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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

September 5, 2008

TO: Sonoma County Grand Jury

FROM: Rincon Valley Union School District  
Diane Moresi, Superintendent

RE: Response to Recommendations for the “Disaster Will Strike – Are the Schools Ready?” Report

**R5 Superintendents must require that each school develop a disaster emergency plan designed for their school, and assure that the principal has approved the plan.**

The Rincon Valley Union School District agrees with this recommendation, and it has been fully implemented. Each school has a disaster emergency plan, which was developed from the model plan created by the Redwood Empire Schools Insurance Group (RESIG). Each plan addresses the NIMS/SEMS guidelines and follows all State and Federal standards. The plans are updated and approved annually by the Board of Trustees and the School Site Council of each school. See attached Board minutes dated May 6, 2008 Item 9.1 (Safe School Plan)

**R6 SCOE, Superintendents and Principals must consider disaster preparedness a top priority.**

The Rincon Valley Union School District agrees with this recommendation.

Beginning in the 2007 school year, the Rincon Valley Union School District contracted with B4 Disaster Management and Consulting Services to provide additional direction in disaster emergency planning and implementation. The District purchased the “Integrated Crisis Response System” for each school. The Response System includes a 24”X36” fully laminated framed map for every office area and is placed in full view for parents, staff, students, and community members. In addition, an 8 1/2”X11” map is located on emergency kits in the classrooms. A CD with the map was distributed to the Sonoma County and City of Santa Rosa emergency response offices by RESIG. A state of the art emergency kit was placed in all classrooms and other areas where there could

be numbers of children. The supplies are contained in bright yellow rolling hard cases, and each includes a sanitation system, basic first aid kit, 64 water pouches, food ration bars, survival blankets, and emergency lighting. The kits are sealed and are not to be opened unless there is a major disaster or serious emergency. The food ration bars and water have a five year shelf life. After five years the food and water rations are replaced by the vendor. In addition, a Response Packet hangs on each emergency kit. It has a current site map and holder, a simplified emergency response guide, color coded vests, and alert signage, name badges, and erasable markers.

The Emergency Plan that will go into effect for the 2008-2009 school year will include a full implementation binder for each response team designated in the plan, as well as training for all personnel on their roles. For example, the Logistics Section Chief is responsible for his team assignments of communications, staffing, and supplies.

#### **R7 All Schools must train their personnel in disaster preparedness**

The Rincon Valley Union School District agrees with this recommendation.

This recommendation has been fully implemented on an annual basis. The schools hold monthly drills for fire and earthquake. For the 2008-2009 school year we are implementing a monthly lockdown drill. In addition, the Rincon Valley District holds a district-wide drill annually, with scenarios that have been scripted for the principals and each participating team member. Following the actual drill, each school debriefs on the success of the drill and problem-solves the areas in need of improvement. At the Administrative Council Meeting following the district wide drill, an evaluation of the district wide drill is completed. During the 2007-08 school year, the radio system was upgraded so that all schools would be able to communicate without failure to the district office in case of an emergency or disaster. Training on the system was done by John Evers of Precision Wireless Service. Each Friday, the Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations contacts every school via radio to ensure constant readiness by key personnel. First aid training, search and rescue training, CERT certification, etc. are ongoing, provided by the school nurses and RESIG staff.


#### **R8 Annually, all schools must check emergency supplies to assure that they are adequate. Consumable supplies must be checked for freshness and safety.**

The Rincon Valley Union School district agrees with this recommendation.

The Integrated Crisis Response System emergency kits are sealed, and the water and food ration bars have a shelf life of five years. Barring any unforeseen

circumstances, the kits will not need to be replenished until 2012. At that time, the consulting firm will replenish them.

I believe this addresses each of the recommendations that the Grand Jury Report requested of district superintendents. If you have any further questions or would like to review any of our materials or supplies, please notify me.

  
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