



LAGUNITAS SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**RESPONSES FROM THE LAGUNITAS SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS (R) AND FINDINGS (F)
OF
THE 2007-08 MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT**

Report Title: Emergency Communications at Marin Schools: A Tale of Catastrophe

Report Date: March 13, 2008

Response by: The Lagunitas School District – Lawrence Enos, Superintendent

FINDINGS:

- **F-3: No public or private school in Marin is part of MERA.**
○ Response: Agree

- **F-5: The present public school emergency radio communication system is about to go belly up, leaving the schools with no emergency radio communication capabilities.**
○ Response: There is agreement that the current countywide system used by district offices and the Marin County Office of Education is in need of upgrading, given the age of the equipment, etc. However, each school entity in Marin County has prepared an Emergency Plan which includes provisions for emergency communications between individual school sites and school district offices. This structure is not affected by the public school emergency radio communications system. Lagunitas School District has an emergency plan that includes provisions for emergency communications between the two school sites. Also, both school sites are within 3 miles of a fire station. As of yet, no communication system has been found to work adequately in West Marin, including MERA.

- **F9 – Both the Red Cross and the Department of Health & Human Services recognize the importance of the school sites as gathering places in times of emergency. Both have contracted with various school districts for their use in times of crisis.**
○ Response: Agree

- **F10 – There is a belief that installing MERA radios now could instill a false sense of security in the schools, because in any major crisis the MERA system would be overwhelmed with any immediate help unlikely in spite of MERA.**
- Response: Agree

- **F11 – An alternate plan to equip the schools with an emergency radio communications system that could be outside MERA radio network is in the early stage of consideration.**
- Response: Agree. The Marin County Office of Education is developing this option. The Lagunitas School District will work cooperatively with MCOE with these efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

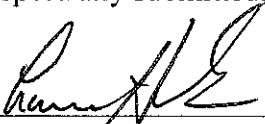
R-1 – The Board of Supervisors, the Marin Emergency Radio Authority, the Disaster Council, the Marin County Office of Education, the Marin County Office of Emergency Services, the Marin County Department of Public Works, the Marin County Administrator’s Office, the Marin County Department of Health & Human Services, the various public school districts and the private schools should immediately work together to fund and install the MERA system and its radios in all of the Marin’s public and private school.

Response: The Lagunitas School District agrees with the conclusion of the Marin County Office of Education that further planning is needed within all of the educational entities. The Lagunitas School District is concerned about the reliability of MERA in the West Marin area.

R-2 – In the event it is determined that MERA is not a feasible option for Marin’s schools, an effective, alternative emergency radio communication network, independent of MERA, should be immediately modeled, funded and installed in Marin’s public and private schools through the collective efforts of the entities identified in R-1 above.

Response: See response to R-1 above.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence H. Enos, Superintendent

6-09-08

Date