

# **Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District**

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Superintendent

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August 1, 2007

Honorable Nancy Wieben-Stock, Presiding Judge  
Orange County Superior Court C1  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report on School Emergency Plans

Dear Judge Wieben-Stock:

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District offers this response to the Findings and Recommendations noted in the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled **Orange County Schools Disaster Plans; A Disaster Waiting to Happen ?**

## **Finding 1**

*The overall quality of the 28 Orange County school districts and their individual school's emergency preparedness plans are in need of much improvement.*

## **Response to Finding 1**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School Districts disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

## **Rationale for the Response to Finding 1**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is not familiar with the over-all quality of the emergency preparedness plans of the 28 school districts that submitted emergency preparedness plans to the Orange County Grand Jury; however, we do believe the emergency plans of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District are SEMS compliant.

Nonetheless, we believe that any plan can benefit from review. To that end, our District will be reviewing and revising, where appropriate, our school and worksite master plans during the coming fiscal year. Additions will include, at a minimum, a mitigation survey to be completed by each school and work site during the fiscal year 2007-2008. Once complete, the mitigation issues will be prioritized and a timeline for completion developed. In the past, school plans had been reviewed annually by the District's Emergency Preparedness Advisor. In the future, school plans will receive a more thorough review with specific interest placed on the assignment and training of personnel for identified positions within the plan.

We thank you for your interest in our students' safety.



**Recommendation 1**

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

**Response to Recommendation 1**

The recommendation requires further analysis.

**Rationale for the Response to Recommendation 1**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees that all schools and work sites within its jurisdiction should have a SEMS equivalent emergency response plan. It is also our belief that the plans in place in our schools and work sites are SEMS equivalent plans.

While there are no provisions in current law that require or suggest that school district emergency response plans be reviewed by the Orange County Department of Education/Superintendent of Schools, our District would welcome any external review of our emergency response plans that could provide the basis for further improvement.

Sincerely,



Dennis M. Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent