

## **SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

The Tulare County Office of Education exists to serve, support, encourage, develop and consistently improve educational opportunities for over 90,000 students in the forty-five school districts of Tulare County. The Tulare County Juries have over the years, written several reports on the large school districts in Tulare County. The 2013-2014 Grand Jury chose to investigate and report on the small school districts of Tulare County. There are thirty-one schools in Tulare County with an Average Daily Attendance (ADA) of between one and one-thousand students. The Grand Jury randomly chose fifteen schools in Tulare County with an ADA of less than one-thousand students.

# Buena Vista Elementary School

21660 Road 60  
Tulare, California 93274

Phone: (559) 686-2015  
Fax: (559) 684-0932  
Email: buenavista@tcoe.org

Carole Mederos  
Superintendent

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July 2, 2014

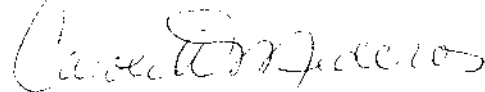
Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277

Re: Grand Jury Findings in the report dated June 17, 2014

Dear Members of the Grand Jury:

Please find the attached response from Buena Vista School to the Grand Jury Findings.  
If there are any questions please contact Carole Mederos at 559-686-2015

Thank you,



Carole Mederos, Superintendent



RECEIVED  
7-8-2014

# Buena Vista Elementary School

21660 Road 60  
Tulare, California 93274

Phone: (559) 686-2015  
Fax: (559) 684-0932  
Email: buenavista@tcoe.org

Carole Mederos  
Superintendent

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July 2, 2014

## Response to the Findings of the Tulare County Grand Jury Report dated June 14, 2014

### Buena Vista School Finding

#### 1. General Funds are being used to purchase bottled water.

Recommendation: The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Buena Vista School District apply for funding under Prop 84, Safe Drinking Water Bond Act, for a new well as well as other school districts have done.

#### Buena Vista Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. We began the application process for a new well in 2008. The application for the feasibility study was submitted in 2010. The test well and feasibility study were completed in 2012. We just entered into a funding agreement with California Department of Public Health for the construction of a new well. This process will probably take the better part of a year. My hope is to have the new well in by the summer of 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Carole Mederos, Superintendent  
Buena Vista School District



# Buena Vista Elementary School

21660 Road 60  
Tulare, California 93274

Phone: (559) 686-2015  
Fax: (559) 684-0932  
Email: buenavista@tcoe.org

Carole Mederos  
Superintendent

July 2, 2014

**Response to the Findings of the Tulare County Grand Jury Report dated June 14, 2014 – Revised August 11, 2014.**

## **Buena Vista School Finding**

**Finding 1: General Funds are being used to purchase bottled water.**

**Response:** Buena Vista School District agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 1: The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends that all gates be locked during the day in order to further insure the safety of students and faculty.**

**Response:** This recommendation will not be implemented at this time. Due to the location of the school office; in the interior of the campus, the front gate must remain unlocked to allow parent and visitor access to the office. In our master planning we are looking at options that will allow us to have a "closed" campus.

**Recommendation 2: The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Buena Vista School District apply for funding under Prop 84, Safe Drinking Water Bond Act, for a new well as well as other school districts have done.**

**Response:** This recommendation has been implemented. We began the application process for a new well in 2008. The application for the feasibility study was submitted in 2010. The test well and feasibility study were completed in 2012. We just entered into a funding agreement with California Department of Public Health for the construction of a new well. This process will probably take the better part of a year. My hope is to have the new well in by the summer of 2015.

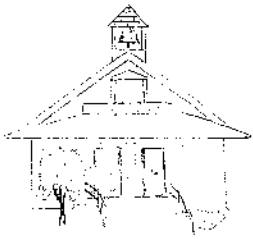
Respectfully submitted,



Carole Mederos, Superintendent  
Buena Vista School District



RECEIVED  
JUL 15 2014



"Gem of the foothills"

# Citrus South Tule School District

*Excellence in Education*  
31374 Success Valley Drive  
Porterville, CA 93257

Phone:  
(559) 784-6333

Fax:  
(559) 784-0413

July 2, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 S. Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, California 93291

## **RE: RESPONSE TO THE 2013-2014 TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Tulare County Grand Jury:

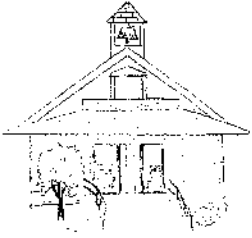
The Respondent, Citrus South Tule Elementary School District, agrees with the finding. The district is currently taking steps to improve the availability of technology available to our students and to increase parent and community volunteerism, involvement, and participation in our school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information in this regard.

Sincerely,

David Huchingson  
Superintendent

RECEIVED  
7-8-2014



"Gem of the foothills"

# Citrus South Tule School District

*Excellence in Education*  
31374 Success Valley Drive  
Porterville, CA 93257

Phone:  
(559) 784-6333

Fax:  
(559) 784-0413

September 8, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, California 93291

## **RE: RESPONSE TO THE 2013-2014 TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Tulare County Grand Jury:

In Regard to Finding #1

The Respondent, Citrus South Tule Elementary School District and the Citrus South Tule Elementary School District Board of Trustees, agree with Finding #1. The Citrus South Tule Elementary School District is in need of new technology equipment, but lacks the necessary financial resources for computers and materials. While this has been recognized for some time, the lack of necessary funding has prohibited progress. This need really hit home last spring when the Citrus South Tule Elementary School was faced with administering the Smarter-Balanced Field Test and did not have sufficient computer hardware and technology for students to participate in this program. An arrangement was made with the Towanits Indian Education Center on the Tule River Indian Reservation to use one of their computer labs for Smarter-Balanced Testing. The district recently received a \$10,000 grant to use for technology and materials related to implementation of the Common Core State Standards. While this is not a great deal of money, it will get our district started in increasing technology available for student use and provide for Smarter-Balanced testing on campus in the spring of 2015.

