

JUL 31 2008

West Sonoma County Union High School District

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ANALY HIGH SCHOOL ♦ EL MOLINO HIGH SCHOOL ♦ LAGUNA HIGH SCHOOL

July 28, 2008

READ AND CONSIDERED

DATE 7/31/08 BY [Signature]

The Honorable Robert S. Boyd
Presiding Judge
Sonoma County Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Judge Boyd:

On behalf of the West Sonoma County Union High School District (WSCUHSD), I am submitting a requested response to the 2007-2008 Final Report of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury regarding disaster preparation in Sonoma County public schools. Specifically, I am responding to Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the "Disasters Will Strike. Are Schools Ready?" portion of the Grand Jury report.

Continuing to ensure the safety and security of our West Sonoma County high school students remains a top priority for the school board members, administrators, teachers, and support staff in our school district. It is my hope that the information provided in my response to the Grand Jury's recommendations helps provide a clearer picture of disaster preparation efforts in our Sonoma County public schools.

Respectfully,



Keller McDonald
District Superintendent

Cc: Dr. Carl Wong
Superintendent, Sonoma County Office of Education

"The central mission of the West Sonoma County Union High School District is to provide high quality instruction, and student achievement is the highest district priority."

**West Sonoma County Union High School District
Response to Final Report of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury 2007-2008**

**“Disasters Will Strike. Are Schools Ready?”
Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8
July 28, 2008**

Recommendation 5:

Superintendents must require that each school develop a disaster emergency plan designed for their school, and assure that the principal has approved the plan.

WSCUHSD Response:

Each school in our school district has a disaster emergency plan, approved by the principal and school site council or school safety committee. Principals are held accountable for annually updating their school’s disaster emergency plan.

Recommendation 6:

SCOE, Superintendents and Principals must consider disaster preparedness a top priority.

WSCUHSD Response:

I respectfully submit that school safety, including disaster preparedness, is already a top priority of SCOE, superintendents and principals across Sonoma County.

Recommendation 7:

All schools must train their personnel in disaster preparedness.

WSCUHSD Response:

Each school in our school district has trained all employees in their roles and responsibilities, as specified in our school emergency plans. In addition to previous trainings, each school in our school district is scheduled to complete Incident Command System training, conducted by Redwood Empire Schools Insurance Groups emergency preparation staff, before October 1, 2008.

Recommendation 8:

Annually, all schools must check emergency supplies to assure that they are adequate. Consumable supplies must be checked for freshness and safety.

WSCUHSD Response:

Non-perishable emergency supplies are located in classrooms, offices and other strategic locations in each school in our school district. These non-perishable emergency supplies are checked and restocked annually. Several years ago, stores of emergency food and water were located in secure containers on each campus in our school district. Due to recent budget reductions at the state level, funding is not available to restock these consumable emergency supplies as they become outdated. Our school district will restock outdated perishable supplies when the State of California provides specific funding for this purpose.