



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Oceano Dunes District
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
805-773-7170

Ruth Coleman, Director

June 1, 2011

Presiding Judge Charles S. Crandall
Superior Court of California
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury
P.O Box 4910
San Luis Obispo, CA 93402

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report "Emergency Medical Helicopters"

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the final Grand Jury Report: "Emergency Medical Helicopters" dated May 26, 2011. I submitted comments to the findings in the draft report in a letter to the Grand Jury dated May 2, 2011, attached for your reference. I am submitting comments addressing report recommendations 2, 4, 5 and 6 as requested in the final report.

Recommendation 2.

I concur with this recommendation.

Recommendation 4.

I concur with this recommendation.

Recommendation 5.

I concur with this recommendation.

Recommendation 6.

I concur with this recommendation.

If you have any questions, I may be contacted at 805-773-7170, or at azilk@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Zilke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Andrew Zilke
District Superintendent



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Oceano Dunes District
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
805-773-7170

Ruth Coleman, Director

May 2, 2011

San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury
P.O Box 4910
San Luis Obispo, CA 93402

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report "Emergency Medical Helicopters"

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Grand Jury Report: "Emergency Medical Helicopters" dated April 21, 2011. I am submitting comments addressing report findings number 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Finding 4.

This finding is accurate.

Findings 5 & 6.

These findings are accurate.

Rangers manage emergency medical scenes and patient care certified by state EMSA and in accordance with California Health and Safety Code, Section 1798.6. Ranger training and direction is that patient transport, whether by land or air, is part of the emergency medical care given and, as such, is determined by the most medically qualified emergency responder on the scene.

For consistency purposes and to conform to county EMSA Policy 119 and the county's unified command structure concept authorized in California Health and Safety Code 1798.6 (b), scene decisions, such as the decision to cancel helicopter response, should be made by the Incident Commander through consultation with the most medically qualified emergency responder on scene. This desired consistency can be achieved through direction to Oceano Dunes SVRA Rangers to include helicopter cancellation as a responsibility of the Incident Commander.

Findings 8 & 9.

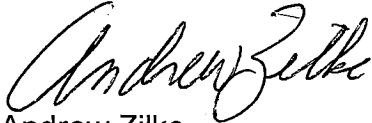
These findings are accurate.

State Parks' participation in the SLO County EMSA Quality Improvement Committee (EMSA QI) ceased when the Helicopter Utilization Review Committee (HURC) was disbanded by SLO EMSA about 4 years ago. The role of the HURC was to have been incorporated into the EMSA QI. State Parks was given the understanding that we would be asked to attend EMSA QI meetings when they involved discussion of helicopter responses to Oceano Dunes SVRA.

An Oceano Dunes SVRA representative will begin attending regularly scheduled meetings of the SLO EMSA QI Committee.

I may be contacted at 805-773-7170 if there are further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Zilke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Andrew Zilke
District Superintendent