

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Agenda Item # 206

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

Report Date: **March 13, 2008**

Response by: **Board of Trustees, Nicasio School District**

By: Stephen Rosenthal, Superintendent

**FINDINGS**

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F3, F9, F10, F11
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F5

**(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)** *See attached*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.

**(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)**

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.


**(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)**

- Recommendations numbered R1, R2 require further analysis. *See attached*

**(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)**

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

**(Attach an explanation.)**

Date: 8/21/08 Signed: 

Number of pages attached 2

RESPONSES FROM THE NICASIO SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS (R) and FINDINGS (F)  
OF  
THE 2007-2008 MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT  
*Emergency Communications at Marin Schools: A Tale of Catastrophe*

- F3            No public or private school in Marin is part of MERA
- Response: The Nicasio School District is not a part of MERA.
- F5            The present public school emergency radio communication system is about to go belly up, leaving the schools with no emergency radio communication.
- Response: Nicasio School has an emergency plan that includes provisions for emergency communication. As of yet, no communication system has been found to work adequately in West Marin. This includes MERA.
- F9            Both the Red Cross and Department of Health and 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: This is the case with Nicasio School.
- 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: The Nicasio School District agrees.
- F11           An alternative plan to equip the schools with an emergency radio communication system that could be outside the MERA radio network is in an early stage of consideration.
- Response: The Nicasio School District will work cooperatively with the Marin County Office of Education with these efforts.
- R1            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 and 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 schools.

Response: The Nicasio 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 Nicasio School District is concerned about the reliability of MERA in the West Marin area.

R2

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 Recommendation (R1) above.

Response: See response to R1