

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The California Penal Code is the foundation for the Grand Jury. The Law and Justice Committee, within the Grand Jury is charged with the oversight of all law enforcement agencies and custody facilities in Kern County. The Law and Justice Committee also reviews and takes action, as necessary, on citizen's complaints related to these agencies.

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



Michael McCarthy, Chair
Shirley Ann Hawk
Donna Malahni Jackson (not shown)
Terry Wolfe

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Law and Justice Committee has written and published the following reports:

- Arvin Police Department
- Bakersfield Police Department
- Bear Valley Police Department
- California City Police Department
- California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi
- Camp Erwin Owen
- Delano Police Department
- James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall
- Kennemer Center
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Buttonwillow Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Central Receiving Facility
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Coroner/Public Administrator Div.
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Delano Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department East Bakersfield Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Frazier Park Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Kern Valley Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Lerdo Facility
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Mojave Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Property and Evidence Facility
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Ridgecrest Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Rosamond Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Tehachapi Substation
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Wasco Substation
- Kern Regional Crime Laboratory
- Kern Valley State Prison
- McFarland Police Department
- North Kern State Prison
- Shafter Police Department
- Stallion Springs Police Department
- Taft Police Department
- Tehachapi Police Department
- Wasco State Prison

The Law and Justice Committee received and responded to 17 citizen complaints.

The Law and Justice Committee used the Kern County Sheriff's Department Fleet Management Office (trip vehicles) for 28 out of the 32 visits. The Law and Justice Committee traveled approximately 1,569 miles during our visits.

ARVIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Arvin Police Department (Department), on January 15, 2013, pursuant to California Penal Codes §§929(b) and 925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Interim Police Chief (Chief), the Lieutenant and a Sergeant. After a meeting which included a question and answer period, the Committee was given a tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. The City is approximately 4.9 square miles. The City services an estimated population of 19,600.
- B. The Department is staffed with one Chief, one Lieutenant, five Dispatchers, one Administrative Assistant, three Sergeants, 12 Police Officers and four Police Reserves.
- C. The Department has the only indoor shooting range in the County. The range is used one to two times a month for qualification and training.
- D. The Department maintains a full service Evidence Room.
- E. The Department maintains a four cell jail which is currently unused.
- F. The Department also operates the Animal Control Unit.
- G. The Police Activity League facility is located at 800 Walnut Dr., Arvin, CA.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Evidence Room items are being bar-coded by the Community Service Unit (CSU) with the upgraded software system. The CSU Officer is also the Animal Control Officer.
- F2. The Animal Control Officer transports the animals directly to the Mount Vernon facility in Bakersfield as the Department does not have kennels.
- F3. The Department has 19 vehicles, six of which are hybrids.

- F4. Since the implementation of AB109 home burglaries have increased and two homicides were committed by persons within two months of release from custody.
- F5. The Department is part of the area Street Intervention Team (SIT) group and the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) intervention team in the area.
- F6. The Department has implemented a youth violence prevention program for the youth of the area. The program has been effective in reducing incidents that would normally escalate to fighting. The Community has been very involved in the program.
- F7. The old interview room has been converted to a women's locker room to accommodate the female staff.
- F8. A new communications room is being built. The old server room will be made into an armory for storing weapons.
- F9. A \$30,000 grant was used to buy the compatible radios for the station. The radios are capable of receiving 106 channels.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Chief and staff for courtesy during the visit. The Committee acknowledges the funding issues with regard to any structural improvements needed by the Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The Arvin Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On March 25, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Bakersfield Police Department (Department). The visit was to inquire into the management and operation of the Department. The visit was done pursuant to California Penal Code §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee and several other Grand Jury members met with the Chief of Police (Chief) and an Administrative Assistant. The Committee also met with other Department Staff during the tour.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Department is located at 1601 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

- A. The Department employs 379 Police Officers and 125 civilian staff.
- B. Every piece of evidence has been bar coded since 2002. The Records Department utilizes two systems. Hard copies (paper files) dating back to 1939. Since 2002 an electronic system stores approximately 60,000 documents each year.
- C. The Communications Center has 12 work stations. The Dispatchers on duty receive approximately 2,200 calls every day, including 911 calls. The call volume equates to over 790,000 calls a year.
- D. The Committee was advised there is a high turnover of Dispatchers due to the stress of the job.
- E. The Departments goal is to have 1.3 Officers per 1,000 population. The Department is currently at 1.03 per 1,000 population.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Internal Affairs Division has moved across the street from the Department to the South side of City Hall.
- F2. The Department has 45 new patrol vehicles ordered. Several are currently in service. New patrol vehicles are smaller on the interior and the rear seating is tight for large persons. The Department is also experiencing problems trying to fit all needed equipment into the new Ford Taurus Patrol Vehicles.

- F3. The Department has 80 Police Explorers.
- F4. There are 793 groups in the Neighborhood Watch Program.
- F5. The Committee was advised since the implementation of AB109 crime has risen 18%.
- F6. The Department has 16 Level I Reserve Police Officers.
- F7. The Records Department is operational 24 hours a day with 13 rotating staff. Staff processes 60,000 reports and takes approximately 6,000 auto theft reports each year plus other indicative duties.
- F8. The Evidence Room disposes confiscated drugs once a year. Last year 4,000 pounds of drugs were destroyed.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Chief and Staff for the courtesy and professionalism extended during the visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

BEAR VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On April 16, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Bear Valley Police Department (Department). The Department is part of the Bear Valley Community Services District (BVCS D). The visit was to report on the condition and management of the Department. The visit was pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the new Chief of Police (Chief). The Chief was appointed interim Chief in January 2013, when the previous Chief left the Department. The Chief was named the permanent Chief approximately one week ago. The Chief has been employed at the Department for 10 years. The Committee interacted with several other Department employees during the visit. The Department is located at 25101 Bear Valley Road, Tehachapi CA. The BVCS D is a gated community of approximately 6,000 to 8,000 residents. BVCS D was established in 1970 by a resolution of the Kern County Board of Supervisors and operates under California Government Code §61000.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. The Department is in a building built in 2001. The Bear Valley Springs Post Office operates from a small office inside the Department.
- B. The Department is staffed with eight sworn Officers and three Reserve Officers. There are eight fulltime Dispatchers and one part-time Dispatcher.
- C. The Department has 20 “Volunteers in Police Service” (VIPS). The program consists of volunteers who assist the Department with activities such as traffic control answering phones etc.
- D. The Department also has a program called “Are You OK.” The program calls all seniors in BVCS D everyday to check the welfare of the person.
- E. The Department has two holding cells (one person each). The cells were transported from New York State, craned in, and the Department was built around the cells. Detainees are kept for up to six hours and then transported to the Central Receiving Facility (Kern County Sheriff’s Department) in Bakersfield.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Department had 465 calls for service in March of 2013.

- F2. The officers earn a pay incentive if physically fit.
- F3. All patrol vehicles are four-wheel drive. There are 110 miles of paved roads.
- F4. Officers living within 30 miles are allowed to take patrol vehicles home.
- F5. Average response time is said to be seven minutes. The majority of crimes are burglary, mail theft and spousal abuse. Drugs of choice are methamphetamine and marijuana.
- F6. The Dispatchers handle all calls for BVCSD and Tehachapi Police Department.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Chief for time spent with the Committee answering questions and providing the Committee a tour of the Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The Department should develop yearly fitness standards to receive the pay incentive.

NOTES:

The Bear Valley Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



BEAR VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**25101 BEAR VALLEY RD.
TEHACHAPI CA. 93561**

ROD WALTHERS-CHIEF OF POLICE

Phone: (661) 821-3239

Fax: (661) 821-0100

June 11, 2013

Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, California 93301

Re: Bear Valley Police Department

Dear Lynn Runyan:

Thank you for providing Bear Valley Police Department with your final report in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05 (f). It was a pleasure providing the Grand Jury a tour of our police facility and receiving your compliments and positive inputs.

Addressing the one recommendation suggested:

R1: The Department should develop yearly fitness standards to receive the pay incentive.

Attached please find a copy from the Bear Valley Employee Handbook, Section 3002-A Police Officer Physical Fitness Requirements. Established by the Bear Valley Board of Directors, this section addresses your suggestion for assuring our officers remain physically fit.

It was pleasure meeting the members of the Grand Jury. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Walther", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rod Walther, Chief
Bear Valley Police Department

3002-A Police Officer Physical Fitness Requirements

The COPS MOU does not currently address the issue of Police Officer physical fitness. The Board feels, however, that it is important to the citizens of the District that police personnel be in a state of physical readiness which ensures they are able to respond to stressful or physically demanding situations. It is also important to the well being of employees in these types of stressful and strenuous jobs that they be in good physical condition. The Board has, therefore, unilaterally implemented a physical fitness program. This action is appropriate since the policy will be voluntary for employees who were hired prior to October 12, 2002. For new employees hired subsequent to that date, the policy will be a condition of employment.

The physical fitness standards below are adapted from those currently in use by the US Navy. Any officers hired after October 12, 2002 will be required to meet and maintain fifty points as a condition of employment. Officers meeting classifications in excess of minimum will be eligible for a cash bonus. Meeting the point standard for a rating of "good" will result in a 1% salary bonus. Meeting the standard for "excellent" and "outstanding" will result in bonuses of 2% and 3% respectively.

Physical fitness testing will be conducted annually in conjunction with the officer's annual evaluation.

There are three elements to the physical fitness test: curl-ups, push-ups and a mile and a half run. Curl-ups and push-ups are the number done within a two minute period. The overall level of fitness (minimum, good, excellent or outstanding) is determined by averaging the point score corresponding to performance in each of the three areas. For example: a 42-year old male is able to do 60 curl-ups (good (65points)), 55 push-ups (excellent (80 points)), and runs a mile and a half in 10:00 minutes (outstanding (100points)). Total score is 245. Divided by three, the average is 81. Overall rating is excellent and a 2% bonus is authorized.

Employee Handbook - Bear Valley CSD

	POINTS	CURL-UPS	PUSH-UPS	1.5 MILE RUN
UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE - MALE				
MINIMUM	50	54	46	12:15
GOOD	65	71	60	10:30
EXCELLENT	80	93	79	9:30
OUTSTANDING	100	107	91	8:45

UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE - FEMALE				
MINIMUM	50	54	20	14:45
GOOD	65	71	30	13:00
EXCELLENT	80	93	43	12:00
OUTSTANDING	100	107	50	11:15

21 - 30 YEARS OF AGE - MALE				
MINIMUM	50	47	38	13:45
GOOD	65	62	51	12:15
EXCELLENT	80	87	69	10:30
OUTSTANDING	100	100	82	9:23

21 - 30 YEARS OF AGE - FEMALE				
MINIMUM	50	47	15	15:45
GOOD	65	62	26	14:30
EXCELLENT	80	87	39	13:00
OUTSTANDING	100	100	45	11:30

31 - 40 YEARS OF AGE - MALE				
MINIMUM	50	40	33	14:45
GOOD	65	55	44	13:23
EXCELLENT	80	83	63	11:08
OUTSTANDING	100	93	74	9:53

31 - 40 YEARS OF AGE - FEMALE				
MINIMUM	50	40	11	16:38
GOOD	65	55	22	15:30
EXCELLENT	80	83	35	13:23
OUTSTANDING	100	93	41	11:53

41 - 50 YEARS OF AGE - MALE				
MINIMUM	50	33	25	15:45
GOOD	65	47	37	14:08
EXCELLENT	80	78	54	11:38
OUTSTANDING	100	86	66	10:08

41 - 50 YEARS OF AGE - FEMALE				
MINIMUM	50	33	7	16:51
GOOD	65	47	18	15:14
EXCELLENT	80	78	32	12:29
OUTSTANDING	100	86	39	12:08

Employee Handbook - Bear Valley CSD

	POINTS	CURL-UPS	PUSH-UPS	1.5 MILE RUN
51 - 60 YEARS OF AGE - MALE				
MINIMUM	50	28	12	16:51
GOOD	65	40	32	15:14
EXCELLENT	80	66	48	12:29
OUTSTANDING	100	80	59	11:09
51 - 60 YEARS OF AGE - FEMALE				
MINIMUM	50	28	3	18:18
GOOD	65	40	10	16:58
EXCELLENT	80	66	22	14:53
OUTSTANDING	100	80	28	13:39
60 + YEARS OF AGE - MALE				
MINIMUM	50	13	6	19:47
GOOD	65	28	18	17:00
EXCELLENT	80	50	39	13:57
OUTSTANDING	100	64	46	12:13
60 + YEARS OF AGE - FEMALE				
MINIMUM	50	13	2	20:31
GOOD	65	28	6	19:06
EXCELLENT	80	50	14	17:07
OUTSTANDING	100	64	20	16:01

CALIFORNIA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On October 9, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the California City Police Department (CCPD). The visit was to inquire into and report on the operations of CCPD pursuant to California Penal Code §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Chief of Police (Chief) and the City Manager. Following the meeting a tour of CCPD was conducted.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The CCPD facility is located at 21130 Hacienda Boulevard, California City, California 93505. The facility is a 15,000 square foot building approximately 16 years old. The dispatch area is centered in the middle of the facility. California City covers 204 square miles.

- A. California City is the third largest city (in land mass) in California.
- B. The CCPD is comprised of the Chief, two Lieutenants, two Sergeants and 13 Officers.
- C. There are eight Reserve Officers; three Reserves work at the local Prison.
- D. The fees from the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) permit program cover the maintenance for roads, sewer, water and park OHV areas.
- E. The CCPD had the 9-1-1 system overhauled four years ago.
- F. The CCPD has a Police Explorers program with seven participants.

