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May 17, 2017

Board of Education  
Alameda Unified School District  
2060 Challenger Drive  
Alameda, California 94501

Reference: **Lum Elementary School**  
**Alameda, California**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Several professional friends have referred me to the Geotechnical and Structural Reports regarding the Lum Elementary School. These reports indicate that the potential for seismically induced liquefaction is high at the site, although no detailed structural evaluation of the school buildings appears to have been performed other than by judgment. Differential settlement from liquefaction is often overestimated and a well tied together single story school building may pose only a modest risk. I would assume this entire neighborhood in Alameda may be at risk from potential liquefaction induced settlement and the risk may be as high or higher at nearby residences and other locations. It would seem prudent for a detailed structural evaluation to be performed prior to closing the school. Liquefaction-induced settlement is not necessarily the problem, it is structural damage caused by differential settlements that likely pose the risk and some corrective measures may be possible to significantly reduce those potential risks.

As a long-time practicing Structural Engineer, I do appreciate your responsibility to provide safe schools for educating our children. But I also believe that the Board's decision on such an important matter would be better informed by having all the necessary information before it so it can make the decision that best serves the need of Alameda's students and the community as a whole.

Very truly yours,

DEGENKOLB ENGINEERS

Loring A. Wyllie, Jr.  
Senior Principal

LAW/rjw  
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