

## Avenal High School

Draft 2

Date 05/24/10

### **SYNOPSIS**

The Grand Jury, noting that Avenal High School had not been visited by the Grand Jury since 2004, decided to visit the facility.

### **WHY THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATED**

Public interest.

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### **AUTHORITY**

California Penal Code Section 933.5. The Grand Jury may at any time examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district in the county.

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### **METHOD OF INVESTIGATION**

The Grand Jury toured the science, art, metal and wood shops and physical fitness facilities as well as the library and cafeteria. The Grand Jury spoke with the Avenal School District Superintendent, the Avenal High School Principal and other school personnel.

### **BACKGROUND AND FACTS**

The Avenal High School is housed in one of Kings County's oldest school facilities. It was built in 1947. It has approximately 620 students. Avenal High School serves the Reef-Sunset School District.

### **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Finding 1

Many of the classrooms and storage areas lacked daily maintenance.

Recommendation 1

School administration should discuss with all personnel better ways of maintaining the teaching facilities and storage areas.

Finding 2

The library is no longer in use because the librarian's position has been cut due to financial cutbacks. When asked, the Principal explained that the union contract with the in classified employees prohibits volunteer programs to be implemented in the place of a paid position.

Recommendation 2

A resolution with the union should be made to enable volunteers to be used in the library. This could be resolved by contract negotiations between the school board and the union.

Finding 3

Out of the 2010 graduating class of 120, 25 of the students have been accepted into the University of California system and 40 others have plans to continue their studies at West Hills College. These numbers are a reason to hold Avenal High School's college preparation program in the highest regard.

Recommendation 3

None

**COMMENTS**

The Grand Jury commends the local agricultural community for the contributions made to the Avenal High School scholarship program.

**RESPONSE REQUIREMENT**