FINDINGS:

- F1. A Hyundai test track is located in California City.
- F2. California City has a population of approximately 14,100.
- F3. Persons booked into CCPD are held for six hours and then transported to Bakersfield and booked into the Central Receiving Facility of the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the City Manager and Chief for the courtesy and professionalism extended during the Committee's visit.

RECOMMENDATION:

None

NOTES:

The California City Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On December 4, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi (CCI) to inquire into the condition and operation of CCI pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee reviewed previous Grand Jury reports and recommendations. The Committee also sent a list of questions to be answered by the CCI staff. The Committee was met by the Acting Warden, Deputy Warden, Administrative Assistant and CCI Executive Management personnel. A question and answer session was held followed by an extensive tour of CCI conducted by the Administrative Assistant.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The California Correctional Institution is located at 24900 Highway 202, Tehachapi, CA 93561. The Institution is situated on approximately 1,600 acres.

- A. CCI is the third oldest prison in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) system. Only San Quentin and Folsom Prisons are older.
- B. CCI opened in 1933 housing female prisoners only.
- C. In 1952, CCI suffered major damage from an earthquake. Due to the extreme damage, CCI was closed and the inmates were transferred to other institutions.
- D. In September of 1952 through the last day of 1953, male inmates from California Institution for Men (CIM) repaired the damages to the Institution and assisted with repairs in the City of Tehachapi. In 1955, the Institution reopened as a branch of CIM housing male offenders. In 1964, the Institution was renamed California Correctional Institution.
- E. CCI is currently staffed with the following positions:
 - 993 Correctional Officers with no vacancies
 - 96 Correctional Sergeants with five vacancies
 - 36 Correctional Lieutenants with one vacancy
 - There are currently 560 non-custody staff employed at CCI

- F. CCI facilities with population are as follows:
- Facility A - Security Housing Unit (SHU) - 509, Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) - 193.
 - Facility B - SHU - 763, ASU - 1, outpatient housing - 8.
 - Facility C - Level III, 931.
 - Facility D - Level II, 1,127.
 - Facility E - Level I, 1,022.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The asphalt roads within CCI are **still in need of repair.**
- F2. CCI has five Chaplains: Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and a Native American Spiritual Leader.
- F3. The Chaplains also oversee inmate led religious groups in all other faiths including but not limited to: Jehovah's Witness, Wicca, Odinist, Buddhist, Latter Day Saints, Messianic Jew and Druids.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Acting Warden and staff at CCI for the dedication to duty, professionalism and the informative meeting and tour.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. As previously recommended by prior Grand Jury reports, when funds become available, the surface roads within CCI **should be repaired.**

NOTES:

The California Correctional Institution should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

CITY OF RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Ridgecrest Police Department (Department) on August 6, 2012, pursuant to Penal Code §§919(b) and 925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief) and the Captain of the Department for an interview and tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Department is located at 100 West California Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA. 93555. The Department's facility was built in 1989.

- A. The Chief was the Interim Chief for 18 months and has been the current Chief for four years.
- B. The Department is staffed with one Chief, one Captain, six Sergeants and 30 Officers. Five of the Officer positions are Detectives.
- C. Civilian employees fill 17 full time positions and one part time position. The Explorer Cadet program has 18 members.
- D. The population of Ridgecrest is approximately 30,000 with another 10,000 people in the surrounding area. The area of coverage for the Department is 21 square miles.
- E. The Department has one K-9 unit and assists the Sheriff's Deputies upon request.
- F. The Department has a "Teen Court" program for first time offenders. The local District Attorney acts as judge and teen members having successfully completed the program act as jurors. Parents have responsibility for teen offenders under 14 to complete prescribed services and report back to the Department. Typical service would be to mow a neighbor's lawn or perform other community service.
- G. The Department has three new Police vehicles in the budget. The vehicles will be funded by the recently passed local Measure "L" tax. Measure "L" is a three quarters of a percent tax and will be shared with the Roads and Street Department.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Department pays \$50.00 per year to use the gun club range at a sand pit.
- F2. Private citizen's weapons can be stored at the Department for a minimal fee or at a gun dealer's place of business.
- F3. The Department can book prisoners at the Kern County Sheriff's Department Ridgecrest Substation or arrestees can be transported to the Central Receiving Facility (Kern County Sheriff's Department) in Bakersfield.
- F4. The Department has 10 portable breathalyzer machines available for use.
- F5. The Department plans to install a full length door and enclose the front counter area with plexiglass for security.

COMMENTS:

The City of Ridgecrest Police Department personnel were both professional and courteous in providing and answering questions during the visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

The City of Ridgecrest Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

DELANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Delano Police Department (Department) on August 27, 2012, to inquire into the management and operation of the Department pursuant to California Penal Code §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Chief of Police (Chief), Investigation/Operations Commander, Community Services Officer, Dispatch/Records Manager and the Property/Evidence Clerk. A briefing on the operation of the Department was conducted with a question and answer session. A tour of the Department followed the briefing.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Department is located at 1022 12th Avenue, Delano, California. The Department has been in existence for approximately 84 years. The Chief was hired in May 2006. The Investigations Division is located at 1037 Lexington Street, Delano, California.

- A. The 2012-2013 Department's budget is approximately \$6.5 million dollars.
- B. The Department has 52 sworn officer positions of which 43 are filled. There are 33 non-sworn officers, six dispatchers and two call takers. One officer is assigned to work directly with the school systems.
- C. Animal Control regularly receives donations of food and in-kind materials from Target and K-Mart. Animal Control employs three full time staff and four volunteers.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Department recruits officers from the academies at College of the Sequoias and Kern County Sheriff's Department.
- F2. A new police station should be completed by November 22, 2013. The new station will be 56,000 square feet. The Department received a \$19 million dollar grant to help with the construction.
- F3. The Department has two K-9 units. The dogs work without protective vests.
- F4. The Department is purchasing four new patrol cars (Dodge Chargers). There are currently 25 patrol cars with more than 100,000 miles on each vehicle.

F5. The Department has an Explorer program categorized into three age groups: Junior Explorers ages 7-12, Explorers ages 13-19 and Cadets ages 20-24. Several Explorers have pursued occupations in law enforcement.

F6. The Department received 39,043 calls for service in the past year.

F7. The Department is divided into several Community Oriented Policing (C.O.P.) Districts. One Officer is assigned to each district and meets regularly with the population to discuss needs and problems.

F8. The Department services 11 square miles of the City. The City demographics are: 75% Hispanic, 24% Filipino and 1% White/Black. Several Officers speak Spanish and Tagalog.

COMMENTS:

The Committee commends all the participants in the briefing for the professionalism and courtesy extended during the visit.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. The K-9 (dogs) should be provided protective vests, (F3).

NOTES:

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



CITY HALL
1015 ELEVENTH AVENUE
POST OFFICE BOX 3010

DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93216-3010

(661) 721-3300
(661) 721-3317 TDD
www.cityofdelano.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joe E. Aguirre Jr.
MAYOR

Ricardo Chavez
MAYOR PRO TEM

Liz Morris
Rueben Pascual
Grace Vallejo

CITY MANAGER
Maribel Reyna

November 19, 2012

Honorable Michael Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue, 2nd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Judge Bush,

The Delano Police Department is in receipt of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury, Law and Justice Committee report dated October 16, 2012. It was a pleasure meeting with all the members of the Committee, and the Department would like to thank each of them for their support.

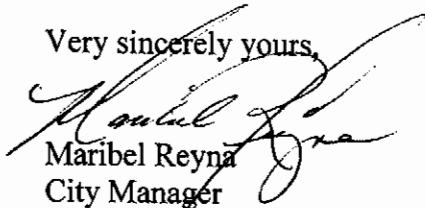
In the report, the Committee recommended that the Department should provide protective vests for our K-9's (dogs).

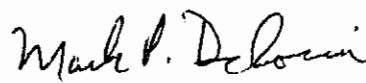
RESPONSE:

The Department currently has two K-9's (dogs) however only one is being deployed at this time. The K-9 that is deployed has a vest issued to his handler. The handler evaluates when the K-9 will wear the vest. The second K-9 has been removed from service for a brief training period, and has not been issued a protective vest due to budgetary constraints. The Department is exploring funding opportunities to provide the K-9 with a vest upon his return to service. We would estimate that we should secure some form of funding opportunity within the next 120 days.

In closing, we would again like to thank the members of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury, Law and Justice Committee, for their comments and recommendation, and we hall continue working towards enhancing the safety of our K-9 dogs.

Very sincerely yours,


Maribel Reyna
City Manager


Mark P. DeRosia
Chief of Police

Cc: Foreman
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Committee Chair
Kern County Grand Jury, Law & Justice Committee
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301



CITY OF DELANO
STAFF REPORT

December 12, 2012
Agenda Item:

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Maribel Reyna, City Manager
By: Mark P. DeRosia, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Kern County Grand Jury Law and Justice Committee report
and the City of Delano response

Recommendation

Accept as presented

Discussion:

On August 27, 2012, the Kern County Grand Jury, Law and Justice Committee, conducted their annual visit to the Delano Police Department. During that visit, the Committee members were provided a presentation by the Chief of Police and various staff members, and then completed a tour of the facility.

The Delano Police Department recently received the final report for the Grand Jury and is required to respond to one issue, which is providing bullet resistant vests to our K-9 dogs.

It is requested that the City Council accept the final report of the Kern County Grand Jury and the City of Delano response provided by the City Manager and Chief of Police.

Budget Impact:

None

Attachment(s): 1) Kern County Grand Jury Report for FY 2012-2013 for the Delano
Police Department
2) City of Delano response to the FY 2012-2013 Grand Jury report

GOLDEN STATE MEDIUM COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Golden State Medium Community Correctional Facility (Facility) on May 14, 2013. The visit was pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Warden and Deputy Warden. The Warden provided a question and answer session followed by a tour of the Facility. During the tour the Committee was able to interact with numerous Facility Staff.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Facility is located at 611 Frontage Road, McFarland, CA 93250. The Facility opened in 1997 and is entirely a Special Needs Yard (SNY) for Level I and Level II inmates. The Facility is owned and operated by Global Expertise in Outsourcing (GEO), a world wide company currently operating 52 institutions in the United States. The Facility is currently under contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The current contract is due to expire in 2016.

The Facility is all male with a capacity of 640 inmates. At the time of the visit there were 604 inmates incarcerated.

- A. There are 134 GEO employees and 11 CDCR employees at the Facility.
- B. The CDCR pays GEO \$40.82 per inmate per day.
- C. A Nurse is available eight hours a day, seven days a week. If a more serious medical issue arises the inmate is taken to North Kern State Prison for treatment.
- D. There are eight pods at GEO, each pod can hold 80 inmates.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Education classes offered at the Facility are: Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language and General Education Diploma.
- F2. Vocational training includes: Computer Classes, Horticulture, Plumbing, Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioner, Janitorial Services and Basic Residential Electrical.

F3. Volunteer Community Clergy provide Religious programs to the inmates.

F4. The Warden has been with GEO for 21 years and has been a Warden for nine years at various GEO facilities.

F5. All inmates are low security risk. The maximum stay at GEO is 60 months.

F6. There are two adjacent GEO Facilities vacant due to the loss of contracts with CDCR.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks Facility Staff for the courtesy and professionalism extended during the Committee's visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The Golden State Medium Community Correctional Facility should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT CAMP ERWIN OWEN

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On September 13, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited Kern County Probation Department Camp Erwin Owen (Camp) to inquire into the operation and management of the Camp pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee and other members of the Grand Jury met with the Probation Division Director, Assistant Division Director and other Probation Department employees. The Grand Jury was provided an overview of the Camp followed by a question and answer session. The Grand Jury was given a tour of the Camp.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Camp is located at 14401 Sierra Way, Kernville, CA 93328. The Camp is a 125 bed juvenile forestry camp housing males aged 14-18. The Camp was started in 1938 as an honor and work camp named for Judge Erwin Owen, Kern County's first juvenile court judge. Wards are housed in two residential halls: Baumeister Barracks built in 1948 and Durant Barracks built in 1983.

- A. On the day of the visit there were 111 wards being housed.
- B. Daily maintenance costs for each ward is \$180 per day. Parents or guardians of wards are advised of liability for maintenance costs such as medical, dental and/or counseling services and reimbursement for legal service of up to \$870 per month.
- C. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code §903.45(b), the parents or guardians of a ward can be ordered to report to the Probation Department Financial Evaluation Officer to assess the family's ability to reimburse the County for expenditures made on behalf of the ward.
- D. The Camp is based on a behavioral achievement awards system. Each ward is evaluated at a personal risk factor and assigned a point level between 360 and 720 points. Based on the ward's positive behavior, work performance, school performance, homework and related actions, points are deducted from the ward's assigned risk level. Points are added for inadequate performance. When the ward reaches zero points the ward is eligible for release.

