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August 20, 2026

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

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2026

BY: _____

Re: Response of the Stanislaus Union School District Governing Board to the
2025–2026 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report, “Obligations,
Obstacles, and Opportunities in School Bond Oversight”

Dear Judge Sandu:

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Governing Board of the Stanislaus Union School District (the “District”) submits this response to the findings and recommendations directed to the District in the 2025–2026 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury report titled “*Obligations, Obstacles, and Opportunities in School Bond Oversight.*”

The District appreciates the Civil Grand Jury’s review of school bond oversight practices and acknowledges the report’s observations regarding the District’s bond oversight materials. The report identifies the District as compliant with respect to posting minutes, annual Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee reports, and annual financial and performance audits on the District website. The report also notes that the District’s website is comprehensive and that the District is actively recruiting members for its Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee.

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 partially disagrees with this finding as applied to Stanislaus Union School District. The report specifically identifies the District as compliant in the following areas:

- Minutes: Compliant
- Annual CBOC Reports: Compliant

- Financial and Performance Audits: Compliant

The District agrees that continued transparency regarding school bond oversight is important and will continue maintaining and updating its bond-related information on the District website.

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 Stanislaus Union School District. The report states that the District's CBOC is non-compliant as to qualifying-group membership because it has 6 of 7 required members, and the taxpayer group is unrepresented. The report also notes that the District is actively recruiting members for its CBOC.

With respect to term limits, the report states that the District's CBOC uses two-year terms with a maximum of three consecutive terms. The District does not understand the report to identify any current violation of term limits by Stanislaus Union School District, but the District will review membership terms to confirm ongoing compliance.

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 been implemented.

As reflected in the report, the District is already compliant with respect to i) posting minutes, ii) posting annual CBOC reports and iii) posting annual financial and performance audits. The Governing Board will continue directing the Superintendent or designee to maintain compliance with applicable Education Code requirements and to ensure these materials remain accessible on the District website.

Recommendation 2a: The governing board of any district lacking full membership should appoint additional members to their CBOC committees to comply with both Education Code section 15282 and their respective CBOC bylaws by December 31, 2026.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented.

The District acknowledges that the report identified one remaining vacancy in the required qualifying groups, specifically the taxpayer group representative. The District is

actively recruiting to fill that vacancy and will continue those efforts with the goal of appointing a qualified member by December 31, 2026, subject to receiving an application from an eligible candidate.

Recommendation 2b: The governing board of the district should review CBOC membership to determine if long-serving members have exceeded their term limit stated in both Education Code section 15282 and their respective CBOC bylaws. Remediation may include reappointment or replacement of the member. This should be completed by **December 31, 2026.**

Response: This recommendation will be implemented.

The District will review current CBOC membership terms against the requirements of Education Code section 15282 and the District's applicable bylaws. If that review identifies any member whose service requires Board action, the Governing Board will take appropriate action, including reappointment or replacement if necessary, by December 31, 2026.

The District appreciates the work of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury and remains committed to transparent, accountable, and legally compliant oversight of school bond funds.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Casselberry, Jr.", followed by a vertical line.

John Casselberry, Jr., President, Governing Board
Stanislaus Union School District

cc: Shannon Sanford, Superintendent