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David W. Gordon
Superintendent

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9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, California 95624

September 29, 2003

The Honorable Michael T. Garcia
Presiding Judge
Sacramento County Superior Court
720 Ninth Street, Dept. 47
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Elk Grove Unified School District's Response to Finding
and Recommendation of Grand Jury Report Re: Elk Grove
Unified School District School Safety In Jeopardy Dated
June 30, 2003

Dear Judge Garcia:

The Elk Grove Unified School District respectfully submits the enclosed Response to the June 30, 2003 Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury Report regarding Elk Grove Unified School District's School Safety In Jeopardy Investigation. This Response is served pursuant to sections 933-933.05 of the California Penal Code.

Very truly yours,

David W. Gordon
Superintendent
Elk Grove Unified School District

DMC:sw
Enclosure

SACRAMENTO\DMC9264

**Elk Grove Unified School District's Specific Response to
Findings and Recommendation of the
Sacramento County Grand Jury Report
Re: School Safety In Jeopardy Dated June 30, 2003**

INTRODUCTION

Elk Grove Unified School District (hereafter "the District") respectfully submits the following Specific Response to the Sacramento County Grand Jury Report of June 30, 2003 Re: School Safety In Jeopardy as dealing with the School Resource Officer ("SRO") Program (hereafter "SRO Report"). This response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury in the SRO Report is submitted pursuant to California Penal Code section 933-933.05. As detailed below, the District does not take exception with the general Findings and Recommendations of the SRO Report in so far as that report endorses the value and need for school safety. The District endorses the continuation of the School Resource Officer Program as part of the goal of school safety. The District does not, however, concur with Recommendation No. 6 that the costs of the SRO program should be added to the District's existing budget for the current 2003-2004 school year.

The District respectfully responds to the SRO Report's Findings and Recommendations as follows:

FINDING NO. 1:

The School Resource Officer is essential to the safety of students at school.

RESPONSE TO FINDING NO. 1:

The District concurs with this Finding.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:

That all comprehensive high schools that serve Sacramento County students have on campus a school resource officer.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:

The District concurs with this Recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2:

That intermediate schools have a school resource officer.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION NO. 2:

The District concurs with this Recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3:

That continuation high schools have access to a school resource officer.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION NO. 3:

The District concurs with this Recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4:

That the safety of students be recognized by including the school resource officer program in the budget of the Sheriff's Department and the school district's serving the unincorporated areas of the county for 2003-2004.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION NO. 4:

The District recognizes the importance of the safety of students and the benefit of the SRO Program. However, this Recommendation seeks to add an otherwise unanticipated expense to the established budget for the existing 2003-2004 school year. The resources of the District are already strained by the pending state budget limitations. The late addition of a budget item as significant as the cost of funding the SRO Program would create an undue financial burden on the District. Accordingly, the District does not endorse this recommendation, but would support further efforts to identify appropriate alternate funding sources for this important program and will participate in the efforts to determine how to deal with this funding issue for the next academic year's budget.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5:

That the safety of students be recognized by including the school resource officer program in the budgets of the Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento Unified School District for 2003-2004.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION NO. 5:

The District has insufficient information to concur or disagree with this Recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6:

That the safety of students be recognized by including the school resource officer program in the budget of the San Juan Unified School District, the Elk Grove Unified School District and Center School District for 2003-2004.

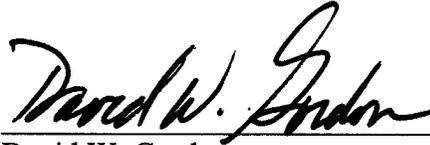
RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION NO. 6:

The District has insufficient information to concur or disagree with this Recommendation as it pertains to the San Juan Unified School District and the Center School District. With regard to the Elk Grove Unified School District, the District has recognized the importance of the safety of students and the benefit of the SRO Program, and notwithstanding the significant limitations on the available

resources the District has maintained funding in the current budget for the expenses associated with the School Resource Officer program. The District's commitment to this program does not constitute a representation of the future availability of such resources, nor a recognition that such a demand outside the budgeting procedures routinely undertaken by the District may be compelled or asserted after establishment of the budget. The apportionment of the District's resources is a responsibility vested in and reserved to the District Board, and as directed by the Board, to the District Administration.

As set forth above, the District does support further efforts to identify appropriate alternate funding sources for this important program.

Respectfully submitted



David W. Gordon
Superintendent
Elk Grove Unified School District

1 Re: Elk Grove Unified School District's Response to Finding and Recommendation
2 of Grand Jury Report

3
4 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

5 I, Debbie A. Prior declare:

6 I am a resident of the State of California and over the age of eighteen years,
7 and not a party to the within action; my business address is Best Best & Krieger LLP, 400
8 Capitol Mall, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California 95814 . On September 29, 2003, I served
9 the within documents:

10 **Elk Grove Unified School District's Specific Response to Findings
11 and Recommendation of the Sacramento County Grand Jury Report
12 Re: School Safety In Jeopardy Dated June 30, 2003**

13 X By causing a true copy thereof to be delivered to the party or parties at the
14 address(es) listed below, by and/or through the services of Capitol Mall
15 Courier Services.

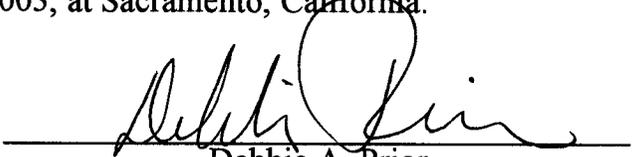
16 Hon. Michael T. Garcia, Presiding Judge
17 Sacramento Superior Court
18 720 Ninth Street, Dept. 47
19 Sacramento, CA 95814

20 Mark Norris, Director of Finance
21 County-Clerk Recorder Division
22 600 - 8th Street
23 Sacramento, CA 95814

24 Sacramento County Grand Jury
25 720 Ninth Street, Room 611
26 Sacramento, CA 95814
27 Attention: Michelle Park
28 (20 copies delivered)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that
the above is true and correct.

Executed on September 29, 2003, at Sacramento, California.


Debbie A. Prior



Established 1858

Center Unified School District

8408 Watt Avenue • Antelope, California 95843
(916) 338-6330 • Fax (916) 338-6411

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Nancy Anderson
Raymond F. Bender
Teri E. Ferguson
Scott C. Rodowick
Libby A. Williams

SUPERINTENDENT
Rex Fortune, Ph.D.

August 28, 2003

The Honorable Michael T. Garcia
Presiding Judge
Sacramento County Superior Court
720 Ninth Street, Dept .47
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Center Unified School District's Response to Finding and Recommendation of Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Garcia:

Center Unified School District is responding to your request to both the findings and recommendations contained in the Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report 2002-2003 as required by Penal Code Section 933.05. The response is specific to Findings and Recommendations #6 on page 52.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS #6:

The School Resource Officer Program has a cost of approximately \$120,000.00. That program was previously paid for by the County of Sacramento. Due to Sacramento County budget restraints, they are now unable to fund the program again for the 2003 - 2004 year. Center Unified School District has also experienced major budget reductions, which will not allow us to take over the funding for that program.

We have adjusted existing services to meet your recommendation by expanding our district's "Safe Schools Program" to Center High School. This program has off duty Sacramento County Sheriff's Officers patrol the district's campuses during the hours that our schools are in session. They also are on call for any problem that might need a Sheriff Officer's expertise and/or help. The cost of this program, which is funded by our general fund, is less costly and benefits all students and staff in our district, including Center High School.

Very truly yours,

R. John Loehr, Director of Maintenance,
Operations, Facilities, Technology and Transportation