



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Superintendent of Schools
Rudy M. Castruita, Ed.D.

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

July 25, 2006

David R. Higgins
Foreman
Hall of Justice
330 W. Broadway, Suite 477
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Mr. Higgins:

Re: Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report 2005-06 filed
May 31, 2006 – "Lack of San Diego County Evacuation Preparations"

Enclosed is a copy of the response sent to the Grand Jury concerning their report dated May 31, 2006 on the lack of San Diego County evacuation procedures. Our office has reviewed the report and prepared a response to recommendation No. 06-69 set forth therein. This response is being submitted in accordance with the Grand Jury's request.

Sincerely,

Rudy M. Castruita
Interim County Superintendent of Schools

RMC:RM
Attachment

Board of Education

Nick Aguilar Susan Hartley Sharon C. Jones Robert J. Watkins John Witt

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
RESPONSE TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION 06-69: The San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education Board of Education develop a course of study available to all San Diego county middle and high schools which includes the investigation of geological forces and effects of underwater earthquakes that might trigger a tsunami.

SDCOE Response: The Grand Jury recommendation that the San Diego County Office of Education develop a course of study that includes investigation of geological forces and effects of underwater earthquakes that might trigger a tsunami will not be implemented because it isn't warranted. The described curriculum is already included in the California Academic Content Standards that guides instruction in county operated programs and all 42 school districts in San Diego County.

The San Diego County Office of Education does not have curriculum oversight of school districts nor the authority to mandate curriculum. Each independent district maintains authority for curricular decisions.

The California Department of Education developed academic content standards in 1998 in science that address the geologic concepts that underlie the tsunami phenomena. Whereas, science is one of four core content areas, school districts are required to provide standards-based instruction in this content area.

Specifically, at grade 6, the California Science Standards in Earth Science require that

- 1a. Students know evidence of plate tectonics is derived from the fit of the continents; the location of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mid-ocean ridges; and the distribution of fossils, rock types, and ancient climatic zones.
- 1e. Students know that earthquakes are sudden motions along breaks in the crust called faults

and that volcanoes and fissures are locations where magma reaches the surface.

- 1g. Students know how to determine the epicenter of an earthquake and know that the effects of an earthquake on any region vary, depending on the size of the earthquake, the distance of the region from the epicenter, the local geology and the type of construction in the region.

In grades 9-12, the California Science Standards in Earth Science require that

- 3a. Students know features of the ocean floor (magnetic patterns, age, and sea-floor topography) provide evidence of plate tectonics
- 3d. Students know why and how earthquakes occur and the scales used to measure their intensity and magnitude.

The Grand Jury recommendation that the San Diego County Office of Education develop a course of study is not warranted as the California Academic Content Standards in Science currently provide for this instruction in grades 6 and 9 through 12 Earth Science. The course of study to implement the standards is the responsibility of each school district.