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August 13, 2007

Mike Penn, Foreperson
2006/07 Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Subject: **Orange County Grand Jury Report Related to Schools Disaster Plans**

Dear Mr. Penn:

The following information is submitted in response to a letter from the Grand Jury dated May 17, 2007, in which you requested information from all Orange County Superintendents by August 21, 2007.

Findings

F.1 The over-all quality of the 28 Orange County school districts and their individual schools' emergency preparedness plans are in need of much improvement.

Response: Cypress School District cannot speak for the quality of all the Orange County plans that have been reviewed by the Orange County Grand Jury. We can only speak for the Cypress School District Emergency Preparedness Plan, which we are constantly striving to improve.

Since October 2006, a Disaster Preparedness Committee has met on a monthly basis, to assess our needs and to improve our plans. The committee is comprised of administrators, teachers, classified staff, parents, the Cypress Police Department, and the City of Cypress Disaster Coordinator. School plans are being revised, new supplies have been purchased, and sites are being assessed for security needs. The committee will be ongoing in the 2007/08 school year.

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- R.1 Orange County school districts should make sure they and their individual schools have a SEMS equivalent plan, and that these should be submitted to the Orange County Department of Education/Superintendent of School for review.

Response: The recommendation to submit plans to the Orange County Department of Education will not be implemented, as it is not warranted. It is the responsibility of each school district to review their own school site safety plan, as required by the California Education Code Section 32288. It is not the responsibility of the Orange County Department of Education. The Cypress School District will make sure that we, and our individual school sites, have a SEMS equivalent plan.

Sincerely,



Sheri Loewenstein
Superintendent

SL/jb

cc: Nancy Wieben Stock, Presiding Judge Superior Court