



MENDOCINO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

PAUL A. TICHININ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

2240 Old River Road • Ukiah, CA 95482-6156 • 707 467-5001 • Fax 707 462-5096

June 25, 2007

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 629
Ukiah, CA 95482

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is the response from the Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Paul Tichinin regarding the recent Grand Jury Reports entitled "A" for Laytonville, dated March 22, 2007 and "Are We Ready for the Big One? Emergency Preparedness in Mendocino County" dated April 5, 2007.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me in the Superintendent's Office at (707) 467-5001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Wojcieszak".

Katie Wojcieszak
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

cc: Presiding Judge Hon. Cindee Mayfield

Enc. 6 pages

REPORT TRANSMITTAL AND REQUEST FOR RESPONSES - FORMAT

April 17, 2007

Mendocino County Office of Education
2240 Old River Rd.
Ukiah, Ca. 95482

RE: Report Titled "A" FOR LAYTONVILLE
Dated: March 22, 2007

Enclosed is a courtesy copy of the above report by the 2006/2007 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury. Penal Code §933.05(f) specifically prohibits disclosure of the contents of this report by a public agency or its officers or governing body prior to the release to the public. Public release will occur two (2) days after the date of this letter.

Response to Grand Jury Reports is not an option, but is required pursuant to Penal Code §933.05 (copy enclosed). Penal Code §933.05 also requires your response to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report be in writing within **60 days** for elected officials and **90 days** for appointed officials. The Penal Code is specific as to the format of responses. The enclosed Response to Grand Jury Report Form should be used.

Please provide one hard copy and one digital copy of the response to: The Presiding Judge, Superior Court, and Foreperson, Mendocino County Grand Jury.

Your responses should follow the following format :

Findings

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 10 & 11
10.) The County Office has recommended that the district apply to the State for "hardship" funds to remove the asbestos.
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered:

(attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

- 11.) The newly elected district attorney is working with Ukiah Unified and their SARB process. DA Lintott has indicated her support to work with all school districts regarding this issue.

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered: _____
have been implemented. (attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: 2. As indicated earlier, the DA has indicated
have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. her support
(attach a time frame for implementation) to work with
the schools
on this issue.

Recommendations numbered: 1. The district will need to continue in their
require further analysis. (attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an efforts to
analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the identify a
officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; funding
including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall source.
not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)

Recommendations numbered: _____
will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not
reasonable. (attach an explanation)

Date: 5/24/07 Signed: 

Total number of pages attached: _____

Your responses are public records. The clerk of the public agency affected must maintain a copy of your response. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 463-4320 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

[Current Foreperson] _____, Foreperson

REPORT TRANSMITTAL AND REQUEST FOR RESPONSES - FORMAT

April 26, 2007

Mendocino County Office of Education
2240 Old River Rd.
Ukiah, Ca. 95482

RE: Report Titled ARE WE READY FOR THE BIG ONE? EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

Dated: April 5, 2007

Enclosed is a courtesy copy of the above report by the 2006/2007 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury. Penal Code §933.05(f) specifically prohibits disclosure of the contents of this report by a public agency or its officers or governing body prior to the release to the public. Public release will occur two (2) days after the date of this letter.

Response to Grand Jury Reports is not an option, but is required pursuant to Penal Code §933.05 (copy enclosed). Penal Code §933.05 also requires your response to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report be in writing within **60 days** for elected officials and **90 days** for appointed officials. The Penal Code is specific as to the format of responses. The enclosed Response to Grand Jury Report Form should be used.

Please provide one hard copy and one digital copy of the response to: The Presiding Judge, Superior Court, and Foreperson, Mendocino County Grand Jury.

Your responses should follow the following format :

Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

19

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered:

(attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

Recommendations

SEE ATTACHMENT FOR SPECIFICS

- Recommendations numbered: _____ have been implemented. (attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered: _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. (attach a time frame for implementation)
- Recommendations numbered: _____ require further analysis. (attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)
- Recommendations numbered: _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable. (attach an explanation.)

Date: 6-25-07 Signed: Yuba A Fodell

Total number of pages attached: 2

Your responses are public records. The clerk of the public agency affected must maintain a copy of your response. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 463-4320 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

[Current Foreperson] _____, Foreperson

Grand Jury Inquiry and Comments

May 29, 2007

Findings

In general MCOE agrees with the findings and specifically addresses the following items as requested and appropriate:

Item # 19--Some volunteer groups have organized as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), a community-based preparedness and response system.

The State of California provides training for these teams.

There is a related program called student emergency response team (officially designated as Teen CERT), which has only recently begun training.

MCOE Comment: While the State of California does provide standards for training and some Train-the-Trainer workshops the CERT program has been funded locally by the "gang of five" grant funds and by the Mendocino County Office of Education, USDOE Emergency Response and Crisis Management Region 1 grant. Without these funds equipment would not be available to support required training and supplies.

Teen CERT has been exclusively funded by MCOE sources including, the USDOE grant (terminates June 30, 2007), Eastern Michigan University and a grant from Allstate Insurance Foundation. The Teen CERT initiatives now launched at Mendocino HS, Redwood Academy, MCOE Alternative HS are ongoing and additional funding has been provided for Ukiah H.S., Pt. Arena HS and Potter Valley High School who are expected to begin programs on their campuses this summer or in the Fall of 2007.

Recommendations: To date more than 250 adults and about 100 teenagers have received CERT training in Mendocino County. All first responders agree that these programs are critical to effective emergency preparedness and response and that these programs ought to be continued.

Item # 22—In November 2006, Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) designated an Emergency Coordinator. Under a program offered by the MCOE Emergency Coordinator, 22, school employees received emergency training.

MCOE Comment: In November 2006 MCOE (the LEA) received a grant that has provided ongoing training for MCOE employees and all school district personnel. Private schools have been invited to participate but have participated on a limited basis. From November 2006 to June 2007 the grant project has involved schools and district in prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery training and activities by increasing hazards awareness, personal

and family preparedness, institutional emergency planning, emergency response team building and SEMS/NIMS compliance as required by State law.

A primary goal of the USDOE grant project has been to involve the school communities with OES, first responders and county agencies. Progress has been made integrating the schools into the emergency response system and the community is now more aware of the need to involve schools in emergency planning and activities. The MCOE emergency management project has been well received and highly successful to date involving more than 100 trainings and interagency activities. The need is clearly evident for MCOE to provide continuing leadership to districts and schools in emergency and crisis management. MCOE is seeking additional funding to help support such a permanent position.

Recommendation: Recognizing the critical need for ongoing emergency management training for districts, schools, staff, students, parents and contiguous communities. We recognize that a position will be needed to provide assistance to schools in preparation of annual emergency operation plan updates, business continuity, provide ongoing and needed training for district and school community personnel and continue interagency collaboration among first responder and county agencies.

There is an evident need to activate an inclusive County Emergency Management Advisory Group or Task Force or that includes social agencies and school communities.

Item # 23—The Grant paying for the current MCOE Emergency Coordinator position expires in June 2007.

MCOE Comment: With the USDOE grant funds expiring in June and motivated by a Federal requirement for project sustainability as well as a recognized need for additional training of staff and students throughout the county, MCOE has created a composite position that will maintain a Director of School Community EM through June 2008. Supported by various agency contributions the position will serve MCOE, Public Health in 5 counties and The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Efforts will be continued to develop grants and otherwise fund an on-going position as recommended by the Grand Jury.