



From the desk of:  
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C. A. O.

## Memorandum

**DATE:** March 6, 1996  
**TO:** Lin Koester, Chief Administrative Officer  
**FROM:** Frank Schillo, Second District Supervisor  
**RE:** Grand Jury Report Response

Although not required, I wanted to pass on a few comments regarding the Grand Jury's First Final Report regarding the areas on County Libraries and County Computers.

## RESPONSE TO 1995/96 GRAND JURY FIRST FINAL REPORT

### **County Libraries:**

Although a response was not required, I felt compelled to respond. I was very encouraged to see that the plight of our libraries was included as one of your urgent areas of examination. I am also appreciative that you have taken the time to acquaint yourselves with my efforts to re-structure library service delivery in Ventura County.

I am happy to report that as of February 27, 1996, we were fortunate in being able to temporarily avert closure of some of our smaller branches. A long term solution is still needed. As you correctly pointed out in your findings, library service is not mandated and will be one of many services competing for scarce general fund dollars. I believe that the Federation Concept is a possible solution. We will make the system the most efficient it can be and will be in a better position to look at long term funding.

The Federation idea is based on the Santa Clara model as well as findings from the State Library Task Force which recommended joint partnerships between cities and counties as the most optimal library relationship for the future. I am pleased to report that we are indeed moving ahead with the idea. I have concluded my meetings with each of the cities and on March 14, 1996, there will be a meeting between the County and all of the cities to begin discussions on the feasibility of the Federation. At this point, my goal is to make sure that the cities have all of the information they will need to make an informed decision. We are continuing to work with community-based groups to solicit their ideas and support.

I am also working on trying to restore some of the lost state funding suffered by our system. Just last week, representatives from most of our cities joined me in meeting with the Governor's Office to discuss this issue. The direction we received is that potential partnerships with schools may be the key to additional funding in the future. I am willing to explore any and every opportunity and plan to look at this suggestion, and any other that may arise, further.

Thank you again for the interest.



### **County Management of Computers:**

Although ISD will be formally responding to you, I also wanted to briefly respond to your County Management of Computers report. Your report raised important issues that the Board must look at very carefully regarding potential future policy decisions. As a result of the Information Systems study session presented to the Board of Supervisors, the Board voted to create an Information Technology Committee. Supervisor Mikels and I will represent the Board with other department heads and elected officials.

By participating in this committee, I personally intend to proactively pursue the issues raised by your report and I want to reiterate my commitment to do so. The committee has met twice with a third meeting planned. We are looking at an integrated strategy with a focus on some form of centralized management. You note that "...it is imperative to strike a balance between centralized and decentralized managerial style that insures key users participation...." This is a key point that we must all keep in mind. It is very important to have visibility across departments and to establish a level of consistency and standards while also insuring that users can still meet their needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner and remain autonomous where it makes sense.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Mikels".