- E. Visitation is on Sunday. The length of the visitation is dependent on the ward's behavior levels. A group "Friday Night Friends" is a volunteer group meeting with juveniles who do not get visitors. Volunteers play games, counsel and interact with the wards.
- F. The Kern High School District provides four teachers and three aides to teach English language arts, math, science and social studies. Many wards arrive at Camp with an educational deficiency level of two grades.
- G. The wards are also taught auto shop, welding, food services and agricultural skills provided through the Regional Occupational Program.
- H. Each ward receives 180 educational minutes per day and works around the facility the remainder of the day.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The asphalt paving in the Camp has potholes, ruts and is uneven, creating a hazard for staff and wards when walking the Camp at night.
- F2. The new mess hall has a projected completion date of September 15, 2012. The Camp will take a couple of weeks to transition into the new building and have a tentative ribbon cutting date on September 27, 2012. The new mess hall will be called the "Jon McQuiston Dining Hall."
- F3. The previous mess hall is being considered as a future laundry facility for the Camp.
- F4. A nurse is available seven days a week from 7 am to 5 pm.
- F5. The Rotary Club sponsors a dinner once a month to honor wards that have done an outstanding job.
- F6. The vegetables, eggs and meat produced are consumed by the Camp and are not Food and Drug Administration approved/certified for re-sale.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury commends the Probation Division Director and staff for the respect and courtesy extended during the question and answer session and succeeding tour. The Probation Division Director and staff are also commended for the enthusiastic dedication and commitment to maintain the program at the Camp.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. The asphalt paving in and around the Camp should be repaired (F1).

NOTES:

The Kern County Probation Department Camp Erwin Owen should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT CAMP ERWIN OWEN

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that the asphalt paving in and around the Camp be repaired. The Probation Department will explore funding opportunities to improve the condition of the asphalt in and around the Camp.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUTTONWILLOW SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On March 19, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Buttonwillow Substation (Substation). The visit was to inquire into the operation and management of the Substation. The visit was pursuant to California Penal Code §§ 919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee Members met with the Sergeant in charge of the Substation. Also present was a Division Director (Construction Services) from General Services Division and an Information Technology (IT) person. The latter two individuals were there to discuss pending improvements to the Substation. After the discussion a brief tour of the facility was conducted.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is located at 181 East First Street, Buttonwillow, California. The Substation provides Law Enforcement to the North West portion of Kern County including the communities and townships of Buttonwillow, Lost Hills, Blackwell's Corner, Spicer City, Devil's Den and the unincorporated areas of Shafter and Wasco.

- A. The Substation is staffed with one Sergeant, two Senior Deputies and two Office Service Technicians (OST).
- B. The Substation has bicycles donated by the Buttonwillow Community Foundation for Bike Patrol. The Sergeant advised the Committee there are no Deputies currently trained for Bike Patrol.
- C. The Deputies can drive the patrol vehicles home when off duty and are charged a fee of \$25 each pay period for the privilege.
- D. The total area serviced by the Substation is approximately 1,500 square miles. Surrounding Counties are Kings, Tulare and San Luis Obispo.
- E. The offices of the Fourth District Supervisor have been moved from the Substation to another County building in Buttonwillow.

FINDINGS:

The General Services Person was at the Substation to explain to the Committee all pending improvements to be made to the Substation. All improvements were suggested in the recommendations section of the 2010-2011 Kern County Grand Jury Final Report. The improvements should start in three months and take approximately one year to complete. The Substation will move to an adjacent vacant County building.

There are plans to divide current office space to make additional offices for the Senior Deputies. There are also plans to provide work stations (including computers) for Deputies assigned to the Substation. The following improvements will also be made:

- New air conditioning system
- Repainting inside and out
- New flooring
- New windows
- Earthquake retrofitting
- Electrical upgrading
- Installation of an emergency generator
- Additional fencing (with razor wire) to surround all outside parking areas
- Installation of an interview room. The IT person stated the County will install audio and video in the room when construction is completed.
- New landscaping
- Upgrade the gate access

COMMENTS:

There is an antiquated (70 plus years old) two cell jail (four steel bunks in each) approximately 15 feet West of the Substation no longer in use. The cells could be moved to Kern County Pioneer Village or placed on a list of historical landmarks.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

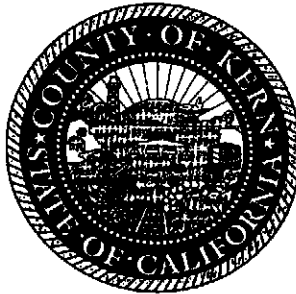
NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Buttonwillow Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

June 17, 2013

The Honorable Colette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca. 93301

On March 19, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office North Area "Buttonwillow" Substation. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on May 27, 2013. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury's Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office Buttonwillow Substation. The Law and Justice Committee made no recommendations following their visit.

The Background and Facts section of the Grand Jury's report stated the following:

- *The Substation is staffed with one Sergeant, two Senior Deputies and two Office Service Technicians (OST).*
- *The total area serviced by the Substation is approximately 1,500 square miles. Surrounding Counties are Kings, Tulare and San Luis Obispo.*

As a point of clarification, the Sheriff's Office would like to confirm the following information:

- The Substation is staffed with one Sergeant, two Senior Deputies, ten Deputy Sheriffs, and two Sheriff Service Technicians (SST).
- The total area serviced by the Substation is approximately 1,200 square miles. Surrounding Counties are Kings, Tulare and San Luis Obispo.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Buttonwillow Substation to provide insights and recommendations. I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury in its service to the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donny Youngblood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donny" and last name "Youngblood" clearly distinguishable.

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUTTONWILLOW SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct. However, the Background and Facts section of the report stated the following: The Substation is staffed with one Sergeant, two Senior Deputies and two Office Service Technicians and the total area serviced by the Substation is approximately 1,500 square miles. As a point of clarification, the Substation is staffed with one Sergeant, two Senior Deputies, ten Deputy Sheriff's, and two Sheriff Service Technicians and the total area serviced is approximately 1,200 square miles.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury provided no recommendations in the report.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CENTRAL RECEIVING FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On August 20, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Central Receiving Facility (CRF) which also serves as the main booking facility of the Kern County Jail, pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee members met with the CRF Lieutenant, Sergeant and a regular deputy. During the visit the Committee was introduced to other CRF personnel. An extensive tour was provided throughout the facility.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The CRF is a four story building located at 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California. The CRF, which is adjacent to the Kern County Superior Court building, was built in the mid 1950's and was closed from 1993 to 1998 due to budget constraints. Some upgrades were made to the building in the late 1990's.

- A. The CRF is the main booking and receiving facility in Kern County. Maximum capacity is 292 male and female inmates with 210 incarcerated on the day of the visit.
- B. Medical nursing staff is available 24/7. Mental Health services are available seven days per week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and as needed.
- C. During processing inmates are classified as to special needs and are segregated for violent behavior, suicide, sex crimes and gang affiliation.
- D. There are 72 Sheriff's staff and 16 civilian (Sheriff's Support Service Personnel) employed over three shifts.
- E. As of this past year CRF has installed 53 video cameras throughout the facility.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Due to the implementation of AB109 a prisoner incarcerated for nine years could conceivably be released in 10.8 months.
- F2. The Sheriff's Department is planning to initiate a "Paid" Academy in January.
- F3. The 200 locks are being re-keyed to reduce the number of keys needed to operate the jail cell doors. At present there are 57 keys required. Upon completion of the re-keying only five keys will be needed.
- F4. The Sergeant has come up with a plan that will reduce the booking process from 45 minutes down to seven minutes.
- F5. In the near future inmates will be medically screened immediately upon booking.
- F6. In case of a fire or evacuation the inmates will be moved to the corridor on the first floor.
- F7. The Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrive at the facility daily around 5 P.M. to identify inmates here illegally.
- F8. A fully equipped media room is available to inmates choosing to be interviewed on television.
- F9. Gloves are worn by deputies when handling some inmates. Non-latex gloves are available for personnel allergic to latex.
- F10. The control panel for the jail gates is outdated.
- F11. There is a sewer leak in the Transportation office.
- F12. The elevator was dirty and the flooring is in need of repair.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was impressed with the visit to CRF. The Committee thanks and commends the CRF personnel for professionalism and knowledge displayed during the visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The control panel for the jail gates must be updated. If the system fails the entire jail gate system would be compromised.

R2. The sewer leak in the Transportation office is a health hazard that must be resolved.

R3. The elevator is in need of cleaning and the flooring should be replaced.

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, click on: Sign up for early releases.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Library system and the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**Cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

November 19, 2012

The Honorable Michael G. Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield CA, 93301

On August 20, 2011, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office, Central Receiving Facility (CRF). Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on October 15, 2012. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office, Central Receiving Facility.

In accordance with Penal Code 933, we are directly responding to the Grand Jury within 60 days of the receipt of this report. We will also file a copy of our response with the Clerk of the Board as directed.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1: *"The control panel for the jail gates must be updated. If the system fails the entire jail gate system would be compromised."*

R2: *"The sewer leak in the Transportation office is a health hazard that must be resolved."*

R3: *"The elevator is in need of cleaning and the flooring should be replaced."*

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

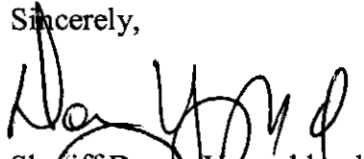
We would like to thank the Grand Jury for visiting CRF and providing us with their recommendations. Their comments regarding CRF are accurate.

R1: The Kern County Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance of replacing antiquated and unserviceable equipment. The Sheriff's Office has explored the options available and associated costs related to the restoration and/or replacement of the CRF control panel for the gate system. This is considered a top priority and we intend to move forward on this project when funding becomes available.

R2: At the time of the Grand Jury visit there was a leak in the restroom near the Transportation Unit Office. The leak was repaired shortly after the visit and is no longer an issue.

R3: The elevator referred to in this report is located in the lobby area of the same building that CRF is located. This elevator is maintained by the General Services Department of the County of Kern. We contacted the Real Property Manager for General Services and a work order has been created to replace the flooring. The elevator has been cleaned and the lobby area has been painted.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Commander Russ Albro
Clerk of the Board
Kern County Grand Jury Foreman
Assistant CAO Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CENTRAL RECEIVING FACILITY

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that the Sheriff's Department should update the control panel for the jail gates, resolve a sewer leak in the Transportation Unit Office, and the elevator should be cleaned and the flooring replaced.

The Sheriff's response to the report indicated that the leak in the restroom reference in the report has been repaired, and the elevator has been cleaned and a work order issued to replace its flooring. In addition, the lobby area where the elevator is located has been painted. The Sheriff indicates that the restoration and/or replacement of the control panel for the gate system is a top priority and will move forward when funding becomes available. The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response and will consider the project when funding becomes available.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DELANO SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On August 27, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Delano Substation (Substation) pursuant to California Penal Code §§919(b) and 925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sergeant in charge of the Substation and the Office Service Technician (OST). A question and answer session was followed by a tour of the Substation.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is located at 455 Lexington Avenue, Delano, CA 93215. The Substation provides two Deputies serving as Bailiffs for the Delano courtrooms. The Delano Courts are adjacent to the Delano Police Department, approximately one mile from the Substation.

- A. The Substation has one Sergeant, one OST, one Senior Deputy (Detective) and seven Deputies covering an area of approximately 400 square miles.
- B. A resident Deputy is assigned to the Glenville and Woody areas. The residents within the areas can contact the resident Deputy by cell phone if service is needed. If there is an emergency a Deputy from the Kern Valley Substation can be dispatched.
- C. The Substation has an interview room..
- D. The Substation has an open parking lot for personnel.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Most of the crimes reported involve stolen vehicles, theft of fuel, copper wire, agricultural equipment and produce.
- F2. The Famoso Raceway has a contract with the Kern County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement services at large events such as the March Meet.
- F3. The Kern County Sheriff's Department has an agreement with the Delano Police Department to book Substation detainees at the Delano Police Department.

F4. A Deputy position will be added to the Substation in the near future.

F5. The Substation parking lot needs fencing for security.

F6. The interview room is not audio or visually equipped.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Sergeant and OST for the courtesy given to the Committee during the visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. The Substation parking lot should be fenced for security.

R2. The interview room should have audio and visual equipment installed.

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Delano Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Michael Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca. 93301

On August 27, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Delano Substation. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on November 1, 2012. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office Delano Substation.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Grand Jury for its efforts in reviewing operations of the Delano Substation. The objective review of the Delano Substation provided by the Grand Jury helps to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office. As always, the Kern County Sheriff's Office appreciates the valuable insight the Grand Jury has provided.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. *The Substation parking lot should be fenced for security.*
- R2. *The interview room should have audio and visual equipment installed.*

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

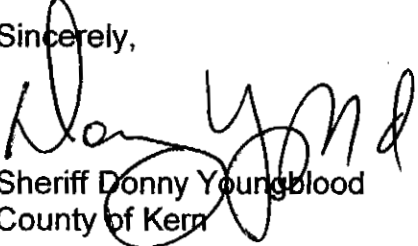
The provision of security fencing would be a welcomed upgrade to the existing security plan. Efforts to secure funding for such an upgrade are underway.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office understands the importance of maintaining the highest levels of security within the larger scope of community service. To that end, the Sheriff's Office will contact the following stakeholders to discuss the recommended security improvements: Kern County District One Supervisor's Staff, Kern County Health Department, Kern County District Attorney's Office, Kern County Environmental Health Department, Kern County Veterans Service Department, Kern County Agriculture Commissioner's Office and the City of Delano.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office also concurs with the recommended upgrades to the video/audio capabilities in the Delano Substation interview room. The Kern County Sheriff's Office will use existing resources to facilitate those upgrades.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Delano Substation to provide insights and recommendations. I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury in its service to the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DELANO SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that security fencing for the parking lot and recording equipment for the interview room be installed. The Board of Supervisors notes that the Sheriff's response to the Grand Jury indicates that the department is exploring funding opportunities for these security measures. The Board concurs with the Sheriff's response.

