



February 27, 2023

Dr. Cesar Morales, County Superintendent of Schools
cemorales@vcoe.org
5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012

Dear Dr. Morales,

I serve as the chairperson of the Ventura County Adult Education Consortium (VCAEC), which consists of Ventura County's eight Adult Schools, the Ventura County Office of Education, and the Ventura County Community College District. This correspondence expresses our concern for the situation with the Ojai Unified School District following the Board Meeting on February 21.

The California Adult Education Program (CAEP) allocates approximately \$520 million to 71 adult education consortia statewide each year. These consortia are self-governing and have decision-making authority and budgetary oversight of allocations to individual member agencies. Additionally, the VCAEC allocates a portion of its overall funding to support consortium-level initiatives.

Since 2017, Ojai Unified School District (OUSD) has served as VCAEC's fiscal banker. The VCAEC pays OUSD 5% of the new consortium-level funds each year to facilitate reporting and administration of shared funds. According to our records, the VCAEC should have approximately \$295,333 currently held by OUSD. We also expect to receive an additional \$112,490 from the state by June 30, 2023.

Your comments at the February 21 board meeting indicated that OUSD has a negative balance and is in a fiscal crisis. As you may expect, this has raised concerns about whether the consortium's funding is still intact. While the latest reports from OUSD show the funds as available, we are not confident that this is the reality. We seek your guidance on how best to confirm and on any actions we should take to safeguard funds forthcoming from the state.

Thank you for your attention and any guidance you can provide. If it is preferable for you to discuss this matter via phone or teleconference, please let me know, and we will calendar a meeting accordingly. Please also feel free to call me directly at my number below.

Sincerely,

Mike Sanders
Chair, Ventura County Adult Education Consortium
Principal, Conejo Valley Adult School
(805) 497-2761

Cc: Michael Fine, FCMAT, Chief Executive Director