In August 2014, we terminated our agreement for a T-1 line for internet service and added a DSL connection, subsequently speeding up our capacity for internet services and preparing the way for us to add the wireless network and increased usage of computers by students and staff. The next step is to add modems in all classrooms so that a wireless connection is available in all locations on the campus. The Porterville Unified School District has offered to provide technological advisement for the efficient and economical purchase of complementary equipment and services; serve our current technology needs; and, provide opportunity for

9.22.2014 D

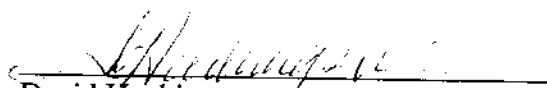
expansion. By the end of 2014, the district will have installed and implement a wireless network throughout the campus and begin adding computer hardware (likely to be Chromebooks) for student use. An application is in process at the present time for additional funding for technology and to improve the broadband capability at Citrus South Tule School. The district will be diligent in seeking additional funds. The Citrus South Tule Elementary School District looks forward to providing increasing technology for student and staff use.

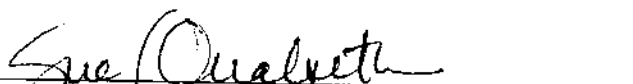
In regard to Finding #2:

The Respondent, Citrus South Tule Elementary School District and the Citrus South Tule Elementary School District Board of Trustees, agree with Finding# 2. This is a complicated issue for the Citrus South Tule Elementary School District and one with which we have wrestled for some time. From 1998 to 2010, the Citrus South Tule Elementary School provided an after-school program for all students. This program was discontinued in 2010, due to low student attendance. At present, only two students who attend Citrus South Tule Elementary School live within the Citrus South Tule Elementary School District. In excess of 90% of our students reside on the Tule River Indian Reservation. The Tule River Indian Reservation houses the Towanits Indian Education Center which provides a quality after school and holiday tutoring for all students attending our school. Students are bused directly to the Towanits Indian Education Center upon dismissal from school. Our students take advantage of this service on a regular basis, making the offering of an on-site after-school program inefficient at this time. Over the past six months, the district has worked closely with the Towanits Indian Education Center to improve communication and coordination of effort in support of our students learning needs. The Towanits Indian Education Center sends staff into the Citrus South Tule Elementary School at least two days per week to support students in the classroom. Homework packets are provided by Citrus South Tule teachers to the Towanits Indian Education Center on a weekly basis. The school receives wonderful support from the Towanits Indian Education Center staff by their attendance at many our school events and activities. The parents of students attending our school are supportive and appreciative of the services provided by the Towanits Indian Education Center. The Citrus South Tule Elementary School District will continue to monitor this situation and should the need, support, and practicality for such a service arrive, will immediately take action to implement.

Should you need additional information in this regard, please contact Citrus South Tule Elementary School District Superintendent, David Huchingson or the Melinda Beer, President, Citrus South Tule Elementary School District Board of Trustees at 559-784-6333.

Sincerely,

  
David Huchingson  
Superintendent

  
Sue Qualseth  
Clerk, Citrus South Tule ESD Board of Trustees  
(in the absence of the Citrus South Tule ESD Board President)

## Grand Jury

### FINDINGS:

1. **Installation of classroom computers is pending.**

Response:

The board agrees with this finding. In addition, Columbine has added computers since the Grand Jury's visit. The District now has 76 computers in its classrooms and 30 laptops that are on a moveable cart. The District will be adding more computers this year.

2. **Finding the school administration office was difficult because no office sign was posted.**

Response:

The Board agrees with this finding. The District has added a sign – OFFICE – above the office door.

3. **The school does not provide an after school program, but allows students to stay after school to get onsite tutoring for a short period of time.**

Response:

The board disagrees with this finding, unless the Grand Jury is referring to a county program. The District has several programs after school. These include the following:

- Math Field Day practice: two to three months, several times a week in grades 4-6.
- Odyssey of the Mind team planning; two teams, four to six months.
- Remediation for math and language arts in grades 4-8; six ten- week sessions, twice a week.
- Writing sessions for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders: six to nine weeks, twice a week.
- Homework assistance twice a week for the majority of the year.
- 1 ½ hour sessions for preschoolers twenty times during the year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **The Tulare County Grand Jury recommend Columbine School District work collaboratively with the Tulare County Office of Education on an action plan that will help provide the District with the ability to receive funding for supplemental textbook resources.**

Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. Columbine worked closely with the County Office on its LCAP. Columbine's Plan has been approved and it provides the District with additional funding for supplemental materials. The funding nearly doubles in 2014/15. The District is also spending some Common Core Funding on supplemental materials. Money is available for supplemental materials. The District has purchased math materials and books, and online learning for math and language arts.

- 2. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Columbine School District contract with the Tulare County Office of Education to obtain an Information Technology Technician to provide services to the District.**

Response:

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is unwarranted. The County Office answers any questions the District has about technology without the need for a contract. Columbine's Principal has attended training on technology provided by the County Office. The District also receives regular information on the Smarter Balanced Testing process and requirements from the state and ETS.

