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SAN JACINTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATING AND INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

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August 1, 2008

Mr. John B. Todd, Foreperson
RIVERSIDE COUNTY GRAND JURY
P.O. Box 829
Riverside, California 92502

Dear Mr. Todd:

**RE: Comments on 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report:
San Jacinto Valley Academy, Inc.**

This constitutes the San Jacinto Unified School District's response to the above-referenced Grand Jury Report, received by the District by way of letter dated May 5, 2008 ("Grand Jury Report"). The Grand Jury Report relates to the activities of the San Jacinto Valley Academy ("SJVA"), a charter school operating pursuant to the Charter Schools Act of 1992, Education Code Section 47600 *et seq.*, and authority granted by the District.

Although the Grand Jury Report focuses on the activities of SJVA, it references the District at Finding No. 5 and Recommendation No. 5. Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933, the District hereby comments "on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body" in the manner described at Penal Code Section 933.05.

Finding No. 5

On page 3, Finding No. 5 reads:

"Even though Riverside County Office of Education and San Jacinto Unified School District performed their minimum statutory oversight responsibilities, our review of the Academy's management practices through documents and interviews indicate misuse of public funds." [Citing three examples.]

The District generally agrees with the finding, and believes that there was an appearance of impropriety and conflicts of interests in certain transactions. The District has taken steps to increase its oversight of SJVA's fiscal practices and policies. As part of this, the District has made recommendations to SJVA about improving fiscal practices and changing audit firms, and SJVA has implemented those recommendations.

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RE: Comments on 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report:
San Jacinto Valley Academy, Inc.

Recommendation No. 5(b)

On page 6, Recommendation No. 5(b), reads:

"b. The San Jacinto Unified School District designate a staff member to serve on the Academy's Board or identify a staff member to attend Board meetings as a representative and receive copies of all agendas and minutes, as required by the California State Education Code Section 47604.32 and 47604.4."

The District has implemented this recommendation by designating District staff to attend SJVA Board meetings as a representative of the District. The District also requires SJVA to send the District copies of all agendas and minutes. It should be noted that, while the District agrees with the recommendation, the Grand Jury Report erroneously cites to Education Code Sections 47604.32 and 47604.4 as requiring these actions.

Recommendation No. 5(c)

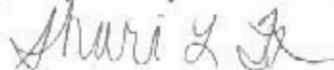
On page 6, Recommendation No. 5(c) reads:

"c. The Governing Board of the San Jacinto Unified School District set a public meeting for hearing the Academy's response to the Grand Jury Report."

The District is in the process of implementing this recommendation. It has scheduled August 19, 2008, as the Board meeting date at which the SJVA response will be presented. Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the response.

With respect to the other findings and recommendations, the District is not directly involved in the activities and operations of SJVA, but it does provide an oversight role. Therefore, the District carefully reviewed the Grand Jury Report and SJVA's responses and has increased its oversight and monitoring in the areas noted. This includes conducting a focused audit of the school's fiscal practices and requiring corrective action if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



Shari L. Fox, Ed.D.
District Superintendent

SLF/wk