

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: BUILT TO BURN? EMERGENCY ACCESS CHALLENGES ON HUMBOLDT HILL

Report Date: JULY 30, 2025

Response by: HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FINDINGS

The county agrees with the findings numbered 2 and 3.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 4 is in the process of being implemented.

Recommendation 3 will not be implemented.

Date: Oct. 21, 2025

Signed:



Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Number of pages attached: 2



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO "BUILT TO BURN? EMERGENCY ACCESS CHALLENGES ON HUMBOLDT HILL"

DATE: OCT. 21, 2025

In the Grand Jury Report, "*Built to Burn? Emergency Access Challenges on Humboldt Hill*," the Grand Jury has requested that the Board of Supervisors respond to Findings 2 and 3 and Recommendations 3 and 4. The County Administrative Office is proposing the following response as detailed below.

FINDINGS

Finding 2: *There is no secondary emergency evacuation route available to the residents of Humboldt Hill, leaving them open to harm in case of wildfire, earthquake, or other emergencies. (R3)*

Agree.

Finding 3: *The latest proposed subdivision on Humboldt Hill includes a secondary access route open to residents in case of emergency. If completed as planned, this would provide improved safety for residents of Humboldt Hill. (R4)*

Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 3: *The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors schedule and participate in negotiations with*

private landowners and/or public utilities in order to grant emergency access to Humboldt Hill residents across their property and/or easements. This will be completed by no later than September 30, 2025. (F2)

This recommendation will not be implemented. The Civil Grand Jury's deadline for this recommendation falls before the Board of Supervisors' required response date, making this recommendation unreasonable.

It should be noted that improvement plans for a subdivision on Humboldt Hill have already been approved, and the Department of Public Works is currently waiting for the signed plans to come back from other agencies and service providers. The Humboldt County Planning & Building Department has confirmed it is now a matter of working with other agencies to determine what is needed for them to approve the improvement plans. At this point, there is nothing to expedite other than to work with other agencies to approve the improvement plans.

Recommendation 4: *The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors direct the Planning & Building Department Director and relevant staff to expedite the completion of the latest subdivision plan in order to grant emergency access to Humboldt Hill residents. (F3)*

This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. As previously mentioned, improvement plans for this subdivision have already been approved, and the Department of Public Works is currently waiting for the signed plans to come back from other agencies and service providers. The Humboldt County Planning & Building Department has confirmed it is now a matter of working with other agencies to determine what is needed for them to approve the improvement plans. At this point, there is nothing to expedite other than to work with other agencies to approve the improvement plans.