

Open Letter to Superintendent Sean McPhetridge and the AUSD Board of Education,

I have been a firefighter since 1985 and a California State Licensed Paramedic for 27 years. I've worked in San Francisco, Oakland, and Santa Cruz (I was inside a two story Fire house in the Santa Cruz Mountains when the Loma Prieta Earthquake hit) and am now a Captain in the City of South San Francisco Fire Department. I'm certified as a State Fire Training Instructor in Rescue Systems 1, and I teach the following topics as part of the curriculum:

- Introduction to the California Urban Search & Rescue system
- USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) Planning and preparation
- USAR Rescue Operations
- Structural Shoring Systems; construction, assessment, and placement of shores

I am also the Captain of the USAR Program in our department, which responds statewide as requested by the Office of Emergency Services and I have also been trained by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) in ICS (Incident Command Systems) for Structural Collapse.

I have been in more rescue situations and have seen more collapsed buildings than any soil engineer you could hire. I understand building construction as thoroughly as most structural engineers and, from extensive experience, I have a good understanding of what soil will do in an earthquake. As a person with 32 years of real-world experience, I can assess the probability of what will happen and what scenarios would play out if a major earthquake occurred on the Hayward fault. And I can say from my experience that Lum Elementary School will be the last AUSD school that I would expect to require rescue or search due to structural collapse.

Lum is a one-story, steel framed building that carries very little weight for its structural frame. Steel tends to bend when under strain (elasticity) and has the ability to become misshapen (ductility) long before it fails. A steel framed building is 25 times greater than a wood framed building, in strength to weight ratio. (This is why they build steel framed buildings in states that have hurricanes and tornados.)

If you choose to ignore the information shared by the Lum DAC provided engineers, or the assessment of experts in the field of structural collapse like myself, you will be taking the children from Lum Elementary and putting them into buildings that are less safe than the ones they are in now. The death and/or injury of these students will then be the responsibility of AUSD and this Board of Education.

My children attended Lum elementary and I have always been aware of the landfill/liquefaction zone. My wife continues to work as a substitute teacher, exclusively at Lum and Wood. I felt confident of their safety then and now.

Respectfully,

Captain John Grimaldi, SSFFD

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