- 3. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Columbine School District post a visible "office" sign that will let visitors or parents know where the office is located.**

Response:

This recommendation had been implemented. The District has posted an "OFFICE" sign above the door on the office window.

- 4. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Columbine School District solicit for volunteers to create an after school program that is designed to not only help students with homework but to help students with club activities or provide an after school activity in general for the students.**

Response:

This recommendation will not be implemented because it isn't warranted. The board doesn't want an after school program run by volunteers. In addition, Columbine has lots of after school activities already.

- Math Field Day practice: two to three months, several times a week in grades 4-6.
- Odyssey of the Mind team planning; two teams, four to six months.

- Remediation for math and language arts in grades 4-8, six ten- week sessions, twice a week.
- Writing sessions for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders: six to nine weeks, twice a week.
- Homework assistance twice a week for the majority of the year.
- 1 ½ hour sessions for preschoolers twenty times during the year.

**5. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Columbine School District provide their Student Handbook in both English and Spanish.**

Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. The 2014-15 Handbook has been translated into Spanish. Copies have been provided to the appropriate families.

***Liberty Elementary School***

1771 E. Pacific Ave., Tulare, CA 93274  
559.686.1675, 559.686.2879 (FAX)

Superintendent /Principal

**Keri Montoya**

August 15, 2014

Honorable Judge Gary Paden  
County Civic Center, Room 303  
221 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93291

Dear Honorable Judge Gary Paden:

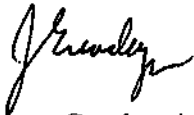
We are writing in regards to the Grand Jury recommendations for Liberty Elementary. We, as a board, agree with both of the findings.

The first recommendation given by the Grand Jury is for Liberty Elementary to contract with the Tulare City School District lunch services when the Visalia Unified School District contract is complete. This recommendation cannot be implemented because it is not warranted. Liberty Elementary had previously contacted Tulare City School District (TCSD) regarding this matter. TCSD is not interested in providing Liberty Elementary with lunch services.

The second recommendation given by the Grand Jury is for Liberty Elementary to continue to pursue linking their water supply to the City of Tulare and discontinue the use of well water. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The City of Tulare is unable to provide Liberty Elementary with city water.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Dr. James Guadagni  
Board President

RECEIVED  
8-3-2014

**Palo Verde Union Elementary School District's Response  
to the Tulare Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations on:**

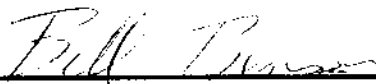
**Small School of Tulare County**

**Date Board Approved:**

**September 10, 2014**

**Board President**

**Bill Benson**



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**Signature**

**Palo Verde Union Elementary School District's Response  
to the Tulare Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations  
"Small School Districts"**

**RECEIVED**  
9-16-2014

**Findings:**

- 1. Palo Verde School District has one school serving grades K-8.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, Palo Verde also has a state operated preschool in which 21 students are served.

- 2. There are twenty-four certificated teachers and an ADA of 520.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

- 3. The Academic Performance Index is 809.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

- 4. The Revenue Limit per ADA is \$6,088 and there is a Total Revenue Limit of \$2,130,481.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

- 5. School Board meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, in February and June the regular Board meetings are held on the third week.

- 6. Student Handbooks are available in English and Spanish.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, the state has changed the funding formula for school revenues and the Revenue Limit no longer exists as the Local Control Funding Formula has replaced the Revenue Limit.

- 7. School Technology is increasing with the addition of two new computer labs with 25 computers in each lab.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, since the report was taken, the district has added another computer lab and all three labs have 34 computers.

- 8. The Palo Verde School District is committed to spending \$106,000 on technology in the next two years.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

9-16-2014

- 9. The school has a new building entitled the "East Wing", which houses the computer lab and a science lab.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, the new wing is called the 800 wing and houses a computer lab, science lab and four classrooms.

- 10. The Palo Verde School District purchased 9.55 adjacent acres of land for new athletic facilities.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

- 11. A new 13,000 square foot gymnasium/multipurpose room is being built with a completion date of May 2014.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

- 12. The school has an asbestos and lead problem in the office and in some older classrooms.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees does not agree with this finding. The office building has recently been modernized and the lead and asbestos materials have been eliminated during the construction project. Asbestos is present in the tiles in some classrooms and on the underlying layers of paint in some of the older classrooms. However, there is no exposure to "friable" asbestos materials or exposed lead materials which pose a safety threat to students of staff. As required by law the district conducted a Three-Year AHERA Inspection in the summer of 2013 and no "friable" asbestos materials were present in any of the classrooms. The district will continue to monitor asbestos, lead, mold and other hazardous material levels in all school buildings and water sources and take appropriate remediation measures.

- 13. The School Accountability Report Card is available on the Palo Verde School District website.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Palo Verde Union School District continues to secure modernization funds to improve school buildings and infrastructure including asbestos abatement,**

The recommendation will be implemented. As buildings become eligible for modernization funds, the district will continue to apply for state and other sources of modernization funding.

- 2. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Palo Verde Union School District continue to work closely with the Tulare County Office of Education for services that are beneficial to the School's needs.**

The recommendation has been implemented as the district contracts with the county for a variety of services including health, library/media, Special Education, Migrant Education, County Counsel legal services, and professional development. The district is contracted with the Tulare County Office of Education for Common Core State Standards trainings in English Language Arts and Mathematics for the 2014-2015 school year.

