfunded and disjointed, not to mention having specific areas within Humboldt County that are not covered by any form of local fire protection. The Grand Jury's recommendations substantiate and validate what the County Chiefs Association has been stating for many years, namely that the local fire service needs assistance in a myriad of areas including funding for equipment and planning in order to form formally recognized governmental agencies that posse taxing authority. The County Fire Chiefs are also in agreement with each of the six specific recommendations made within the report.

Please convey our thanks to all members of the Grand Jury for their work and we very much appreciate them taking the time to understand and accurately reflect the current state of rural fire agencies within Humboldt County.

Sincerely,



Ken Woods, President
Fire Chiefs Association of Humboldt County