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Darline P. Robles, Ph.D., *superintendent*

August 11, 2008

TO: Superintendents
Board Presidents
Assistant Superintendents of Business Services
Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction
Directors of Facilities
Emergency Services Coordinators
District Public Information Officers (PIOs)
Principals

FROM: Darline P. Robles, Ph.D., Superintendent

SUBJECT: The Great Southern California ShakeOut – Thursday, November 13, 2008

As you all know, a moderately powerful earthquake – measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale – struck Southern California on July 29, 2008. Though originating from Chino Hills, it shook buildings throughout many parts of Los Angeles County.

This recent earthquake is an urgent reminder for all of us to be ready for the “Big One.” There is no better time than now to invite you to participate in the “Great Southern California ShakeOut,” which will feature the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history, on Thursday, November 13, 2008.

A few months before the July 29 quake, the Los Angeles County Office of Education partnered with the Earthquake Country Alliance to promote *ShakeOut*, which is designed to inspire all residents to get ready for major earthquakes and help prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

ShakeOut will complement this year’s statewide Golden Guardian Emergency Response Exercise for emergency managers, public safety personnel, and others by adding the participation of schools, businesses, and the general public.

On *Shakeout* day – at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2008 – millions of people, including students, will practice “Drop, Cover and Hold On” and learn how to prepare for emergencies. Because schools are required to conduct earthquake drills every year, districts are highly encouraged to participate in *ShakeOut*.

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The Great Southern California ShakeOut

August 11, 2008

Page 2

To participate, go to www.ShakeOut.org/register or sign the enclosed Agreement of Participation and pledge your district's or school's participation in the drill. Registered participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and encourage a dialogue with others about disaster preparedness.

LACOE also urges districts and schools to develop and promote their own *ShakeOut* activities and events such as providing emergency preparedness information to parents, posting links to *ShakeOut* materials (see enclosed samples) on their Web site, and presenting classroom lessons. There are numerous instructional correlations with the earth sciences standards, particularly for 6th graders (see enclosed document, "*Recommended Standards-Based Science Resources Supporting the Great Southern California ShakeOut*").

For more information about ShakeOut, go to: www.ShakeOut.org

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Attachments:

ShakeOut materials

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