*Palo Verde Union Elementary School District*

9637 Avenue 196

Tulare, California 93274

Phone: (559)688-0648

Fax: (559)688-0640



**District Superintendent**

John B. Manning

**Board of Trustees**

Bill Benson, President

Lorraine Cleek, Trustee

Natalie Coelho, Trustee

Patty Colson, Clerk

Gloria Hauff, Trustee

October 3, 2014

Dear Chuck White:

Per your request in the letter dated September 29, 2014, please find enclosed our complete response to the Grand Jury Report on Small School Districts including Finding #1.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 559-688-0648.

Thank you,

John Manning  
Superintendent

Palo Verde Union Elementary School District

RECEIVED  
OCT 15-7-2014

**Palo Verde Union Elementary School District's Response  
to the Tulare Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations on:**

**Small School of Tulare County**

**Date Board Approved:**

**September 10, 2014**

**Board President  
Bill Benson**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

**Palo Verde Union Elementary School District's Response  
to the Tulare Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations  
"Small School Districts"**

RECEIVED  
16-1-2014

**Facts:**

**1. Palo Verde School District has one school serving grades K-8.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, Palo Verde also has a state operated preschool in which 21 students are served.

**2. There are twenty-four certificated teachers and an ADA of 520.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

**3. The Academic Performance Index is 809.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

**4. The Revenue Limit per ADA is \$6,088 and there is a Total Revenue Limit of \$2,130,481.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

**5. School Board meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, in February and June the regular Board meetings are held on the third week.

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**7. School Technology is increasing with the addition of two new computer labs with 25 computers in each lab.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding. However, since the report was taken, the district has added another computer lab and all three labs have 34 computers.

**8. The Palo Verde School District is committed to spending \$106,000 on technology in the next two years.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

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The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

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The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

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The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees does not agree with this finding. The office building has recently been modernized and the lead and asbestos materials have been eliminated during the construction project. Asbestos is present in the tiles in some classrooms and on the underlying layers of paint in some of the older classrooms. However, there is no exposure to “friable” asbestos materials or exposed lead materials which pose a safety threat to students of staff. As required by law the district conducted a Three-Year AHERA Inspection in the summer of 2013 and no “friable” asbestos materials were present in any of the classrooms. The district will continue to monitor asbestos, lead, mold and other hazardous material levels in all school buildings and water sources and take appropriate remediation measures.

- 13. The School Accountability Report Card is available on the Palo Verde School District website.**

The Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees agrees with this finding.

**Findings:**

- 1. One building with asbestos and lead is being repaired with several more to be done.**

Palo Verde agrees with this finding although the building referred to is the administration office and the lead and asbestos has been removed. Additionally, the bathrooms in the 100, 200, and 300 wings have also been abated for lead and asbestos.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Palo Verde Union School District continues to secure modernization funds to improve school buildings and infrastructure including asbestos abatement,**

The recommendation will be implemented. As buildings become eligible for modernization funds, the district will continue to apply for state and other sources of modernization funding.

- 2. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Palo Verde Union School District continue to work closely with the Tulare County Office of Education for services that are beneficial to the School's needs.**

The recommendation has been implemented as the district contracts with the county for a variety of services including health, library/media, Special Education, Migrant Education, County Counsel legal services, and professional development. The district is contracted with the Tulare County Office of Education for Common Core State Standards trainings in English Language Arts and Mathematics for the 2014-2015 school year.

# ROCKFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Caron Borba**  
Superintendent/Principal

14983 Road 208  
Porterville, CA 93257

Tel. (559) 784-5406  
Fax (559) 784-8608

August 14, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 S. Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, CA 93277

RE: Rockford School District Grand Jury Report

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and Members of the Grand Jury,

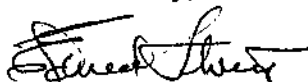
I am writing this letter of response on behalf of the Rockford School Board. I would like to begin by thanking the Grand Jury for the positive finding that was reported. The Rockford School Board agrees with this finding. Rockford takes great pride in active parent involvement and appreciates that you recognized their integral part in contributing to the school's success.

In reading the report, I would like to point out that Fact #7 is not accurate. Rockford School does not utilize solar power, therefore it does not account for one-third of its electricity. I only mention this for a point of clarification so that we are not misleading the public with incorrect information.

The Rockford School Board has reviewed the recommendation of changing the meeting times of the board meetings. After studying the recommendation for a period of one month, the Board has reached the decision that it is not conducive to make this change. The decision was reached based on an absence of people requesting a time change. However, the Board has agreed to periodically revisit this recommendation.

Again, thank you for your positive finding. We appreciate the time you have taken to research the school and comprise an encouraging reflection of Rockford School.

Sincerely,

  
Edward Flory  
Chairman

RECEIVED  
AUG 20 2014

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Edward S. Flory  
President

David Gisler  
Clerk

Fred Hughes  
Member

**Stone Corral**  
School District  
Stone Corral Elementary School

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The Honorable Judge Gary Paden

County Civic Center, Room 303

221 S. Mooney Blvd.

Visalia, CA 93291

Tulare County Grand Jury

5963 S. Mooney Blvd.

Visalia, CA 93277

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

2800 W. Burrel Ave.

Visalia, CA 93291

Please find attached the response of the portion of the Tulare County Grand Jury final report from Stone Corral School . It was board approved on September 11, 2014.

