



April 28, 2003

Frederick P. Horn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SUBJECT: CITY OF STANTON RESPONSES TO FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2002-2003 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND
JURY REPORT "WOOD ROOFS ARE DANGEROUS"**

Dear Honorable Judge Horn:

Enclosed are the City of Stanton's responses to the above 2002-03 Grand Jury Report, which were approved by the Stanton City Council at their regular meeting of April 22, 2003.

Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Wager, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

John F. Wager, Jr.
City Manager

Enclosure

cc City Council
City Attorney

**City of Stanton Responses to
Findings and Recommendations of the
2002-2003 Orange County Grand Jury Report**

“Wood Roofs are Dangerous”

Findings

1. There is a lack of uniformity in local building codes involving roofs for identical environmental conditions within Orange County.
 - *The City of Stanton concurs with this finding.*
2. The testing and qualification standards of wood shakes and shingles are below the environmental conditions of Orange County.
 - *The City of Stanton concurs with this finding.*
3. The cities' and county's roofing codes do not adequately take into account the climate, particularly the Santa Ana winds, and topographical conditions unique to Orange County.
 - *The City of Stanton concurs with this finding.*
4. Fire conflagrations stress finite fire fighting resources especially during the period of Santa Ana winds.
 - *The City of Stanton concurs with this finding.*

Recommendations

1. Each jurisdictional agency should consider amending the building code to require the most fire retardant class of roof covering (Class A) for new construction of all residential structures (Group R) in all fire zones. (Findings 1 through 4)
 - *Current City of Stanton building regulations permit the use of wood shake or shingle roofing materials (either Class A or B) for new construction in all residential structures (Group R), provided they are pressure tested and approved for fire-retardant use by the City building official. However, current practices do not permit the installation of any wood roofs, with the exception of minor repair work (ten percent or less of total roof area). Proposed amendments to City building regulations would prohibit use of all wood roofing materials, except for minor repair work.*

2. Each jurisdictional agency should consider amending the building code to require the most fire retardant class of roof covering (Class A) for re-roofing of all residential structures (Group R) in all fire zones, when more than 50 percent of the roof is replaced within one year. (Findings 1 through 4)
 - *Current City of Stanton building regulations permit the use of wood shake or shingle roofing materials (either Class A or B) for re-roofing (ten percent or less of total roof area) of all residential structures (Group R), provided they are pressure tested and approved for fire-retardant use by the City building official. However, current practices do not permit the installation of any wood roofs, with the exception of minor repair work (ten percent or less of total roof area). Proposed amendments to City building regulations would prohibit use of all wood roofing materials, except for minor repair work.*