



NEWMAN-CROWS LANDING
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Every Child Deserves to Belong. Learn. Lead. Thrive.

Justin Pruett
Superintendent

September 13, 2026

Honorable Sonny Sandu, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Stanislaus
P.O. Box 3488
Modesto, California 95353

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2026

BY: _____

Re: Response of the Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District Governing Board to the 2025-2026 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report, Obligations, Obstacles, and Opportunities in School Bond Oversight, Case No. 26-27GJ

Dear Judge Sandu:

On behalf of the Governing Board of the Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District (the "District"), this letter provides the District's formal response to the 2025-2026 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report titled Obligations, Obstacles, and Opportunities in School Bond Oversight, Case No. 26-27GJ.

The Grand Jury Report identifies Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District as a district required to respond to all findings and all recommendations. The Report references the District's bond measures as follows:

Measure	Election Date	Amount
Measure S	November 5, 2024	\$30,000,000
Measure T	November 5, 2024	\$27,000,000
Measure X	November 3, 2020	\$25,820,000
Measure P	November 8, 2016	\$11,090,000

The District appreciates the Grand Jury's review and shares the stated objective of ensuring transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the expenditure of school bond revenues.

The District maintains a Citizens Oversight Committee webpage for public access to information related to its bond oversight activities.

The District also recognizes that the Grand Jury's review was a point-in-time assessment. The Report states that its two point-in-time studies were conducted in late October 2025 and early April 2026. The District's responses below address the conditions identified in the Report and the actions the District will take to ensure ongoing compliance.



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Response to Findings

Finding 1: Many school districts in Stanislaus County lack required transparency regarding school bonds because they fail to fully comply with Education Code mandates.

Response: The District agrees with this finding as it relates to the areas identified for Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District at the time of the Grand Jury's review.

The Grand Jury Report identified the District as non-compliant with respect to posting meeting minutes, annual Citizens Oversight Committee reports, and annual financial and performance audits. The Report further noted that information regarding Measures S and T was not available on the Citizens Oversight Committee webpage at the time of the review, and that one agenda had been posted during the prior three years without corresponding minutes.

The District acknowledges the importance of maintaining complete and accessible public records relating to bond oversight. The District also appreciates the Grand Jury's recognition that the District's prior Citizens Oversight Committee reports included photographs and financial information, while recognizing that the reports available during the Grand Jury's review were from Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Accordingly, the District will conduct a comprehensive review of its Citizens Oversight Committee webpage, bond-related records, and internal document-posting practices to confirm that materials required by law are posted and readily accessible to the public. This review will include meeting agendas and minutes, annual Citizens Oversight Committee reports, annual financial and performance audits, information regarding the District's current bond measures, and other bond oversight materials that should reasonably be made available to the public.

The District will also establish internal procedures for the timely posting and ongoing maintenance of required bond oversight records so that public access is maintained as documents are completed, received, or approved.

Finding 2: Stanislaus County CBOCs frequently do not have appropriate membership as required by Education Code. Some CBOCs lack members representing each qualifying group, and/or members are regularly serving terms longer than specified in the bylaws.

Response: The District partially agrees with this finding as applied to Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District.

The Grand Jury Report did not determine that the District's Citizens Oversight Committee lacked the membership categories required by Education Code. Rather, the Report states that the Grand



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Jury was unable to determine compliance because it could not locate a current list of committee members on the District's website. The Report also notes that the District's bylaws provide for committee membership of up to eleven members and two-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The District agrees that compliance with statutory and bylaw-based membership requirements is essential to the integrity and independence of bond oversight. The Governing Board recognizes its responsibility to appoint committee members and to ensure that the required representative categories and applicable term limits are maintained.

The District will review the current membership, representative category, appointment history, and term of service for each Citizens Oversight Committee member. The District will also ensure that current committee membership information is maintained and made readily available to the public.

Response to Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The governing board of the district should instruct its Superintendent to comply with Education Code pertaining to CBOCs by December 31, 2026. The areas of compliance include posting minutes, posting annual performance and financial audits, and posting annual CBOC reports on the district's website as cited by Education Code section 15280(b).

Response: This recommendation has not yet been fully implemented, but will be implemented.

The Governing Board will direct the Superintendent or designee to conduct a comprehensive review of the District's Citizens Oversight Committee webpage and related recordkeeping practices. The review will confirm that required bond oversight materials are publicly available in a clear and organized manner, including Citizens Oversight Committee meeting minutes, annual committee reports, annual financial and performance audits, and information related to the District's active bond measures.

The District will also review whether existing bond information should be consolidated, cross-linked, reorganized, or otherwise presented differently to improve public access and clarity. In addition, the District will establish an internal process identifying responsibility and timelines for posting required documents on an ongoing basis.

The District intends to complete this review and implement any necessary corrective actions no later than December 31, 2026.



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Recommendation 2a: The governing board of any district lacking full membership should appoint additional members to its CBOC to comply with Education Code section 15282 and the District's CBOC bylaws by December 31, 2026.

District Response: This recommendation will be implemented as applicable.

Because the Grand Jury was unable to determine the composition of the District's Citizens Oversight Committee from the information available on the District's website, the District will review its current membership to verify compliance with Education Code section 15282 and the District's bylaws.

The review will identify each member's qualifying representative category and determine whether any required category is vacant. If the review identifies a vacancy in a required representative category, the District will actively recruit qualified applicants and present eligible candidates to the Governing Board for consideration and appointment.

Subject to the availability of eligible applicants and Governing Board approval, the District intends to address any required membership vacancy no later than December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 2b: The governing board of the district should review CBOC membership to determine whether long-serving members have exceeded applicable term limits under Education Code section 15282 and the District's CBOC bylaws. Remediation may include reappointment or replacement. This should be completed by December 31, 2026.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented.

The District will review the appointment history, current status, representative category, and term information for all current Citizens Oversight Committee members. Consistent with the Grand Jury Report, the review will include confirmation of the District's bylaw provisions establishing two-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

If the review identifies any member whose service requires reappointment, replacement, or other corrective action, the District will take appropriate action consistent with applicable law and the Committee's bylaws. The District will also maintain clear records of appointment dates, representative categories, and terms of service for future appointments.

The District intends to complete this review and any necessary follow-up no later than December 31, 2026.



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Conclusion

Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District appreciates the work of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury and the opportunity to respond to the Report. The District remains committed to responsible stewardship of bond proceeds, independent citizen oversight, and transparent public reporting.

The Governing Board will continue working with District administration and the Citizens Oversight Committee to address the matters identified in the Report and to strengthen public access to bond oversight information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Cabral

President, Board of Trustees

Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District