ADM_GJ_SHERIFF_Delano_B

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FRAZIER PARK SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Frazier Park Substation (Substation) on April 9, 2013, pursuant to California Penal Code §§919(b) and 921.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sergeant in charge and the Office Service Technician (OST). A question and answer period preceded a tour of the Substation. The tour included the conference room, break room, interview room, property room, Citizens Service Unit (CSU) office and squad room.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation serves what is commonly referred to as the "Mountain Communities." There are actually eight distinct communities within the service area. The service area is approximately 450 square miles. The Substation is a leased facility located at 617 Monterey Trail, Suite C, Frazier Park, CA 93225. The Substation is located 50 miles South of the Sheriff's Office Headquarters Facility in Bakersfield. Los Angeles and Ventura Counties border the Substation patrol area to the South and Southwest.

The area is heavily used for all types of recreation on a year-round basis. The State Park at Fort Tejon attracts 80,000 visitors annually. The Forest Service estimates the Mount Piños Recreation Area attracts 234,000 visitors annually, with peak periods being unpredictable due to the weather. The National Forest areas are popular with campers, hunters, hikers and skiers. The Hungry Valley State Recreational Vehicle area has about 75,000 visitors annually.

Approximately 12 miles of Interstate 5 bisects the response area and includes two large areas in Lebec. Interstate 5 is the main link from Southern California to Northern California and the Pacific Northwest regions. The route is a favorite for drug traffickers. Law enforcement agencies in the area seize hundreds of thousands of dollars in illicit drugs along the route annually.

- A. The communities/areas that the Substation serves are: Frazier Park, Fort Tejon, Tejon Ranch, Grapevine, Lake-of-the-Woods, Lebec, Los Padres Estates, Pine Mountain Club and Piñon Pines.
- B. The Frazier Park Substation staff consists of: six Deputies, one Senior Deputy, one Sergeant, one Office Service Technician (OST) and one Reserve Deputy.

- C. The Mountain Communities Coalition Against Substance Abuse (MCCASA) meets once a month to focus on problems in the area dealing with substance abuse.
- D. The interview room is audio and video equipped.
- E. There are no holding cells at the Substation. All arrestees are taken to the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield. The trip is one hour one way, usually thirty minutes to book the subject then another hour trip back up the mountain. The Deputy would be away from the area for approximately 2.5 hours during which time the local California Highway Patrol Officer would cover the area.
- F. Deputies work four ten hour shifts.
- G. There are currently three Community Service Volunteers (CSV). One of the CSV's is 97 years old.
- H. The Population served is approximately 8,000.
- I. The Social Host Ordinance has been very effective in reducing underage drinking. The initial fine for breaking the ordinance is \$1,000.
- J. Deputies pay \$25 per pay period for the privilege of driving the patrol car to and from home.
- K. The California Highway Patrol and the Frazier Park Substation have a Mutual Aid Agreement.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The lobby area is not secure, putting the OST in harms way.
- F2. The Substation needs a better communication system. The computers in the patrol cars work well but once the Deputy exits the vehicle and proceeds on foot there may be no wireless/radio communication with the office. A cell relay is being built in the area.
- F3. There are no major gang problems in the area. Drug abuse of marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, alcohol and prescription medications is prevalent.
- F4. The Substation does not have an adequate number of four wheel drive vehicles.

COMMENTS:

The Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury toured the Substation. The Sergeant and Staff greeted the Committee with the utmost courtesy and professionalism.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The lobby entry area needs a mirror placed to allow the OST to view the lobby from the OST's desk, or a bullet resistant glass window at the counter should be installed (as referred to in the 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2010-2011 Kern County Grand Jury Reports). Additionally, an electronic control should be available at the OST's desk to control entry into the squad room from the lobby. The door and frame from lobby to squad room should be made of steel.
- R2. The Substation's communication system should be enhanced to cover the entire area for the Deputies. An alternative would be satellite phone service.
- R3. The Substation should be allotted no fewer than two four wheel drive vehicles for daily use due to the inclement weather and terrain.

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Frazier Park Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Colette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA. 93301

On April 9, 2013, members of the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Frazier Park Substation. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on June 11, 2013. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office Frazier Park Substation.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Grand Jury for its efforts in reviewing operations of the Frazier Park Substation. The objective review of the Frazier Park Substation provided by the Grand Jury helps to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office. As always, the Kern County Sheriff's Office appreciates the valuable insight the Grand Jury has provided.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. *The lobby entry area needs a mirror placed to allow the OST to view the lobby from the OST's desk, or a bullet resistant glass window at the counter should be installed (as referred to in the 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2010-2011 Kern County Grand Jury Reports). Additionally, an electronic control should be available at the OST's desk to control entry into the squad room from the lobby. The door and frame from lobby to squad room should be made of steel.*
- R2. *The Substation's communication system should be enhanced to cover the entire area for the Deputies. An alternative would be satellite phone service.*
- R3. *The Substation should be allotted no fewer than two four wheel drive vehicles for daily use due to the inclement weather and terrain.*

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office agrees with most of the recommendations provided by the Grand Jury. As you know, the Frazier Park Substation building is leased by the County of Kern. The County is currently negotiating a new lease agreement with the owner to reduce the operating cost of the station. The property owner and the Sheriff's Office have finite resources to address each recommend change. The Sheriff's Office will continue to look for additional funds to make the recommended upgrades to the current location.

Based on the Grand Jury's recommendations, the property owner has installed a mirror in the lobby, as well as a dead-bolt lock in the door leading from the lobby into the interior of the substation. These upgrades should provide a greater measure of security for all stakeholders.

Kern County Communications has identified a possible location for a repeater in the Lake of the Woods area to improve radio reception. However, the property is currently unavailable as it is in probate. Until the probate issue is resolved, the County cannot move forward with the plan of adding a repeater to the Frazier Park response area.

The Frazier Park Substation currently has four marked 4X4 patrol vehicles and one unmarked 4X4 vehicles utilized by the Sheriff's Citizen Service Unit (CSU). These vehicles will continue to be utilized to the fullest potential in the Frazier Park area.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Frazier Park Substation to provide insight and recommendations. I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury in its service to the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FRAZIER PARK SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Board concurs with the Sheriff's response.

R1) The lobby entry area needs a mirror placed to allow the OST [Office Services Technician] to view the lobby from the OST's desk, or a bullet resistant glass window at the counter should be installed. Additionally, an electronic control should be available at the OST's desk to control entry into the squad room from the lobby. The door and frame from the lobby to the squad room should be made of steel.

The property owner has installed a mirror in the lobby, as well as a dead-bolt lock in the door leading from the lobby into the interior of the substation. These upgrades should provide a greater measure of security for all stakeholders. The Sheriff's Office will continue to research additional funds to make the remaining recommended upgrades to the Frazier Park Substation.

R2) The substation's communication system should be enhanced to cover the entire area for the Deputies. An alternative would be satellite phone service.

The Communications Division of General Services has identified a possible location for a repeater in the Lake of the Woods area to improve radio reception. However, the property is currently in probate. Once the probate issue is resolved, the County will consider moving forward with adding a repeater to the Frazier Park response area.

R3) The Substation should be allotted no fewer than two four wheel drive vehicles for daily use due to the inclement weather and terrain.

The Frazier Park Substation currently has four marked four wheel drive patrol vehicles and one unmarked four wheel drive vehicle utilized by the Sheriff's Citizen Service Unit. These vehicles will continue to be utilized to the fullest potential in the substation's response area.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT KERN VALLEY SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern Valley Substation (Substation) on August 6, 2012, pursuant to Penal Code §§919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee members met with the Sergeant in charge. An extensive tour was provided of the substation including three holding cells, property room and court facilities.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is a 27 year old building located at 7046 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella, CA. The area of coverage is 840 square miles within the Kern River Valley and 254 square miles in Walker Basin. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- A. The Substation has three holding cells. The longest stay is eight hours with no overnight stays. If necessary, the arrestee could be provided a meal from a fast food restaurant. If necessary, the arrestee is detained and taken to the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield and booked into jail. If not arrested the detainee is either cited or released.
- B. The staff includes 13 deputies, three senior deputies, one clerk and one office staff technician. The deputies are on call 24/7.
- C. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) leases space from the Sheriff's Department. The CHP has six officers and operates from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm seven days per week.
- D. The property room is a locked room with evidence secured prior to admission at court. The property room has been enlarged since the Grand Jury's last visit.
- E. The Substation has two interview rooms equipped with video taping capability. The Substation also has one booking room, three holding cells, a Sallyport and several rooms used by other personnel.
- F. The Substation has 17 patrol cars, four SUV's, five loaner cars, two motorcycles and two quad runners.

- G. The volunteer program is the largest "Citizen Service Unit" (CSU) in Kern County with approximately 22 members. Most members are senior citizens. One of the services provided by the program is the "Are You OK?" call out service. Volunteers call approximately 100 seniors per day to ensure the individual is "OK". If a person doesn't answer or sounds depressed a deputy is sent to the residence to make contact. The CSU volunteers also deliver and pickup departmental mail to Bakersfield. Volunteers receive 40 hours of training provided in Bakersfield. Costs are covered by the Substation.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The building was clean and well maintained.
- F2. The court holds sessions on Monday only.
- F3. The booking procedure has been streamlined since the Grand Jury's last visit. Booking reports are processed by the Sergeant, finalized by the Administrative Assistant and taken immediately to Bakersfield by a CSU volunteer.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Sergeant and staff for the Substation visit and information provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Maintain the current level of staffing given the extensive area the Substation is required to patrol.

The Kern County Sheriff's Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, click on: Sign up for early releases.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Library system and the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR REPORT**

**1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

November 27, 2012

The Honorable Michael G. Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca 93301

On August 6, 2012, members of the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Kern Valley Substation. The committee members toured the facility with Sergeant Doug Jauch and staff. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on September 27, 2012. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office Kern Valley Substation.

The Grand Jury's objective review of the Kern Valley Substation serves to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office. As always, the Grand Jury's efforts are most appreciated.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

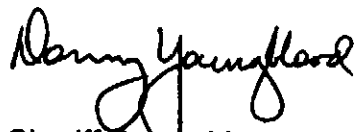
- R1. *Maintain the current level of staffing given the extensive area the Substation is required to cover.*

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

The Grand Jury's staffing recommendation was appropriate as it related to the provision of effective enforcement strategies within the Kern River Valley. The Kern County Sheriff's Office remains committed to maintaining appropriate staffing levels to support the broader law enforcement needs of the area.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Kern Valley Substation to provide insights and recommendations. I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury in its service to the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donny Youngblood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT KERN VALLEY SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury's only recommendation was to "maintain the current level of staffing given the extensive area the Substation is required to patrol." The Sheriff's response to the Grand Jury recommendation is that the Sheriff's Office is committed to maintaining appropriate staffing levels to support the broader law enforcement needs of the area. The Board of Supervisors concurs with these efforts.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT LAMONT SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On January 15, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Lamont Substation (Substation). The visit was pursuant to California Penal Code §§919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with a Lieutenant and the Sergeant in charge of the Substation. A question and answer session preceded an extensive tour of the Substation and Court Facilities.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is located at 12022 Main Street, Lamont, CA 93241. The Substation's response area is approximately 493 square miles. The Towns of Lamont and Arvin are population centers for the Southern Valley. Agriculture and related businesses were, and currently are, the primary industries in the Lamont response area with oil production/processing being second. In 1960 the City of Arvin incorporated and formed a City Police Department. The Town of Lamont remains unincorporated. The Substation is responsible for providing law enforcement services to residents and businesses located throughout the area. The Substation is also responsible for providing security to the Kern County Superior Court-Arvin/Lamont Branch, which includes Judicial Officers, court staff, court visitors and the security of inmates in the holding unit.

- A. The Lieutenant is the supervisor for the Lamont, Taft and the Frazier Park Substations. The staffing at the Substation is one Sergeant (Substation supervisor), one night Sergeant (also supervises the Frazier Park and Taft Substations), 15 Deputies (three are Senior Deputies) and two clerks.
- B. The response boundaries are: North to State Route 58, South to Laval Road, East to the base of Bear Mountain and West to Gosford Road.
- C. The Substation has one audio/video equipped interview room.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Deputies can take patrol vehicles home and are charged a fee of \$25 a month for the privilege.

- F2. The most prevalent crimes are thefts of all sorts and methamphetamine usage.
- F3. Because of the vast patrol areas, additional Deputies could be used.
- F4. There are no K-9 units assigned to the Substation. When a K-9 unit is needed one is deployed from the Bakersfield Metro area.
- F5. The Substation was clean and well maintained.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was greeted with courtesy and professionalism by the Lieutenant, Sergeant and Substation personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Lamont Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Collette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca 93301

On January 15, 2013, members of the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Lamont Substation. The committee members toured the facility with Sgt. Zachary Bittle and staff. The Law and Justice Committee made no associated recommendations but the following finding deserved a brief clarification:

GRAND JURY FINDING:

F1: Deputies can take patrol vehicles home and are charged a fee of \$25 a month for the privilege.

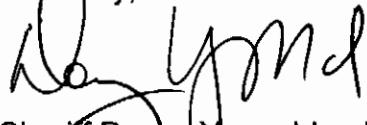
SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

Deputy Sheriffs do indeed have the option of taking their patrol vehicles home as noted. Deputies currently contribute \$25 dollars each pay-period for the privilege. These contributions occur bi-weekly (during 26 designated county pay-periods).

