



# CITY OF BLYTHE

235 North Broadway • Blythe, California 92225  
Phone (760) 922-6161 • Fax (760) 922-4938

August 21, 2018

Riverside County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 829  
Riverside, CA 92502

**Re: 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report: CAL Fire/Riverside County Fire Department/Palo Verde Valley Fire Protection Issues.**

Forwarded herewith, as adopted by the Blythe City Council on August 14, 2018, is the City's response to the 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report issued June 14, 2018 and released to the public after the close of business June 18, 2018.

**Grand Jury Findings:**

1. Riverside County Fire Station #43, located in Blythe, is unable to sufficiently support the vehicles and equipment assigned there. The 2014-2015 Grand Jury recommended the replacement of Station #43 or relocating it to a site closer to the Colorado River. The station is not large enough to accommodate all vehicles and equipment, and is therefore inadequate.

In the 2016 commissioned independent study by TriData of RCFD resources, several recommendations were made including the closure of Station #43 and consolidating its personnel with Station #45. The study noted that few emergency responses were required of Battalion 8 during the study period, and that few were structure fires of major emergencies.

The 2017-2018 Grand Jury visited three stations in Battalion 8 and observed the fire engine assigned to Station #43 was parked in the driveway and the rescue vehicle was on the street. This exposes the vehicles to extreme weather, tampering, and vandalism. The sun and heat causes deterioration of the paint, decals and rubber seals on the engine and pumps. Fine dust infiltrates essential electrical parts. This exposure of RCFD Vehicles to the elements and to passersby on the street, including children and vagrants, is a serious problem especially when considering that a life-saving medical supply kit is onboard Engine #43, as it is on all County fire engines. The Grand Jury queried personnel of various ranks and failed to obtain a consistent answer to the question of whether the medical kits were even securely locked while onboard the vehicles.

**City's Response:** None required as the findings relate solely to RCFD.

