

## PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Retired State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva To Formally Review Facts And Circumstances Of Alameda Crown Beach Tragedy**

Following through on her pledge to seek an independent review of the Memorial Day death of a suicidal Alameda resident, Mayor Marie Gilmore announced this morning that Ruben Grijalva has agreed to conduct a comprehensive review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Raymond Zack at Crown Beach in Alameda.

Chief Grijalva is the former State Fire Marshal of California. After serving as State Fire Marshal, Chief Grijalva was Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire; he is the only person in California history to have served in both roles. With a career that included stints in both police and fire services, Chief Grijalva has the skills and experience necessary to review all aspects of the tragic events at Crown Point.

The City has asked Chief Grijalva to be comprehensive in his approach. Accordingly, Chief Grijalva's independent inquiry will review the recent history of water rescue policy in Alameda leading up to Mr. Zack's death. Chief Grijalva will also prepare a definitive and precise chronology of the events of Memorial Day itself and the actions taken by various public safety agencies involved in the incident. Finally, Grijalva

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will review Alameda's current water rescue policies and make recommendations, if necessary, for future policy changes so as to insure that Alameda has an effective water rescue capacity in the future.

"We are fortunate to have Chief Ruben Grijalva performing this independent review. We have asked Chief Grijalva to go wherever the trail takes him in his review of what happened on Memorial Day," said Mayor Marie Gilmore. "The people of Alameda have a right to know what actually took place, how we got there, and how to insure that we don't have any repeat of such a tragedy."

"The City has promised me full access to all their documents and employees. I intend to be fair but frank in my report. At the end of this process, Alamedans can decide for themselves which steps should be taken to rebuild public confidence in their public safety officers," said Chief Grijalva.

The Grijalva Report should be completed by late September and will be available on-line as soon as it is published. Chief Grijalva will present the report at an open City Council meeting to be scheduled as soon after publication as possible.

Attachments:

Grijalva CV  
Initial Policy Review Process

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**Ruben D. Grijalva  
CEO/Principal  
FireChiefs.com, LLC**

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Ruben Grijalva is the CEO/Principal of FireChiefs.com, LLC, a limited liability company that provides expertise in public safety services with access to a network of experienced and professional fire chiefs. FireChiefs.com, LLC has provided consulting services to public and private organizations throughout the United States.

Prior to starting FireChiefs.com, LLC, Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ruben Grijalva as the director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on April 24, 2006. Governor Schwarzenegger had previously named Grijalva as the State Fire Marshal of California on August 16, 2004. Chief Grijalva is the only person in California history to have served in both capacities.

As director and State Fire Marshal, Chief Grijalva served as a policy advisor to Governor Schwarzenegger, led California's response to historic wildfires, led the adoption of new building and fire standards, implemented measures to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire, and reorganized and rebranded CAL FIRE into a statewide all-risk, forward leaning, emergency response organization.

Chief Grijalva had previously served as the fire chief for the city of Palo Alto, California for 10 years. He has 34 years experience working in the field of public safety. He joined Palo Alto in 1990, becoming the fire chief in 1994. Prior to that Chief Grijalva had served the city of Sunnyvale, California, Department of Public Safety, for 16 years working in both police and fire capacities.

While in Palo Alto, he focused on introducing new technologies to the fire service, improving emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness. He has had extensive experience in negotiations of various types, from labor negotiations to legislative and code development to hostage negotiations. He was recognized for his role as the primary hostage negotiator in the 1988 incident at ESL Inc. in Sunnyvale, CA where he successfully negotiated the surrender of the largest mass murderer in Santa Clara County history.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **2009-Current**

FireChiefs.com (CEO/Principal)

### **2006 – 2009**

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) (Director)

### **2004 – 2007**

California Office of the State Fire Marshal (State Fire Marshal)

### **1990 – 2004**

Palo Alto Fire Department (Asst. Fire Chief / Fire Chief)

### **1974 - 1990**

Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety (Police/Fire)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Board of Directors, FIRESCOPE (2004-2009)
- Hydrogen Highway Network Senior Review Committee (2004-2009)
- Commissioner, CA-Nevada Fire Commission (2007-2008)
- Chairperson, State Board of Fire Services (2004-2007)
- Ex-Officio Member, California Film Commission (2004-2007)
- Fire Official of the Year, California Building Officials (2004)
- California Fire Fighters Joint Apprentice Committee (Management Sponsor)
- Past President, Fire Chiefs Department, League of California Cities (2002-2003)
- Past President, Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association (1998)
- Commissioner, Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Commission. (1991 – 1994).
- Committee Member, International Fire Code Institute (IFCI) Uniform Fire Code Committee (1990-1993).
- Chairperson, Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Toxic Gas Ordinance (AB1021) ( 1989-1990)
- Chairperson, Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Northern California Fire Chiefs Hazardous Materials Committee, Northern California Fire Chiefs Uniform Fire Code Committee (1985 - 1990)
- Development Committee Member, Western Fire Chiefs Article 80 Re-write Committee (1985-1988)
- Hostage Negotiator, ESL Incident - Sunnyvale, California (February 1988)

## **EDUCATION**

- San Jose State University, Criminal Justice Administration w/minor in Environmental Studies, 124 semester units, 3.92 4-year cumulative GPA
- San Jose City College, Liberal Arts, AA Degree
- Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Certificates; Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, and Management.

**REFERENCES (Contact information available, when appropriate)**

- Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California
- Susan Kennedy, Chief of Staff for Gov. Schwarzenegger
- Dan Dunmoyer, Former Cabinet Secretary for Gov. Schwarzenegger
- Fred Aguiar, Former Cabinet Secretary for Gov. Schwarzenegger
- Mike Chrisman, Resources Agency Secretary
- Frank Benest, Former City Manager, City of Palo Alto
- Ronny Coleman, Former California State Fire Marshal
- Chip Prather, Fire Chief, Orange County Fire Authority
- Bob Roper, Fire Chief, Ventura County Fire
- California League of Cities
- California Building Industry Association
- American Institute of Architects
- California Building Officials (CALBO)
- California Fire Chiefs Association
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- California Professional Firefighters
- CDF Firefighters

# Water Rescue Policy Review

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## **Objective**

Conduct an impartial evaluation of the water rescue program for the City of Alameda including the governance and administration, planning, policy and procedures, operations, finances, human resources, and standards & training. Prepare documentation of the history of the program, review of key incidents, and recommendations for future consideration.

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## **Items to Review**

The report will include a review of the following:

- Governance & Administration
  - Assessment of Planning, Goals, and Objectives
  - Program compared to Industry Standards
  - Physical Resources
  - Human Resources
  - Training
  - External Systems
  - Findings and Recommendations
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## **Review Process**

- Review of department policies, procedures, and budget
- Review of training documents and records
- Assessment of physical assets
- Interviews with key employees
- Review of current standards and regulations
- Review of external resources and jurisdictional issues
- Interviews with external program management
- Preparation of draft and final reports