9-17-2014 D

Response of Stone Corral Board of Trustees

FINDINGS

Findings	Agree or disagree	If disagreed in whole or part, specify the portion that is disputed and give an explanation or reason the board disagrees.
Stone Corral School students are limited in computers and internet access is needed for Common Core testing.	Agree/Disagree in part	<p>There were many devices purchased over the last five years. There is now a computer lab with 35 computers and 6 computers in every class. One class has 1:1 laptops and iPads. Technology was expanded in the classrooms and computer lab. Students were able to use technology to help them be actively engaged in and learn the core curriculum. We were able to tap in to the ERS Online Resources such as Education City, Learn360, Marco Polo/Thinkfinity, Standards Resource Guide, Teaching Books, TumbleBooks Library, Tumble Readables, United Streaming, and World Book Online. Students also had access to Accelerated Reader, iPass, and the Microsoft Office Suite in which they were able to use word processing, Power Point, and Excel in writing and presenting reports and projects.</p> <p>The limit is the access to enough bandwidth to effectively use the devices. Since we are a rural district, it has been a real problem getting the bandwidth to the school.</p>
Stone Corral could benefit from more service support from the Tulare County Office of Education.	Agree	
Stone Corral has a major school board attendance problem.	Agree/Disagree in part	The board member s present since the recall election in April 2013 have been present. One board member who had health challenges attended meetings via speaker phone and now is present at most meetings.
Even though learning was taking place during the Grand Jury visit, daily lesson objectives, in some cases, were not posted as required.	Agree/Disagree in part	<p>As a staff we have been discussing things that should be on the walls of a Standards Based Learning Focused Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards and Elements unpacked into objectives.</li> <li>• Essential Questions</li> <li>• Content Specific Vocabulary</li> <li>• Anchor Papers</li> <li>• Student work samples</li> </ul> <p>We post objectives and put them in kid-friendly language. Some teachers call them goals, others call them targets.</p> <p>"I will read the story "The Three Little Pigs" and discuss the beginning, middle, and end".</p>

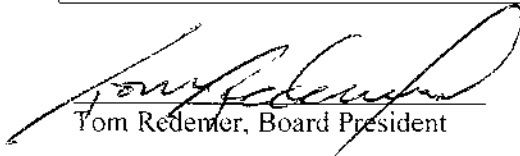
		<p>"I know the long e sound spelled e_e and ee".</p> <p>"I play a math game that helps me add from 10-20".</p> <p>"I know the type of shelter Sioux Indians lived in". (etc. etc.)</p> <p>The objectives are posted where students can easily see and refer to them.</p> <p>The objectives are written in language the students can understand.</p> <p>The objectives are written to be focused, but not limiting.</p> <p>The objectives are used by students and teacher throughout the lesson to monitor progress towards learning.</p> <p>We have printed the individual standards that will be taught daily using one sheet of 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch paper for each standard. We will purchase a premade set for each grade level this year. These are posted on the whiteboard above the day's agenda and be directly related to the day's lesson.</p> <p>We create one or more essential questions for each lesson based on the content of the lesson and the focus standard(s) for the day. This question will help guide students to master the skill or obtain the knowledge in order to meet the standard. This should be displayed with the agenda and the standard on the whiteboard.</p> <p>When a standard has been mastered, post samples of student work in the classroom with commentary explaining how the students met the standard for this particular assignment.</p>
A Safe School Plan is available.	Agree	

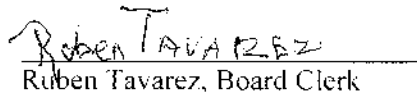
Recommendations

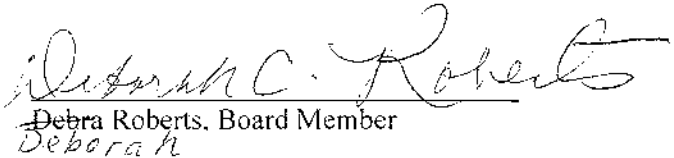
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
1. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Stone Corral Elementary School District continue to solicit support services from Tulare County Office of Education.	Stone Corral will continue on using the support services provided for by the county. We receive support in: Curriculum Professional development Budget, finance, Facilities Personnel CHOICES
2. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Parent and Student Handbooks be available in both English and Spanish.	The Handbooks are now available in English and Spanish.

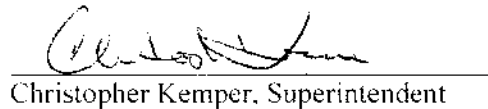
<p>3. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Stone Corral Elementary School District School Board review the terms of the Superintendents contract to allow more time for school management.</p>	<p>The board has recently hired a ½ time intervention teacher to provide remedial instruction to targeted students and to release the principal from the classroom to monitor effective instruction.</p>
<p>4. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Stone Corral Elementary School District solicit more parent support relative to raising the Academic Performance Index scores.</p>	<p>Parent involvement is important. We will have monthly meetings to get our parents involved with what we are doing in the classrooms. They are important partners in helping us reinforce the importance of learning. Parents are now being recruited to serve in governance, as volunteers, and in the parent teachers association. As outlined in our LCAP, parent will have parenting classed, academic support classes, and</p>
<p>5. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Stone Corral Elementary School District solicit the support of the Tulare County Office of Education to create an action plan that would help improve the Academic Performance Index score.</p>	<p>We were fortunate to work collegially with TCOE Instructional Services and Carole Wiley, English Language Arts Staff Development and Curriculum Specialist, who worked directly with our school in supporting our instructional efforts in many undertakings. We will continue this partnership this year. We focused on teaching and learning to the academic standards.</p> <p>We will look at the common core Standards in English Language Arts, math, and English Language Development for each of the grades levels. We will align what we are teaching to these standards. We have introduced our students and parents the standards.</p> <p>We will have “Data Chats” with the students to show them how they did on the previous year’s assessments and test. We will have them set goals for this year. We will keep these goals in a folder. Students will know which academic level they are at and what their goal is. We will refer to this folder often. As each standard is covered, they were checked off.</p> <p>We will meet each Wednesday for professional development and data analysis. These meetings will establish a Professional Learning Community. We will focus on strategies in teaching language arts (focus on student engagement, explicate direct instruction and checking for understanding), ELD instruction, math, social studies, and science. We will look at benchmark data for language arts and math to see academic progress and drive curriculum. We will focus on what could be done to help those students who needed extra instruction.</p> <p>We will develop an after school academic program for students. We will target instruction for students who needed more learning opportunities.</p> <p>Recently, TCOE worked with our staff to reestablish our library. The county support people in ERS spent many hours at our school helping us and guiding us in ordering materials, a management system, and even furniture. This enabled us to</p>