The Grand Jury's efforts to review the operation of the Lamont Substation are most appreciated. The Grand Jury's objective review of the facility serves to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Lamont Substation.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO Elissa Ladd

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT LAMONT SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct with the following clarification. Finding 1 states "Deputies can take patrol vehicles home and are charged a fee of \$25 a month for the privilege." Deputies do indeed have the option of taking their patrol vehicles home, but contribute \$25 each pay period, which occurs bi-weekly, not monthly, as noted.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury provided no recommendations in the report.

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KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MOJAVE/BORON SUBSTATIONS

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Mojave Substation (Substation) on October 9, 2012, pursuant to California Penal Code §§ 919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sergeant in charge of the Substations along with the Senior Detention Deputy of the Mojave Jail. The Committee toured the Substation and the Jail.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is located at 1771 Highway 58 in Mojave, approximately 65 miles southeast of Bakersfield. The response area is located in high desert terrain along the west end of the Mojave Desert. The substation is also responsible for the Boron area. Locations in the Mojave/Boron response area include Mojave, Boron, North Edwards, Edwards AFB, Desert Lake, Cantil, Aerial Acres, Fremont Valley and Cache Creek. The total response area for both the Mojave Substation and the Boron Substation covers approximately 1,741 square miles.

- A. The current staff at the Substation is: 14 Deputies, five Detention Deputies, two Court Deputies and two Office Service Technicians. Four Deputies are assigned to the Boron Substation.
- B. Generally there are three Deputies on duty during the day, increasing from four up to seven during the afternoon/evening hours. Staffing is usually reduced during the early morning hours.
- C. The prevalent crimes perpetrated in the area include burglaries, windmill vandalism, meteorological tower vandalism, thefts and drug related crimes.
- D. Deputies are assigned to Edwards Air Force Base to handle civilian issues.
- E. The Mojave Jail is used as a temporary holding facility consisting of 12 cells where the inmates can be held for up to 96 hours. The Jail is also used to house prisoners awaiting court appearance in Mojave.
- F. An inmate will be transported to Kern Medical Center or Tehachapi Hospital if in need of medical treatment. On rare occasions the inmate will be transported to Antelope Valley Hospital.

- G. TV dinner type meals are served three times per day.
- H. Video cameras have been installed and provide necessary monitoring for the entire facility.
- I. The Mojave Court is located adjacent to the Substation. The Court has two courtrooms and is staffed by the Sheriff's Department. There is an adjacent overflow courtroom that can be used if necessary.
- J. Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) are operated out of the Ridgecrest substation.
- K. New carpet has been installed throughout the entire Mojave substation since the last Grand Jury visit.
- L. There is one Community Service Unit Volunteer.
- M. Deputies are allowed to take patrol cars home for a nominal fee of \$20 per pay period.

FINDINGS:

- F1. There are no designated interview rooms at the Substation therefore a Senior Deputy's office is used when interviews are required.
- F2. The Mojave Substation borders the Mojave Spaceport which was previously the Mojave Airport.
- F3. Video cameras have been installed throughout the Mojave Substation as recommended in a previous Kern County Grand Jury report.
- F4. Plans for a new jail and courthouse facility are under consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury was greeted with the utmost courtesy and professionalism by the Sergeant of the Substations and the Senior Detention Deputy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. It is recommended the Mojave Substation provide a secure interview room and install audio/video recording equipment.

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Mojave/Boron Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

January 14, 2013

The Honorable Michael Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca. 93301

On October 9, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Mojave Substation. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on December 17, 2012. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office Mojave Substation.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Grand Jury for its efforts in reviewing the operations of the Mojave Substation. The objective review of the Mojave Substation helps to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office. As always, the Kern County Sheriff's Office appreciates the valuable insight the Grand Jury has provided.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:


R1. *The Substation should have a secure interview room and install audio/video recording equipment.*

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office concurs with the recommended upgrade to establish an interview room at the Mojave Substation (with audio/video capabilities). The Kern County Sheriff's Office will use available funding to purchase and install audio/video equipment into an existing office. This modification will create a dual-purpose room within the current substation floor plan. All deputies will have access to this dual-purpose room to enhance the strength of local investigations. The proposed enhancements will not detract from the existing service-levels provided at the substation.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Mojave Substation to provide insight and recommendations. I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury in its service to the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

**KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
MOJAVE/BORON SUBSTATION**

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that the Mojave/Boron Substation should have a secure interview room and install audio/video recording equipment. The Board of Supervisors notes that the Sheriff's response to the Grand Jury indicates that the department will use available funding to purchase and install audio/video equipment into an existing office. This modification will create a dual-purpose room within the current Substation floor plan. The Board concurs with the Sheriff's response.

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KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On August 21, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Property and Evidence Facility (Property Room) to inquire into the condition and management of the Facility according to California Penal Code §925.

PROCESS:

The Committee reviewed the 2010-2011 and the 2011-2012 Kern County Grand Jury final reports on the Facility. The Committee met with a Chief Deputy, Commander (Public Services Division), a Lieutenant and a Sergeant responsible for management of the Facility. The Committee was given a briefing and a tour was conducted.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Facility is located at the south east corner of 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301, behind the Central Receiving Facility (main jail).

- A. The tour included the refrigeration storage room, drug storage room, gun room, homicide evidence room and general evidence storage areas.
- B. All evidence is bar coded with audits conducted every year. Weapons, drugs and cash are audited every four months. There are approximately 70,000 pieces of evidence maintained at the Facility.
- C. All storage areas of the facility use a card lock system. Access into these areas is by two authorized personnel at a time for security reasons. Access records are audited by the Sergeant assigned to the Facility.
- D. There are two shipping containers maintained at an off-site location.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Previous years Grand Jury reports mentioned that the Sheriff's Department should acquire the second floor of the Facility and secure the "L" street entrance. The acquisition has been accomplished and all that remains are security updates for the "L" street entrance and the second floor.
- F2. The first and second floors need a fire suppression system.
- F3. Plans are to eventually relocate the weapons and drugs to the second floor. Additionally there are plans to move some evidence from other off site storage areas to the Property Room when improvements are completed.

- F4. There is a need for installation of power connections for an emergency generator in the Property Room to provide power during extended outages.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Chief Deputy, Commander, Lieutenant, Sergeant and other personnel for the professional and informative tour of the Property Room. The Committee was impressed with how the property was organized and maintained.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Installation of a fire suppression system on first and second floors (F2).
R2. Installation of emergency power generator connections (F4).

NOTES:

- The Kern County Sheriff's Department Property and Evidence Facility should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

October 9, 2012

The Honorable Michael Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield CA 93301

FILE COPY

On August 21, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited and toured the Kern County Sheriff's Property and Evidence Facility. Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda and Commander Dennis Smithson currently oversee this unit and were present during the visit.

I appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury during its annual review of the operations at the Sheriff's Property Room. Over the course of the last several months, the Sheriff's Office has continued to make a number of operational changes which we believe has enhanced the security and efficiency of the Sheriff's Property Room. The recommendations noted by the Grand Jury will further facilitate our progress in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS/RESPONSE:

The Grand Jury noted that the second floor of the Property Room building has been allocated for use by the Sheriff's Office. Unfortunately, this space is currently being utilized by other County departments for storage and is not yet accessible to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office is working with General Services to obtain this space as soon as it becomes available.

1. Installation of a fire suppression system on the first and second floors.

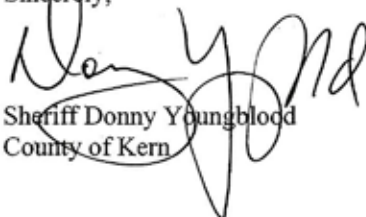
The Sheriff's Office will research the feasibility and cost of installing the recommended fire suppression system(s) in the Property Room.

2. Installation of emergency power generator connections.

The Sheriff's Office has contacted General Services and a local electrical contractor to determine the feasibility and cost of installing electrical connections needed to provide emergency power to the evidence freezer.

In closing, I would like to thank the Grand Jury members for their recent visit to the Sheriff's Property and Evidence Facility and for providing their recommendations. Rest assured that the Sheriff's Office will remain committed to meeting the needs of the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

October 9, 2012

Response to Grand Jury re: Property and Evidence Facility

Page 2

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE FACILITY

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct, except as noted in the Sheriff's response that the second floor of the facility is currently used by other County departments for storage and is not yet accessible to the Sheriff's Office. However, the Sheriff's Office is working with General Services to complete the transition of this space to the Sheriff.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that the installation of a fire suppression system and emergency power generator connections. The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response that his department will research the feasibility and cost of installing a fire suppression system and emergency power to the evidence freezer.

ADM_GJ_SHERIFF_PropFac_B_12-13

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RIDGECREST SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Substation (Substation) in Ridgecrest, CA on August 6, 2012, pursuant to Penal Code §§919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee members met with the Sergeant in charge. The Substation is located at 124 E. Coso in Ridgecrest, CA. An extensive tour was provided of the substation that was built around 1970.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

Ridgecrest is located in the southern portion of the Indian Wells Valley in the northeast corner of Kern County surrounded by four mountain ranges: the Sierra Nevada on the west, the Cosos on the north, the Argus Range on the east and the El Paso Mountains on the south.

Ridgecrest evolved into a growing and dynamic community vital to the mission of the United States Navy by providing housing and services for Federal employees and contractors. Ridgecrest was incorporated in 1963 and now provides housing, shopping and services for more than 40,000 people throughout the Indian Wells Valley.

- A. The Substation has five holding cells. The longest stay is 96 hours. If necessary, the arrestee could be provided micro-waved frozen meals. Arrestees being detained are taken to the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield and booked into jail.
- B. The staff includes one sergeant, one senior deputy, twelve deputies and one clerk. Ten deputies are on patrol and two deputies are assigned to the court.
- C. The Court has two courtrooms which operate five days per week. The Sheriff's Department transports 7-10 prisoners to court daily. Sometimes there are two sessions held in each courtroom.
- D. Since the last visit the main gate to the parking lot has been repaired and now is electronically controlled.
- E. The van parking area has been provided with a cover as per the Grand Jury's recommendation.

- F. The Substation has the following vehicles: 21 motorcycles/quads, six 4x4 vehicles (including a Ford Raptor/Humvee), two pickup trucks (Ford F350/Chevy flatbed), three enclosed trailers, one RV Trailer (a toy hauler used as a command center) and one Rhino.
- G. The front office is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The Substation has coverage 24/7 for patrol and jail.
- H. The Deputies are allowed to take cars home for a nominal fee which is deducted each pay period.
- I. All Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) and Air5 are deployed on Thanksgiving weekend and other holiday weekends to monitor 65,000-100,000 people coming to the area for recreation.
- J. The jail cells require the use of heavy duty keys. Electronic locking doors were eliminated due to high maintenance costs.

FINDINGS:

None

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Sergeant and staff for the visit to the Substation and the information provided to the Committee. The Committee commends the Kern County Sheriff's Department for following the suggestions as recommended by the previous Grand Jury report (Facts D and E).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

The Kern County Sheriff's Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, click on: Sign up for early releases.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Library system and the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

November 27, 2012

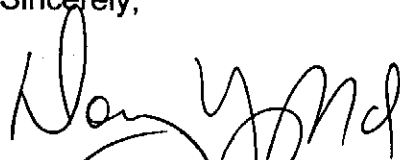
The Honorable Michael G. Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca 93301

On August 6, 2012, members of the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Ridgecrest Substation. The committee members toured the facility with Sergeant Mike Scott and staff. The Grand Jury published a report that was made public on October 4, 2012. The Law and Justice Committee made no recommendations following their visit.

The Grand Jury's efforts to review the operation of the Ridgecrest Substation are most appreciated. The Grand Jury's objective review of the facility serves to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Ridgecrest Substation.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RIDGECREST SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury provided no recommendations in the report.

ADM_GJ_SHERIFF_RidgecrestSub_B

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ROSAMOND SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Rosamond Substation (Substation) on October 9, 2012, to observe the facilities and interview personnel pursuant to California Penal Code §§ 919 and 925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sergeant in charge for a question and answer session. The Committee was then taken on a tour of the Substation which included the squad room, property room, kitchen and office area.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is located at 1379 Sierra Highway, Rosamond, CA 93560. Originally the Substation was operated out of the backroom of the Fire Department on Desert Street. In 1996 the Substation moved to the current location.

- A. The Substation response area is approximately 740 square miles as follows: The southern border with Los Angeles County from Edwards Air Force Base (Edwards) west to 310th Street West, north along the mountain ridges to Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road, south to Backus Road, east to the west gates of Edwards.
- B. The Substation covers the townships of Rosamond, Willow Springs, Hidden Valley, Lands of Promise and Ancient Valley.
- C. Current staffing is a Day Sergeant, a Night Sergeant, two Senior Deputies, nine Deputies and two Clerks. There is one Office Service Technician (OST). Two Deputies are currently on light duty and three Deputies are in training.
- D. Patrol vehicles typically accrue 120,000 miles before being considered for replacement.
- E. Patrol vehicles needing minor repairs (brakes, oil changes) are sent to local businesses. Vehicles needing major repairs are taken to the mechanical facility below the Kern County Sheriff's Department Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield.

FINDINGS:

- F1. An interview room is provided for use by Substation personnel.
- F2. Substation Deputies respond to civilian crimes at Edwards Air Force Base.
- F3. The Substation Deputies drive approximately 200-300 miles daily.
- F4. New carpeting has been installed, desks replaced and several computers have been added as per previous Grand Jury recommendations.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Sergeant in charge of the Substation for the courtesy and professionalism shown during the Committee's visit.

