Marc B. Liebman, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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August 23, 2010

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Ms. Angie M. Cardoza, Foreperson
2009-2010 Civil Grand Jury of Santa Clara County
Superior Court Building
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

DAVID H. YAMASAKI
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk,
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY D. ALDYCKI

RE: 2009-2010 Civil Grand Jury Report: Achieving School District Efficiency
     Through Consolidation

Dear Ms. Cardoza,

I received a copy of the final report "Achieving School District Efficiency Through
Consolidation." In accordance to CPC Section 933.05(a), I write to respond to the
findings of the report relating to the Berryessa Union School District. The District
appreciates the recommendation to consolidate the Berryessa Union and Orchard
School Districts. Intuitively, such a merger makes sense in trying to maximize the
benefit of every public dollar spent on education for our students. However, there
are also serious concerns that would need to be overcome in order to make such a
merger work in the current fiscal and educational environment.

There are many variables in any merger that may have a negative impact on the
students and community of the Berryessa Union School District, both
academically and fiscally. Our district would need to study the mechanics of a
merger and make sure that any concerns are adequately explored and addressed.
That being said, Berryessa Union School District is willing to begin discussions
with the Orchard School District Board of Trustees about consolidation and how
some of the negative aspects of that action might be mitigated if consolidation is
deemed feasible by both districts.

The Berryessa Union School District will not entertain consolidation unilaterally,
but if initiated by the Orchard School District and/or the Santa Clara County
Committee on School District Organization will cooperate fully with them in
considering such an action.

Sincerely,

David Cohen
President
Board of Trustees