	have a working library that helped us reinforce literacy.
6.The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends all Stone Corral Elementary School District Board agendas and minutes be typed and available to the public.	Minutes and agendas are posted at the school, the local store, and the store nearby in Yettem. The dates are posted on the outdoor message board. We do not know of an instance where this was not the case in the last five years. We will also post the agenda on our website.
7.The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends all Stone Corral Elementary School District Board members physically attend all board meetings.	The board members have been present since the recall election in April 2013. One board member who had health challenges, attended meetings via speaker phone in 2013 and now is present at most meetings.
8.The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends all Stone Corral Elementary School District Board meetings be tape recorded for accountability and transparency.	The meetings will be video recorded and then posted on our website.
9.The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends all Stone Corral Elementary School District Board members receive additional training in the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order.	The recommendation will be implemented. The Board will view the podcast and written material of Government 101 training.. This is available on the Board of Supervisors website at: <a href="http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/board/governemnt101.as">http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/board/governemnt101.as</a> p The County Council has been instrumental in recently giving our board training in Boardsmanship and the Brown Act. Their website is a valuable resource to keep current. There is similar training available this year. The board will also attend training from other professional organizations, such as the California School Boards Association and the Association of California School Administrators.

  
Tom Redemer, Board President

  
Ruben TAVAREZ, Board Clerk

  
Debra Roberts, Board Member  
Deborah

  
Christopher Kemper, Superintendent

# Terra Bella Union Elementary School District

9121 Rd. 240 - PH. (559) 535-4451 - FAX (559) 535-0314  
Terra Bella – Tulare County – California 93270

## Governing Board

Mariana V. Lopez, President  
Suzanne Lujan, Clerk  
Anthony Giannetto, Trustee  
Juan Figueroa, Jr., Trustee  
Vicki G. Jagers, Trustee

**Frank H. Betry**  
District Superintendent

**Terra Bella Elementary**  
Juan Flores, Principal

**Carl Smith Middle School**  
Guadalupe Roman, Principal

September 3, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 93277

Please accept the following as the Terra Bella Union Elementary School District's response to the Tulare County Grand Jury Report 2013-2014: Small School Districts. All responses are relative to findings and recommendations found on pages 115 and 116 of the Tulare County Grand Jury Report.

## FINDINGS:

1. Terra Bella School District contracted with Family Healthcare for a community health clinic.

### Terra Bella Union Elementary School District Response: Agree with Clarification

The Terra Bella Union Elementary School District (District) substantially agrees with the Tulare County Grand Jury's finding but offers the following clarification. The District does not contract with Family Health for a community health clinic. Instead, the District (Licensor) has entered into a license agreement with Family Healthcare Network (Licensee) for the use of District property for the purpose of operating a health care clinic.

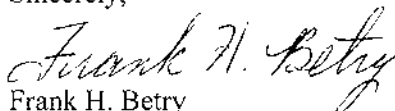
## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Terra Bella Union School solicit the Tulare County Office of Education for an action plan that would help improve the Academic Performance Index of Terra Bella School.

### Terra Bella Union Elementary School District Response: Implemented

The recommendation has been implemented. During the 2013-14 fiscal year the Terra Bella Union Elementary School District (District), with support from the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), developed a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) as required by Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) legislation. The LCAP is a three-year plan that focuses on eight key areas that help all students succeed. To ensure implementation of the LCAP, the plan is an integral component of the annual budgeting process and requires approval by the Tulare County Office of Education each year. Also, the LCAP must be updated by the District and approved on an annual basis by the Tulare County Office of Education. In addition to assistance with the development and oversight of the LCAP, Tulare County Office of Education provided two full days of training to assist with the District's transition to the California Common Core State Standards. The District, with the assistance of TCOE, will continue to provide training during the 2014-15 school year.

Sincerely,

  
Frank H. Betry

119-52014 D

**Three Rivers Union School District**

K-8 Elementary  
P.O. Box 99  
41932 Sierra Drive  
Three Rivers, California 93271  
(559) 561-4466 Fax (559) 561-4468



**Soar Like an Eagle**

September 10, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 South Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear Members of the Grand Jury:

Please accept this letter as a formal response to the 2013-2014 Tulare County Grand Jury Report. The Three Rivers School Board of Trustees has reviewed the one finding and 3 recommendations listed in your report regarding Three Rivers Union School District in Tulare County. Our response is as follows:

1. **Finding; Open Campuses are a Potential Safety Issue:**

Three Rivers School does not have an open campus. Our campus is closed and students are not allowed to leave the campus for any reason without a parent or teacher's permission. All adults coming on campus are required to sign in at the front office and receive a name tag. Students must be signed out in the office when being pulled out of school. Students are not released without evidence that they have been properly signed out in the office.