RECOMMENDATION:

None

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Rosamond Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

January 14, 2013

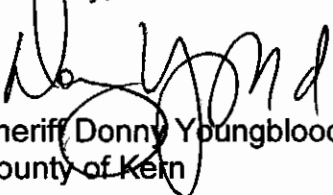
The Honorable Michael G. Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca 93301

On October 9, 2012, members of the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Rosamond Substation. The committee members toured the facility with Sergeant Tim Posey and staff. The Grand Jury published a report that was made public on December 13, 2012. The Law and Justice Committee made no recommendations following their visit.

The Grand Jury's efforts to review the operation of the Rosamond Substation are most appreciated. The Grand Jury's objective review of the facility serves to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Rosamond Substation.

Sincerely,


Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ROSAMOND SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury provided no recommendations in the report.

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KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TAFT SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Taft Substation (Substation) on January 14, 2013, pursuant to California Penal Code §§919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sergeant in charge of the Substation and a Senior Deputy. A question and answer session preceded a tour of the Substation. The tour included the squad rooms, property room, Detective's office, lobby and Office Service Technician's area. In the same building are the offices for the Public Defender, Deputy District Attorney and Deputy Probation Officer. The tour also included the Taft Superior Court facilities.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is located at 315 Lincoln Street, Taft, CA 93268. The area has a history of oil production dating back to the turn of the 20th century. North of Taft is one of the richest oil producing areas in the world. The Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational area and the mountains to the South attract visitors to the area year round.

- A. The Substation's response area consists of approximately 728 square miles. The Substation borders Ventura, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.
- B. The staffing level at the Substation is one Sergeant, two Senior Deputies, 11 Deputies and one Office Service Technician. One Deputy is assigned as the Court Bailiff.
- C. One Deputy is assigned to track registered sex offenders under California Penal Code §290.
- D. There are no holding cells at the Substation. There are three holding cells at the court facilities.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Sergeant's office is separate from the lobby area.

- F2. The theft of salvageable materials/metals from the oil fields appears to be one of the top crimes in the area. One of the other prevalent crimes is use of illegal narcotics.
- F3. Criminals increasingly use off-road vehicles to accomplish the crimes.
- F4. Should the Substation need the use of All Terrain Vehicle's (ATV's), the ATV's are brought in from the Ridgecrest area.
- F5. The Substation has a compliment of 20 patrol vehicles (five are spares), and one four-wheel drive vehicle.
- F6. Since there are no holding cells at the Substation, the County has an agreement allowing Deputies to book prisoners at the Taft Police Department.
- F7. The Substation Deputies patrol the City of Maricopa but do not use the Maricopa facilities.
- F8. The Sergeant stated the response time for calls in the Substation area is five minutes.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was met with courtesy and professionalism by the Sergeant and Senior Deputy during the Committee's visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Taft Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

May 13, 2013

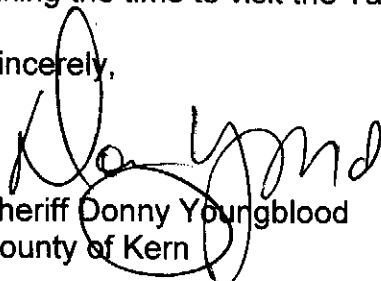
The Honorable Colette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

On January 14, 2013, members of the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Taft Substation. The committee members toured the facility with Sergeant Marty Downs and staff. The Grand Jury published a report that was made public on May 9, 2013. The Law and Justice Committee made no recommendations following their visit.

The Grand Jury's efforts to review the operation of the Taft Substation are most appreciated. The Grand Jury's objective review of the facility serves to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Taft Substation.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TAFT SUBSTATION

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury provided no recommendations in the report.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TEHACHAPI SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Tehachapi Substation (Substation) on December 4, 2012, pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b) and §925, to observe the facility and interview the Sergeant in charge of the Substation.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sergeant in charge of the Substation and conducted a question and answer session after which the Committee was given a tour.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Substation is located at 22209 Old Town Road, Tehachapi, CA 93561. The Substation covers approximately 572 square miles of unincorporated area around Tehachapi including Sand Canyon, Hart Flat, Keene, Bealville, and Old West Kern. Two Community Service Districts, Stallion Springs and Bear Valley Springs, provide Police Services.

- A. The entire Tehachapi Valley has approximately 35,000 residents. The Substation serves a population of approximately 18,000 to 20,000 residents.
- B. The Substation can provide/receive mutual aid from surrounding agencies if the need should arise. The agencies are: Tehachapi Police Department, Stallion Springs Police Department, Bear Valley Springs Police Department, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Police and the California Highway Patrol.
- C. The Substation is staffed by one Sergeant working five eight hour shifts; two Senior Deputies working four 10 hour shifts; six Deputies working four 10 hour shifts. Two additional Deputies are currently in training. The Substation has a Citizen Service Unit (CSU) active for over 16 years with 19 people involved.

FINDINGS:

There are no holding cells or secure interview rooms at the Substation. Arrestees are brought to the Substation for investigation follow-up and then booked at either the Mojave Substation or the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield.

- F1. Minimal security measures are in place to monitor entry into the building or to restrict entry into unauthorized areas of the building causing a security risk to staff.

F2. The Substation is currently in a leased building and shares the site with the Kern County Roads Department located in Golden Hills.

F3. The CSU provides valuable volunteer services to the Substation.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Substation personnel for courtesy and professionalism during the visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. An electronically locked door and audio/visual recording equipment should be installed at the front counter for personnel security.

R2. The Office Service Technician desks should be positioned to allow staff direct view of the public access as was previously recommended by the 2011- 2012 Kern County Grand Jury.

R3. An interview room should be added at the Substation, complete with audio/video recording equipment when funds and space become available.

R4. A clear bulletproof partition should be added at the front counter for security purposes as funds become available.

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Tehachapi Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

March 4, 2013

The Honorable Colette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca. 93301

On December 4, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Tehachapi Substation. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on February 28, 2013. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office Tehachapi Substation.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Grand Jury for its efforts in reviewing operations of the Tehachapi Substation. The objective review of the Tehachapi Substation provided by the Grand Jury helps to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office. As always, the Kern County Sheriff's Office appreciates the valuable insight the Grand Jury has provided.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. An electronically locked door and audio/visual recording equipment should be installed at the front counter for personnel security.

R2. The Office Service Technician desks should be positioned to allow staff direct view of the public access as was previously recommended by the 2011-2012 Kern County Grand Jury.

R3. An interview room should be added at the Substation, complete with audio/video recording equipment when funds and space become available.

R4. A clear bulletproof partition should be added at the front counter for security purposes as funds become available.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

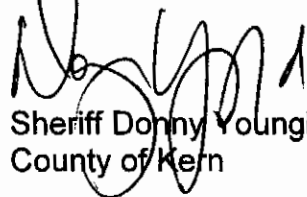
The Kern County Sheriff's Office agrees with most of the recommendations provided by the Grand Jury. As you know, the Golden Hills Community Services District owns the building. The current lease agreement expires in 2015. In this case, the Golden Hills Community Services District and the Sheriff's Office have finite resources to address each recommended change. The Sheriff's Office will continue to look for additional funding to make the recommended upgrades to the current location.

The Sheriff's Office concurs with the recommended upgrade to establish an interview room at the Tehachapi Substation with audio/video capabilities. Unfortunately, the Tehachapi Substation does not currently have the office space to dedicate a separate office for this purpose. The Sheriff's Office will, however, use available funding to purchase and install audio/video equipment into an existing office. This will ultimately create a dual purpose room for staff to utilize. All deputies will have access to this office and the added equipment will not interfere with day-to-day operations of the office.

The position of the front-office desks may not be optimal but they have ultimately proven to be functional. In an effort to mitigate some of the limitations of the furniture positions, the Sheriff's Office has installed a motion activated door chime, which sounds when the door is opened. The chime would presumably alert staff when a community member has entered the building.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Tehachapi Substation to provide insight and recommendations. I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury in its service to the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

**KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
TEHACHAPI SUBSTATION**

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended the installation of an electronically locked door and audio/visual recording equipment at the front counter, repositioning of the Office Service Technician desks to allow staff direct view of the public access, addition of an interview room with audio/video recording equipment, and installation of a clear bulletproof partition at the front counter. The Board of Supervisors notes that the Sheriff's response to the Grand Jury indicates that the Sheriff's Office concurs with the recommended upgrade to establish an interview room at the Tehachapi Substation with audio-visual capabilities. Unfortunately, the Tehachapi Substation does not currently have the office space to dedicate a separate office for this purpose.

However, the Sheriff's Office will use available funding to purchase and install audio/video equipment into an existing office creating a dual purpose room. The positions of the front-office desks are not optimal due to the limitations of the furniture, but the Sheriff's Office has installed a motion activated door chime, which sounds when the door is opened. The chime should alert staff when a community member has entered the building.

The Board concurs with the Sheriff's response.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WASCO SUBSTATION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On October 29, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Wasco Substation (Substation) pursuant to California Penal Code §925.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sergeant in charge and Assistant for a brief question and answer session. The Committee was given a tour of the facility. The Sergeant had been with the Substation for four years and retired on November 3, 2012. The Substation is supported by the City of Wasco, California. The population of Wasco is 22,000.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. The substation has 13 deputies, two detectives, two support clerks and 12 volunteers.
- B. Deputies may take the patrol cars home. The cost to the deputy is \$25.00 per pay period.
- C. There are 12 bikes available for the Bike Patrol. Repairs are constantly needed on the bikes.
- D. There are no holding cells. There is audio/video in the Interview Room.
- E. In-car videos are city purchased.
- F. Cleaning and maintenance of patrol cars are performed by the City of Wasco.

FINDINGS:

F1. The reception area is very small and crowded.

COMMENTS:

The Committee noted that the Sergeant and Staff reflected a high level of professionalism and attention to duty.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. The City of Wasco should make improvements to the reception area.

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Wasco Substation should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Colette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca. 93301

On October 29, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Wasco Substation. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on January 21, 2013. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Office Wasco Substation.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Grand Jury for its efforts in reviewing operations of the Wasco Substation. The objective review of the Wasco Substation provided by the Grand Jury helps to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office. As always, the Kern County Sheriff's Office appreciates the valuable insight the Grand Jury has provided.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

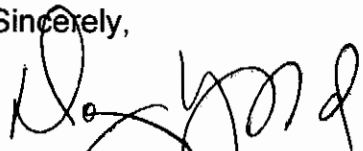
R1. *The City of Wasco should make improvements to the reception area.*

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office concurs with the recommendation to make improvements to the reception area. Wasco City Manager Dan Allen has already approved a project to improve the reception area. A new design to make the reception area larger and more inviting to the public has been drafted and the City of Wasco is seeking funds to support the project.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Wasco Substation to provide insight and recommendations. I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury in its service to the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Assistant CAO-Elissa Ladd

**KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
WASCO SUBSTATION**

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that the City of Wasco make improvements to the reception area of the Wasco Substation. The Board of Supervisors notes that the Sheriff's response to the Grand Jury indicates that the Wasco City Manager, Dan Allen, has approved a project to improve the reception area. A new design to make the reception area larger and more inviting to the public has been drafted and the City of Wasco is seeking funds to support the project. The Board concurs with the Sheriff's response.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S LERDO FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Department Lerdo Facility (Lerdo) on March 19, 2013, pursuant to California Penal Code §§919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee took a tour of the facility and met with a Kern County Sheriff's Department (Department) Detention Sergeant and Staff.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

Lerdo is located at 17635 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308. Lerdo was originally designed as a minimum security facility ("Road Camp" or "Honor Farm"). At that time, Lerdo used low security-risk inmates as the labor force for farming and ranching which provided some consumable products for inmates. Lerdo is now a facility housing higher security-risk inmates. The farming and ranching programs no longer exist.

- A. Lerdo has four separate housing units: Pre-Trial (male/female), Maximum/Medium (Max-Med all male), Male Minimum and Female Minimum. The Maximum/Medium unit contains eight dorms as well as cells. The Minimum units are barracks.
- B. Lerdo provides medical, dental and mental health services. Domestic Violence, Food Service and Auto Body classes are conducted. Substance Abuse Program (SAP) classes are scheduled to start in April 2013.
- C. As well as housing inmates serving sentences, Lerdo is responsible for the transportation of inmates to and from court proceedings.
- D. The average daily cost per inmate is \$129.00.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The inmate population at the time of the visit was 2,682.
- F2. Lerdo has Physicians, Registered Nurses, Licensed Vocational Nurses, Physician Assistants and Medical Clerks contracted through Kern Medical Center and a Dentist on a private contract. Lerdo would like to install two Dialysis units to be used by Lerdo and other prisons in Kern County.

