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ENDORSED FILED

June 23, 2025

SEP 24 2025

David I. Ashby, Presiding Judge
 Sutter County Superior Court
 1175 Civic Center Blvd.
 Yuba City, CA 95993

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SUTTER
 CLERK OF THE COURT
 By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

**Re: Findings & Recommendations of the Sutter County Grand Jury regarding the
 "Safer Streets – Safer Kids" Report**

To the Honorable David I. Ashby,

I am in receipt of the "Safer Streets – Safer Kids' Sutter Couty Elementary Schools' Safety: Traffic Congestion During Drop-off and Pick-Up Periods" report issued by the Sutter County Grand Jury on May 30, 2025 (the "Report"). The Report contained a study and made findings relative to student safety and traffic congestion at pick-up and drop-off times at three local schools: Franklin Elementary, Tierra Buena Elementary, and Bridge Street Elementary. Based on those findings the Report made certain recommendations including but not limited to policies that should be adopted, and trainings for employees that should be implemented. Three of those recommendations were for my office, the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, to adopt certain policies and apply for certain grants.

Included with the Report was a letter from Sutter County Grand Jury Foreperson, Donald Petty, indicating my office had to respond to the Report and recommendations contained therein in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05. The California Penal Code sections cited require my office to respond within sixty (60) days and indicate whether we agree with the finding or disagree wholly or in part with the finding and include an explanation of our reasoning for disagreement. My office's responses to the recommendations impacting us are as follows:

Recommendation 1: The Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, the Yuba City Unified School District's Governing Board, and the Franklin School District Board of Directors, adopt a formal and automated traffic incident reporting procedure with reporting automatically sent to and included in Yuba City Police Department's and Sutter County Sheriff's Office's annual traffic incident reports by the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SUTTER

SCSOS Response: While we agree that the student safety is of the utmost important and encourage both the Franklin Elementary School District and Yuba City Unified School District to implement the reporting procedures recommended by the Report, my office has no authority or mechanisms by which we can implement or force the individual districts to vote on, implement, or adhere to the policies or procedures recommended by the Report. As the County Superintendent of Schools, we provide fiscal oversight and support services to our districts, but the districts themselves, and their governing boards, are the entities and authorities who would have to draft, vote on, and implement the policy recommended by the Report.

Recommendation 3: The Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, the Yuba City Unified School District's Governing Board, and the Franklin School District Board of Directors, adopt a policy requiring all crossing guard employees, or volunteer crossing guards, undergo and maintain certified training for road crossings, including use of proper high-visibility vests and hand-signage, by the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

SCSOS Response: While we agree that the student safety is of the utmost important and encourage both the Franklin Elementary School District and Yuba City Unified School District to implement the employee training and certifications recommended by the Report, my office has no authority or mechanisms by which we can implement or force the individual districts to vote on, implement, or adhere to the policies or procedures recommended by the Report. We employ no crossing guard personnel, nor any volunteers in such a position, and have no authority to require the districts to implement the policies or training recommended by the Report.

Recommendation 6: The Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, and the Yuba City Unified School District's Governing Board apply for "Safe Routes to Schools" grant funds to promote student walking and biking commute to their respective schools.

SCSOS Response: While we agree that the Board of Yuba City Unified and Franklin School, and any Sutter County school district for whom the "Safe Routes to Schools" grant fund would benefit, should look into this grant, SCSOS does directly oversee the schools for whom the grant monies would benefit. I, therefore, cannot fully agree or disagree with the implementation of this recommendation. My office will, however, encourage districts to look into the grant opportunities identified by the Report, and encourage the application for any such available funds to improve student safety and alternative methods of getting to school to cut down on traffic congestion.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns relating to my office's responses herein.

Sincerely,



Tom Reusser
Sutter County Superintendent of Schools