Three Rivers School does have an "open campus" in the sense that the campus is not completely fenced. The Board of Trustees is aware of this fact and there are several reasons why the campus is not fenced.

1. Fencing the campus is neither fiscally prudent nor practical at this time. In addition, the school is built on the side of the mountain and the fencing would be complicated and difficult. Finally, the school is the center of the Three Rivers community. It is one place where there is enough room for families to recreate on the weekends. We have a long-standing tradition of families and community members being able to use the facility on weekends and off days and are proud to be able to maintain that tradition.

2. **Recommendation: The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Three Rivers Union School District Review their open campus policy.** The Three Rivers School District does not have an "Open Campus" policy as explained above.

**Recommendation: The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Three Rivers Union School District have the Student Handbook in both English and Spanish.**

Three Rivers School does not currently have and has not had in the past any Spanish speaking parents or students. Therefore, translating the Student Handbook has not been a top priority. If it becomes necessary, we will work with Tulare County Office of Education to translate our Student Handbook.

10-27-2014

**Recommendation: The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends the Three Rivers Union School District solicit the Tulare County Office of Education for an action plan that would resist additional loss of Academic Performance Index points.** The Three Rivers School District is continually working to strengthen and improve our academic instruction strategies so as to increase the number of students performing at proficient or advanced levels. We do appreciate the suggestion of the Grand Jury to partner with Tulare County Office of Education. We in fact do utilize the instructional consultants on a regular basis.

The Three Rivers School Board of Trustees would like to thank the Grand Jury for the work they do on behalf of the citizens of Tulare County. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these findings and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan P. Sherwood".

Susan P. Sherwood, Superintendent  
Three Rivers Union School District  
For  
Sue Winters, President  
Three Rivers Union School Board of Trustees



# TIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

370 N. Evans Road • P.O. Box 787 • Tipton, CA 93272  
559-752-4213 • FAX: 559-687-2221

**Tiger Pride!**

Miguel A. Guerrero Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Stacey Bettencourt  
Principal

Merri Larson  
Business Manager

Fausto Martin  
MOT Supervisor

October 21, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 South Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, CA 93277  
Attn: Chuck White, Foreman

Dear Mr. White:

Below is our response to the 2013-2014 Tulare County Grand Jury's Report Title Small School Districts. The report made two findings to the district. The Grand Jury found the following:

1. Parents are active and supportive of the school staff and administration.

### Response

As part of our LCAP, we have been able to increase our parent participation through a variety of activities and events. Some of those activities include "Moms and Muffins," ELA Literacy Night, Parent Math Night and re-establishing our Parent Student Organization Club (PSO).

2. The school district takes advantage of funds available to better equip the needs of the district.

### Response:

With implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula, the district has been able to have the flexibility necessary to better address the needs of our students. This flexibility has meant that Tipton ESD no longer has 22 different categorical programs to monitor. This new funding formula allows us to have the local control needed to address the unique needs of our students.

Respectfully,

Miguel A. Guerrero Ed.D.  
Superintendent

*File 27-2014*

Tony Macedo  
President

Greg Rice  
Clerk

**Board Members**  
Irene Recendez  
Trustee

John Cardoza  
Trustee

Shelley Heeger  
Trustee



# TIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Tiger Pride!**

Miguel A. Guerrero Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Stacey Bettencourt  
Principal

Merri Larson  
Business Manager

Fausto Martin  
MOT Supervisor

October 6, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 South Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, CA 93277  
Attn: Chuck White, Foreman

Dear Mr. White:

Below is our response to the 2013-2014 Tulare County Grand Jury's Report Title Small School Districts. The report made one recommendation to the district. The Grand Jury recommended to Tipton Elementary School District to perform regular updates of the school website. The district has hired a Resource Teacher and is in the process of hiring a Technology Tech to address this issue. Both individuals will be responsible to update our school website on a regular base. We enjoyed our visit with the grand jury members and thank for your valuable feedback. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Miguel A. Guerrero Ed.D.  
Superintendent

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2014

Tony Macedo  
President

Greg Rice  
Clerk

**Board Members**  
Irene Recendez  
Trustee

John Cardoza  
Trustee

Shelley Heeger  
Trustee

**Traver Joint Elementary School District**  
**July 7, 2014**

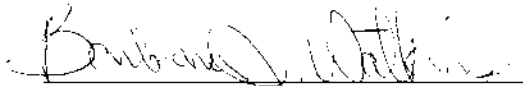
**Small School Districts**

Findings

1. Traver Joint Elementary School District Board agrees with the finding.
2. Traver Joint Elementary School District Board agrees with the finding
3. Traver Joint Elementary School District Board agrees with the finding

Recommendations

1. The recommendation is currently being fulfilled. Traver School was recently awarded Measure R funds totaling over \$140,000 for new school walkways, crossing light, and a new bus pick up/drop for students. The school is very appreciative of Tulare County and the Board of Supervisors.



Barbara Watkins

President of the Board of Trustees for Traver Elementary

RECEIVED  
7-9-2014



# WAUKENA JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

---

19113 Road 28 ♦ Tulare, CA 93274  
Telephone (559) 686-3328  
♦ FAX (559) 686-8136

July 14, 2014

The Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 South Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, CA 93277

Grand Jury Members:

Please find attached responses from the Waukena Joint Union Elementary School Board of Trustees which were requested by the Tulare County Grand Jury on the subject of **SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**.

