

# YUBA CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

750 Palora Avenue · Yuba City · California · 95991 · (530) 822-5200 · Fax (530) 671-2454

Nancy H. Aaberg, Superintendent

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June 24, 2010

ENDORSED FILED

OCT 05 2010

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

The Honorable Christopher R. Chandler  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California  
County of Sutter  
446 Second Street  
Yuba City, California 95991

Dear Presiding Judge Chandler:

### Re: Response to the Report of the 2009-2010 Sutter County Grand Jury

The Yuba City Unified School District (District) submits the following responses to the report, findings, and recommendations of the 2009-2010 Sutter County Grand Jury.

Report (pages 30 through 31)

The District accepts the section of the Grand Jury report that summarized the plant and program of Central Gaither School based upon the Jury's February 1, 2010 visit to the school.

#### Findings/Recommendations (pages 30-31)

The District is pleased with the Grand Jury summary that positively portrayed the Central Gaither School (CG) program and facility. Specifically CG was described with well-maintained and modern play areas, well-suited and age appropriate classrooms, updated kitchen/lunch room, modernized facilities, adequate restrooms, and ample land space. In addition, the Smart Start and Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) programs were cited as beneficial to student success.

While there were no specific findings, there was reference to a septic system within a few years of replacement, the use of bottled water in lieu of using well water for that purpose, and the need for an underground sprinkling system. Below is a detailed response to each item.

**Septic System:** The septic system at Central Gaither School consists of a dual pump pressure dose septic station with multiple distribution boxes and leach fields. The system is fully operational without any known issues at this time. The system underwent major servicing approximately 7 years ago, at which time the distribution boxes and leach lines were fully assessed, flushed and cleaned. Additionally, the two ejector pumps have been replaced with upgraded pumps and the pump control system was updated with a fully solid-state automatic lead/lag control system, complete with a high level warning system.

**Well Water:** The domestic water well at Central Gaither School does not meet current "secondary" drinking water standards. The secondary standards are related to taste, odor, and appearance issues and as such those conditions are generally not a health concern. The Yuba

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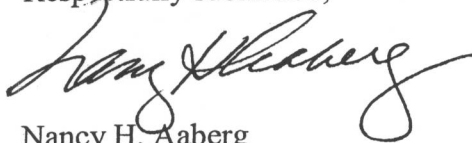
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

City Unified School District has invested over \$40,000 in engineering studies and well upgrades, working with the State Dept. of Health Services (DOHS), in order to determine if there are any realistic options to improve the water quality at that site. After months of investigative and design work, it was determined that the challenges faced at that site are not conducive to a water treatment system. Water treatment generates a large amount of waste water and byproducts. In a more urban setting, that waste is simply sent down the local sewer system; however, in a rural setting served by a septic system this is not possible. The studies indicated a need for a full 1 acre evaporation pond in order to provide adequate disposal area of the waste water and byproducts. The estimated cost to develop a treatment plant and waste water disposal area is in excess of \$300,000. This is only the initial cost; the annual cost to maintain such a system will be in the range of \$60,000 or more. The current annual cost for bottled water is less than \$7,500. Assuming it was possible to obtain an environmental permit to construct an evaporation pond of that size on the site, the impact caused by the odor, waste byproduct removal and disposal, mosquito control, and safety issues would far outweigh the benefit. When all of the challenges were fully reviewed by DOHS, their determination was to provide YCUSD with an amended well permit to provide for bottled drinking water as the best and most feasible solution, with an annual review of new technologies to determine if a new solution may be available at some future time. To date, there has not been any such new technology developed.

**Irrigation/sprinkling system:** The Yuba City Unified School District has expended substantial funding to improve the irrigation systems, including well pump upgrades and control replacements at both of the existing irrigation wells. The District has installed some very limited areas of new sprinkler piping, but the bulk of the site is still irrigated manually with above ground piping. The District has developed preliminary plans for a new irrigation system at an estimated cost of \$75,000 for the athletic fields and play areas. At this time, there is no funding available for a capital improvement project of this size due to current State budget crisis.

The District carefully monitors the facilities for maintenance needs and responds to safety/compliance issues immediately. In addition, the District annually revises the Deferred Maintenance and Facilities Master plans to respond to the needs of all District facilities.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy H. Aaberg  
Superintendent

Cc: Sharman Kobayashi, YCUSD Governing Board President  
Kathleen Hansen, Superintendent Sutter County Schools  
Baldev Johal, YCUSD Deputy Superintendent  
Steven Plaxco, YCUSD Director of Maintenance/Facilities  
Debbie Everett, Principal Central Gaither School