- F3. All visitors for Pre-Trial and Max-Med are checked in at the Main gate and register at the facility office. Minimum units conduct visits on weekends and are transported to the Male-Minimum facility.
- F4. Kern County Supervisors visit the facility on the average of once a year.
- F5. Lerdo transports 100-110 inmates to the courts daily.
- F6. There are 300 inmates serving time of more than three years. More violent inmates replace less violent inmates released. The population of Lerdo has changed significantly since the institution of AB109.
- F7. For every day the inmate is “good” one day is removed from the sentence. One inmate arrested for “carjacking” was allowed to plead down to “joyriding”. One inmate told the officer, *“Now is the great time for stealing autos, all you get is a slap on the wrist”*.
- F8. The “Prison Rape Elimination Act” (PREA) has provided grants to pay for educating officers on what to look for to determine inmates being pressured to “service” other inmates.
- F9. Releasees are given checks instead of cash. Lerdo does not have to keep cash “on-hand” if issuing checks. Releasees will not try to take a check away from another releasee. Example: When receiving cash one releasee stabbed another releasee to get the money.
- F10. The following needs are not mandated to be paid for by the Inmate Welfare Fund: Education, Games, Books, Movies, Van Driver, Chaplains and Television.
- F11. The “New Jail” plans are in place. Ground breaking is scheduled for December of 2014 with the completion date scheduled for June of 2017.
- F12. The SAP is working well in the Minimum Facility. Program Officers have been added to make sure inmates attend with daily encouragement.
- F13. Since the institution of AB109 crime has increased and the security level of inmates has increased.
- F14. The well equipped butcher shop was discontinued some years ago taking away the opportunity to be a certified butcher. The butcher shop is held on stand by to be used as a morgue in case of a major catastrophe.

- F15. The Minimum Security units (barracks) are nothing more than normal housing units with very little security other than the chain link fence surrounding each unit. Two units are scheduled for demolition and new construction to increase the security and capacity. The buildings appear not secure and the staffing of the area appears to be inadequate.

COMMENTS:

The Committee commends the Department and the Lerdo Staff for dedication and actions performed due to the challenges and hardships created by AB109.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. When funds become available (i.e. Inmate Welfare Fund) purchase two Dialysis Machines which will serve Lerdo and other prisons in the area.
- R2. When funds become available (i.e. Inmate Welfare Fund) upgrade the dental unit with new chairs and x-ray equipment.
- R3. The Department is encouraged to continue with upgrades on the Minimum Security housing.

NOTES:

The Kern County Sheriff's Department Lerdo Facility should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Collette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

On March 19, 2013, members of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee visited and toured the Kern County Sheriff's Lerdo Facility. Based on their findings, the Grand Jury published a report that was made public on May 28, 2013. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Kern County Sheriff's Lerdo Facility.

In accordance with Penal Code 933, we are directly responding to the Grand Jury within 60 days of the receipt of this report. We will also file a copy of our response with the Clerk of the Board as directed.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. When funds become available (i.e. Inmate Welfare Fund), purchase two dialysis machines which will serve Lerdo and other prisons in the area.*
- R2. When funds become available (i.e. Inmate Welfare Fund), upgrade the dental unit with new chairs and x-ray equipment.*
- R3. The department is encouraged to continue upgrades on the Minimum Security housing.*

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

- R1. The Sheriff's Office currently contracts with Kern Medical Center for inmate medical services. As such, the use and purchase of medical equipment is under the purview of our medical provider. However, the Sheriff's Office recognizes the potential advantages of having dialysis machines available within our facilities and will work with our medical provider to explore the feasibility of adding dialysis machines to the Lerdo facilities.

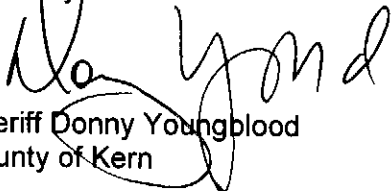
R2. The Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance of replacing antiquated furnishings and equipment. The chairs and x-ray equipment in the dental unit were installed when the Pretrial facility was originally constructed in the late 1980's.

Inmate medical services and equipment are provided and maintained by our contracted medical provider. As such, the dental equipment in the Lerdo complex is maintained by Kern Medical Center. While there are some problems associated with using the Inmate Welfare fund to purchase medical equipment, the Sheriff's Office will work with our contacted medical services provider to explore methods by which the x-ray equipment and chairs can be upgraded.

R3. The Sheriff's Office agrees with the committee's recommendation to continue upgrading the Minimum Facility's security. Toward that end, the Sheriff's Office is in the process of preparing plans for rebuilding the entire Minimum Facility. The plans being prepared call for the replacement of all the old, wood barracks at the Minimum Facility with secure dormitory style buildings. The Sheriff's Office is in the process of attempting to secure adequate funding for the project.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee in its review of our Lerdo Facility and looks forward to working with the Grand Jury in the future. Providing the public with an objective view of our operations and facilities helps build a feeling of public trust. Rest assured that the Sheriff's Office will remain committed to meeting the needs of the people of Kern County.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann
Clerk of the Board
Kern County Grand Jury Foreman
Assistant CAO Elissa Ladd

**KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
LERDO FACILITY**

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

R1: When funds become available, purchase two dialysis machines which will serve Lerdo and other prisons in the area.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response that there are potential advantages of having dialysis machines available within the Lerdo facilities and that the Sheriff's Office will work with its medical services provider to explore the feasibility of adding dialysis machines to the Lerdo facilities.

R2: When funds become available, upgrade the dental unit with new chairs and x-ray equipment.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response that his office will work with its medical services provider to explore methods by which the x-ray equipment and chairs could be upgraded.

R3: The department is encouraged to continue upgrades on the Minimum Security Housing.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to continue upgrades on the Minimum Security Housing. The Board will consider this project, when presented by the Sheriff, in conjunction with other County facility projects.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CORONER/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR DIVISION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On July 31, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Coroner/Public Administrator (Coroner's Office) pursuant to Penal Code §925. Several additional Grand Jury members accompanied the Committee.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Sheriff's Commander (Commander) in charge, a Chief Deputy, the Commander's Supervisor and the Public Administrator. The Commander is also in charge of the Civil Division and the Property Room in addition to his responsibility at the Coroner's Office. The meeting was conducted in the conference room which was followed by a tour.

BACKGROUND:

The Coroner's Office is located at 1832 Flower Street, Bakersfield, CA. This location is on the north side of Kern Medical Center campus. The office of the Coroner was established in 1866 and combined with the Public Administrator in 1922. The Board of Supervisors consolidated the Coroner/Public Administrator with the Sheriff's Department in 1995 and the Sheriff's title changed to Kern County Sheriff Coroner/Public Administrator.

In February 2006 a Sheriff's Commander was assigned to manage the Division with a Supervising Deputy Coroner Investigator reporting to the Commander. The Commander has been in this current assignment for approximately two years.

The Coroner has a mandated duty to inquire into and determine the cause and circumstances of death in Kern County including State and Federal Prisons and Military Installations. Currently a private physician can sign a death certificate if someone dies of natural causes within 20 days of seeing that physician. Under certain conditions a hospice nurse (RN) can sign a death certificate. There are five causes of death: accident, suicide, homicide, natural or undetermined.

- A. There are eight Deputy Coroner Investigator positions and one Supervising Deputy Coroner Investigator. There are no part time Deputy Coroner Investigators. The number of overtime hours worked per week has decreased.
- B. The three contracted pathologists performed approximately 800 autopsies in 2011, using the only two existing autopsy rooms. There were 5,000 deaths in Kern County in 2011 of which 2,600 became Coroner cases. There are two autopsy assistants to assist the pathologists. Each Pathologist usually performs four autopsies per day,

- Monday through Friday. There is one portable x-ray machine for use at the Coroner's Office.
- C. The Coroner's Office has two 19 person morgue trailers obtained by a grant from Homeland Security for use in mass casualty cases.
 - D. The Public Administrator has been in the position for three months. The Public Administrator administers the estate if: (1) there is no next of kin, (2) if the next of kin is unwilling or unable to administer the estate or (3) the Superior Court appoints the Public Administrator to administer the estate.
 - E. The Public Administrator charges a fee of 4% of the total estimated value of the estate or \$1,000, whichever is greater. This fee goes into the County's General Fund. The Public Administrator received about 150 referrals last year.
 - F. Toxicology screening is performed by a firm located in Pennsylvania. This firm performs a pre-designated battery of tests. If other tests are needed the Coroner's Office makes a request for an additional cost. These tests are requested on an annual purchase order. Only two tests are done in California; marijuana and alcohol.
 - G. Hazardous medical waste disposal is contracted through an outside firm.

FINDINGS:

1. The Deputy Coroner Investigators are peace officers while on duty per §830.35 (c) of The California Penal Code.
2. The Coroner's Office civilian Coroner Manager has been in office since April of 2012.
3. Repairs have been completed to the two coolers and one freezer in the Coroner's Office. The need still exists for expansion to meet the increasing population of Kern County.
4. The antiquated air conditioning system remains a problem due to noxious odors entering the pharmacy. The pharmacy shares the same building with the Coroner's Office. The pharmacy personnel stated there are occasional noxious odors, but this does not prevent them from getting medications to customers.
5. There are 58 counties in California of which 48 operate under the Sheriff/Coroner system.
6. The Coroner's Office is currently in a 9,000 square foot building built in 1974. The building also houses the Kern Medical Center Pharmacy. The Coroner's Office is #2 on a list for a new facility.
7. The Coroner's Office is pursuing a more effective case management software system through San Bernardino County.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was impressed with the Chief Deputy's, Commander's, Public Administrator's and Coroner Manager's attitudes and professionalism exhibited during the Grand Jury's visit. The Committee was also impressed with the professionalism and respect exhibited towards the decedents' remains and property.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Coroner's Office has been in dire need of a separate facility for several years and efforts should continue to work toward this goal.

NOTES:

The Coroner's office should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury and click on: Sign up for early releases

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

September 25, 2012

The Honorable Michael Bush, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield CA 93301

On July 31, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited and toured the Kern County Sheriff's Coroner Facility. Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda, Public Administrator Manager Donna McMillin and Commander Dennis Smithson, who currently manages the Coroner-Public Administrator Section, were present during the visit. The following is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report concerning the Coroner-Public Administrator Section.

RECOMMENDATIONS / RESPONSE:

- 1. The Coroner's Office has been in dire need of a separate facility for several years and efforts should continue to work toward this goal.**

Sheriff-Coroner Youngblood recognizes the need for a new Coroner facility and remains committed to working with the Board of Supervisors in order to achieve this goal. Every effort will be made to identify specific plans and potential funding sources for a new facility. Ideally, the new Coroner facility would remain on the Kern Medical Center campus where the space needs of both the Sheriff-Coroner and Kern Medical Center could be met. Currently, the replacement of the Coroner facility has been established as a pending Capitol Project by General Services.

In lieu of equipment replacement funding or the acquisition of a new facility, Coroner staff will continue to work with General Services to maintain the HVAC system, plumbing system, and refrigeration systems within the Coroner facility. General Services is scheduled to replace the existing HVAC system sometime in 2013.

In closing, I would like to thank the Grand Jury members for their recent visit to the Coroner facility and for providing their recommendations. Rest assured that the Sheriff's Office will remain committed to meeting the needs of the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler

September 25, 2012

Response to Grand Jury re: Coroner's Facility

Page 2

Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann

Clerk of the Board

Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury

Assistant CAO Elissa Ladd

**KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CORONER/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR DIVISION**

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that the Sheriff work towards the goal of replacing the Coroner's facility. The Board concurs with the Sheriff's response to the report. The General Services Division of the County Administrative Office is working with the department to explore alternatives for replacing or updating the facility.

ADM_GJ_SHERIFF_Coroner_B

KERN REGIONAL CRIME LABORATORY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On April 8, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab). The visit was to observe the condition and management of the Crime Lab pursuant to California Penal Code §925.

PROCESS:

The Committee and several additional Grand Jury Members met with the Crime Lab Director (Director) and the Assistant District Attorney. After a question and answer session, the Committee and additional Grand Jury Members were given a tour of the Crime Lab. The Committee and attending Grand Jury Members also interacted with numerous Crime Lab employees during the visit.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Crime Lab is located at 1300 18th Street, 4th floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301. The Director has been with the Crime Lab for two years and has been the Director for one year. In 1987 the Crime Lab was transferred from the Sheriff's Department to the District' Attorney's Office.

The Crime Lab provides forensic analysis of physical evidence to be used in a court of law. The Crime Lab provides forensic services to the District Attorney's Office, any City and County Fire Department and Sheriff's Department. The Crime Lab will also provide the same services to any Police Department within Kern County and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Crime Lab achieved accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratories Accreditation Board in June of 2006.

- A. The Director is the grant writer for the Crime Lab.
- B. The Crime Lab is in the first year of a 10 year lease. The Crime Lab is 23,000 square feet in size.
- C. The Assistant District Attorney is the District Attorney's liaison with the Crime Lab.
- D. The Crime Lab employs 36 people in four sections.
- E. The Crime Lab's budget is \$8,000,000 a year.
- F. There is a large sound proof firing range in the Crime Lab. A water tank is used for small caliber weapons.

- G. The Crime Lab changed the name from the Kern County District Attorney's Office Forensic Science Division to the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory so as to act autonomously from the District Attorney's Office.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Crime Lab is one of the lowest in pay (56th of 58) for Crime Lab employees in California's 58 Counties.
- F2. Twelve months of on the job training is required for analysts in the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) laboratory.
- F3. Training in the toxicology laboratory ranges from three months to two years.
- F4. All Crime Lab employees, with the exception of clerical staff, are required to have a college degree in either biology or chemistry.
- F5. An 18 month apprenticeship is required in the field of firearms and foot and tire tracks analysis.
- F6. The Crime Lab is unable to require employees submit to an employment commitment contract. The contract would require a new hire to agree to work for the Crime Lab for a stated period or reimburse Kern County for the education and/or on the job training.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Crime Lab Director and Assistant District Attorney for the professionalism and courtesy extended to all of the Grand Jury Members during the visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The District Attorney should request the Board of Supervisors to study the feasibility of raising the salary of Crime Lab employees. A more competitive salary would enable the Crime Lab to retain staff after training.
- R2. The District Attorney should continue to work to develop an employment commitment contract requiring an employee to remain with the Crime Lab for a stated period after training.