Sincerely,

Terri Lancaster  
Superintendent

RECEIVED  
7-18 2014

**Board of Trustees**

*Keith Dawes~Ken Dawes~Russell Jordan~Joe Machado~Leandro Sanchez*

**2013-14 Tulare Grand Jury Response**  
**from**  
**Waukena Joint Union Elementary Board of Trustees**

**“Small School Districts”**

**Finding #1:** It is evident that data tracking and test scores, in relation to student performance, is an important component in the school.

Response: We agree with the finding. In order to best determine the needs of students, the District has collected, reported, and shared out to staff and community test scores, which show increased student achievement. Additionally, students who have shown academic growth are recognized publically.

**Finding #2:** Limited computers for students and limited internet access deprive students from developing their technology skills and ability to complete Common Core testing.

Response: We agree with the finding, and have purchased new computers for each classroom, as well as installed wireless connections within the school in order to take advantage of new fiber optic lines.

**Finding #3:** Waukena School District is on the waiting list for Proposition 84 funding.

Response: We agree with the finding, and have since received notice that our funding for a new test well has been approved.

**Recommendation #1:**

The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Waukena Joint Union Elementary School District continue to work closely with Tulare County Office of Education for technology support and staff development.

Response: The recommendation for 2013-14 has been implemented, as contracts with Tulare County Office of Education for coaching and training are in the process of being continued for 2014-2015. Technology and curriculum trainings will be utilized in support of common core implementation.

**Recommendation #2:**

The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Waukena Joint Union Elementary School District install fiber optic lines for stable internet access for Common Core testing capabilities.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

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JUL 19 16 2014

**Recommendation #3:**

The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Waukena Joint Union Elementary School District negotiate with Tulare County Office of Education for a full time Resource Specialist to meet the need of the students.

Response: The recommendation was implemented in the past years of 2010-2014 as part of adoption of the “Transformational Model” of NCLB. A current request for continuation of a full time resource specialist has been implemented (approved) by the Tulare County Office of Education.

**2013-14 Tulare Grand Jury Response  
from  
Waukena Joint Union Elementary Board of Trustees**

**“Small School Districts”**

**Recommendation #1:**

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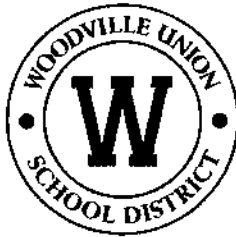
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RECEIVED  
7-18-2014



WOODVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
16541 Road 168, Porterville, CA 93257  
(559) 686-9713 office (559) 686-7036 fax

*Dr. Dago Garcia, Superintendent*

*Herman Villarreal, Vice-Principal*

*Steve Beecher, Business Manager*

*Board Members*

*Miguel Guillón, President*

*Lorena Espinoza, Clerk*

*Amanda Medina*

*Jahola Guerrero*

*Diana Ocegüera-Martinez*

**"Empowering Every Student to Achieve Academic Success Now and In The Future"**

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Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 South Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA. 93277

July 1, 2014

Grand Jury,

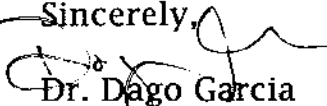
This correspondence is in response to the Grand Jury Report delivered to my office by Kat Harris on June 17, 2014

Woodville Union School District thanks the grand jury for its visit.

We agree with the finding.

Our school board is receiving the training and skills to conduct meetings that follow Roberts Rules of Order and the Brown Act.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Dago Garcia  
Superintendent

MAILED  
JUL 11 2014

## **FINDING**

**1. Woodville School Board meeting attended was not held in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and board members were not knowledgeable of how to conduct a meeting.**

RESPONSE: Agree with explanation:

The grand jury visited Woodville Elementary School on December 9, 2013. This was the very first meeting that our then new board president Fabiola Guerrero was chairing. There were some mistakes made in how she conducted the meeting. Since then all of the errors have been corrected. Fabiola Guerrero is the only board members to have completed the Masters in Governance year long course work and training offered by the (CSBA) California School Board Association.

In addition, the entire school board attended the January 2014 CSBA training conference held in San Diego, CA to become better board members. Also, the law firm of Lozano Smith from Fresno, CA make monthly presentation to the board on how to become more effective leaders. As we gear up for the 2014-2015 school year the school board will attend the CSBA Conference again and send at least two board members to partake in the Masters in Governance class.

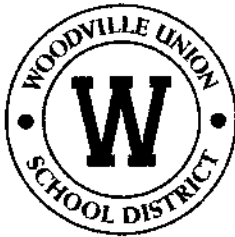
## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. The Tulare Grand Jury recommends Woodville School District take advantage of any Tulare County Office of Education training in the area of conducting meetings.**

RESPONSE: We agree

The Woodville School Board will take advantage of all training sessions offered by the county this upcoming year. We will also seek to get receive additional training from other agencies.

RECEIVED  
RIS-11-2014



WOODVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
16541 Road 168, Porterville, CA 93257  
(559) 686-9713 office (559) 686-7036 fax

*Dr. Dago Garcia, Superintendent*

*Herman Yllarreal, Vice-Principal*

*Steve Beecher, Business Manager*

*Board Members*

*Miguel Guillen, President*

*Lorena Espinoza, Clerk*

*Amanda Medina*

*Jubiola Guerrero*

*Diana Ocegueda-Martinez*

**"Empowering Every Student to Achieve Academic Success Now and In The Future"**

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Tulare County Grand Jury  
5963 South Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA. 93277

July 1, 2014

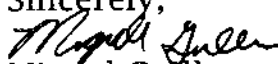
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Sincerely,  
  
Miguel Guillen  
Board President

  
Lorena Espinoza  
Board Clerk

8-11-2014 D

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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RESPONSE: We agree

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