NOTES:

The Kern Regional Crime Laboratory should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

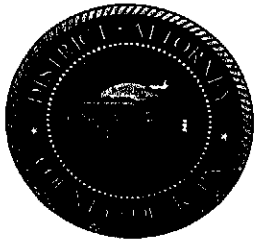
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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 60 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

MARK E. PAFFORD
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

LISA S. GREEN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 24, 2013

SCOTT J. SPIELMAN
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Honorable Colette M. Humphrey
Presiding Judge, Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Re: Response to Findings and Recommendations for Grand Jury Report
Regarding the Kern County District Attorney's Office
Forensic Science Division**

Dear Judge Humphrey:

On April 8, 2013, the Kern County District Attorney's Office Forensic Science Division was honored with a visit by members of The Law and Justice Committee of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury. The purpose of the visit was to observe the Crime Lab and review their activities pursuant to Penal Code § 925. The results of the visit are contained in the final report for the Crime Lab. Pursuant to Penal Code § 933, the following are the Findings and Recommendations from that report combined with the District Attorney's Office Responses to the Honorable Colette M. Humphrey, Presiding Judge, Kern County Superior Court:

GRAND JURY FINDINGS:

The District Attorney's Office agrees with Findings #2-5; however, we would like to clarify Finding #1.

F1. The Crime Lab is one of the lowest in pay (56th of 58) for Crime Lab employees in California's 58 Counties.

RESPONSE: According to the 2013 Salary Survey by the California Association of Criminalists, the Crime Lab is amongst the lowest in pay for the Division Director (Lab Director) and junior Criminalist positions when compared with other crime laboratories in California. The study analyzes the different job classifications for each of the participating laboratories which illustrates the pay disparity within the various laboratories. We partially disagree with the finding as

not every county in California has a crime lab, so it cannot be said that we are 56th of 58 in level of pay for Kern County's Crime Lab employee pay.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. The District Attorney should request the Board of Supervisors to study the feasibility of raising the salary of Crime Lab employees. A more competitive salary would enable the Crime Lab to retain staff after training.

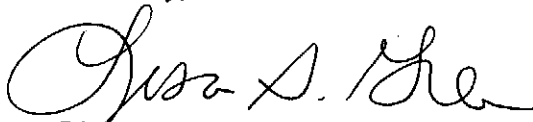
RESPONSE: We are in the process of implementing this recommendation. Members of my staff have met with staff from the County Administrative Office and we are presently sending a written request for a salary analysis.

R2. The District Attorney should continue to work to develop an employment commitment contract requiring an employee to remain with the Crime Lab for a stated period after training.

RESPONSE: This recommendation requires further analysis by the County Administrative Office, Personnel Department, and County Counsel. These departments are responsible for employment terms and, if applicable, meeting with employee representative groups. This process may take up to six months to determine feasibility of the recommendation.

We are appreciative of the work of the Grand Jury. Their visit and positive report regarding our Crime Lab reinforces what members of my office already know.

Sincerely,



Lisa S. Green
District Attorney

LSG:jm

cc: Foreman, Kern County Grand Jury
Kathleen Krause, Clerk of the Board
John Nilon, CAO, Attn: Elissa Ladd,
Assistant County Administrative Officer

KERN REGIONAL CRIME LABORATORY

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct. However, the Findings section of the report stated the following: The Crime Lab is one of the lowest in pay (56th of 58) for Crime Lab employees in California's 58 Counties. As a point of clarification, there are 16 county-operated laboratories in California. When conducting salary and benefits comparisons, Kern County uses counties of comparison, which are those counties that are similar to Kern in total population, unincorporated population, budget requirements, number of authorized positions, and assessed valuation.

Response to Recommendation:

R1: The District Attorney should request the Board of Supervisors to study the feasibility of raising the salary of Crime Lab employees. A more competitive salary would enable the Crime Lab to retain staff after training.

The County Administrative Office in conjunction with the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory shall continue to research comparable salary and benefits rates for its employees to ensure that the employees receive adequate compensation.

R2: The District Attorney should continue to work to develop an employment commitment contract requiring an employee to remain with the Crime Lab for a stated period after training.

The County Administrative Office in conjunction with the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory shall research the option of developing an employment commitment contract requiring an employee to remain employed with the Crime Lab for a stated period of time after training. However, this type of contract would require a "meet and confer" process with the Service Employees' International Union Local 521 (SEIU) and an amendment to the employees' MOU.

KERN VALLEY STATE PRISON

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On February 21, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP). The visit was to inquire into the condition and management of KVSP pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Administrative Assistant/ Public Information Officer. After a question and answer session a tour of KVSP was conducted.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The KVSP is located at 3000 West Cecil Avenue, Delano, CA 93215. The KVSP is a Level IV facility consisting of four semi-autonomous facilities and two that stand alone. The Administrative Segregation Units are surrounded by a lethal electrified perimeter fence. The KVSP is on 600 acres with an additional 200 designated for the Prison Industries Authority and is contracted out to grow alfalfa.

- A. At the time of the inspection the inmate count was 3,766 inmates. The count is at 187% capacity. The inmate count has decreased since the last inspection.
- B. Work crews consist of Level I minimum support inmates and are responsible for the upkeep of the facility such as grounds maintenance, janitorial, etc.
- C. Total Peace Officer Staff at KVSP is 1,059.
- D. The estimated costs to house an inmate are \$47,000 a year. Inclusive of that cost is the medical, dental and mental health costs of \$12,500 a year.
- E. The KVSP has staff and volunteers to provide all religious services.
- F. Inmates are provided two hot meals daily and are provided a sack lunch. All meals are prepared at KVSP.
- G. North Kern State Prison and Wasco State Prison are the two reception centers in Kern County.

FINDINGS:

F1. North Kern State Prison (approximately one mile east of KVSP) has a solar plant operation. The solar plant operation provides 100% of electricity to both facilities. The solar plant provides a savings of \$480,000 a month to the State of California. The excess power (30%) is put back into the grid.

F2. There are 37 teachers employed at KVSP.

F3. The KVSP has a waste water treatment plant on premises.

F4. The KVSP has a gun range on site for staff.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Warden and Staff for the professionalism and courtesy exhibited during the visit. The Kern Valley State Prison appeared clean and well kept in all areas during the visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The Kern Valley State Prison should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

LARRY J. RHOADES

KERN CROSSROADS FACILITY

SUMMARY:

The Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility (Crossroads) is a secure residential facility operated by the Kern County Probation Department. The program provides resources to train educate and guide minors who are committed by the Juvenile Court toward a more productive and delinquency-free lifestyle. Crossroads represents a collective effort aimed at changing delinquent habits, attitudes, and behaviors. Minors are committed to Crossroads for a period of one year, ideally spending six months in custody and six months on furlough. Upon commitment, needs assessments are completed and case plans are developed.

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On May 28, 2013 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited Crossroads to inquire into the condition and management of the facility pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Assistant Division Director for Crossroads. After conducting a question and answer session the Committee was taken on a tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

Crossroads opened in 1997 as a result of legislation effective January 1, 1997, which increased costs to counties for minors committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), formally known as the California Youth Authority. The majority of minors committed to Crossroads are those who would have been committed to the DJJ prior to the 1997 changes.

- A. The facility is located at 17824 Quality Road, on 15.6 acres, near the Sheriff's Lerdo facility, and was opened in 2004. The age of the wards range from 13 to 19 years of age with the average age being 16.
- B. The male wards are committed to Crossroads for either a 24 week program or 36 week program determined by a needs assessment and interview. The ward may be committed for up to one year.
- C. Program objectives of Crossroads are: to teach ethics and responsible behavior; develop positive decision making skills; and create citizenship awareness and

community responsibility. Each ward is given a “Detainee Handbook” upon arrival at Crossroads identifying rights and responsibilities.

- D. At present there are 98 wards housed at Crossroads. The budget has allowed the facility to reopen the closed pod bringing the maximum capacity once again to 120 wards.
- E. Within 30 days of admission Crossroads a written assessment and case plan is developed for each ward. The procedure follows the Corrections Standards Authority Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities. The wards are also assessed for their mental health and educational status.
- F. The cost of the program is \$282.77 per day per ward and parents/guardians are assessed by their ability to pay for their ward. The fee includes two hot meals, one sack lunch and a snack for a total of 3,500 calories per day. The kitchen facility cooks meals for both Crossroads and the Kern County Juvenile Hall in Bakersfield.
- G. The day begins at 5:00 a.m. and concludes at 9:00 p.m. with 270 minutes devoted to classroom hours and assigned work detail. Physical fitness is provided with the wards competing for the Presidential and National Fitness Challenge.
- H. All wards and rooms are searched randomly. Any contraband results in consequences which may add time to the ward’s stay. Wards are searched before going to school daily.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The success of Crossroads is indicated by the following: The national juvenile recidivism rate is between 50 to 70 percent while Crossroad’s recidivism rate averages 21%.
- F2. Crossroads employs 67 staff split between Deputy Probation Officers (DPO), Juvenile Corrections Officers (JCO). Crossroads also employs: one Custodial person, one Maintenance person, five Kitchen persons and three Clerical persons. Six teachers are provided by Kern County Superintendent’s Office.
- F3. Meals are approved by KMC.
- F4. Crossroads has added a Circuit Training field with many exercise apparatus. This is part of the Physical Training Program.
- F5. Crossroads averages one fight per week. Many of these are due to gang affiliations.

- F6. There are no cameras in the Pods where 40 wards are housed per pod.
- F7. The landscaping around the Pods causes runoff to drain through the exterior walls into the facility causing deterioration of the walls and water damage to the floors.
- F8. Crossroads runs a program called “Strengthening Families” which brings the wards together in counseling sessions plus bringing the parents together for counseling. At the end of the sessions the groups meet as one to discuss topics of interest discussed in each group. This program has been effective in reducing the recidivism rate.
- F9. Wards are allowed visitors every Sunday. Unfortunately, not all wards receive visitors, but connect with volunteers who provide services at Crossroads.

COMMENTS:

The Committee would like to thank the Assistant Division Director and all staff for a very informative visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The Committee would recommend that the facility install video cameras in all areas for security purposes when funds become available.
- R2. Provide funding to increase the “Aftercare Program” for wards released from Crossroads.
- R3. As soon as possible the landscaping needs to be changed in order to prevent further damage to the Pods where the wards are housed. The cost of doing this far outweighs the continued damage being caused by this problem.

NOTES:

The Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

PRESIDING JUDGE

**KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

LARRY J. RHOADES
KERN CROSSROADS FACILITY

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommended that video cameras be installed throughout the facility for security purposes, that funding be increased for the "Aftercare Program", and that the landscaping be modified to prevent further damage to the pods where the wards are housed. The department has identified the landscaping modifications as a proposed major maintenance project. The department will continue to explore funding opportunities in order to accomplish these recommendations.

McFARLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the McFarland Police Department (Department) on February 21, 2013, pursuant to Penal Code §§919(b) and 925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief) of the Department and staff. After a question and answer session the Committee was given a view of all the vehicles.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The McFarland Police Department and City Hall are located at 401 West Kern Avenue, McFarland, California 93250 and share a common facility.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Department became operational in August 2009 after the City terminated a 17 year contract with the Kern County Sheriff's Department.
- F2. The Department has a staff of one Chief, two Sergeants, ten Officers, six Dispatchers, two Administrative Clerks and one Code Enforcement Officer.
- F3. The Department has an Explorer program with 18 participants. The group attends competitions throughout the state and performs well.
- F4. The Department holds Town Hall meetings regularly at the Community Center to gain knowledge of what residents feel is needed.
- F5. The Department policies are updated every six months by a company called Lexipol. The Department has the option of not following all updates.
- F6. The Department has two trained Bike Patrol Officers.
- F7. There are two K-9 Units.
- F8. The Department also operates the Animal Shelter. There are two fulltime Animal Control Officers. Target Department Store provides dog food and local high school students work as volunteers to staff the shelter.
- F9. All arrestees are taken to the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield.

- F10. A full time Reserve Officer does all background checks.
- F11. The Department has a Special Enforcement and K-9 Team equipped with nine fully automatic AR-15's, the newest Kevlar helmets with cameras and bulletproof vests for the dogs.
- F12. The Department was honored at the 2012 COPS West Convention in Ontario, CA for having the best patrol vehicles in the Western United States.
- F13. The Sports Utility Vehicle for the Commercial Enforcement Unit was procured through the asset forfeiture program.
- F14. The Department also has a Motorcycle Officer.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the Chief and the Department Staff who presented a complete overview of the Department and operations. The documents were very informative.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The McFarland Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

NORTH KERN STATE PRISON

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On August 27, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the North Kern State Prison (NKSP) to inquire into the management and condition of NKSP pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the A/Warden and the Public Information Officer (PIO)/Administrative Assistant in the A/Warden's office. After a brief discussion a tour of NKSP was conducted.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The NKSP is located at 2737 Cecil Avenue, Delano, California and opened in April 1991. Shortly after opening NKSP was changed to a reception center. The NKSP processes approximately 500 inmates, incoming and outgoing, each week.

- A. Maximum capacity of NKSP is 4,500 inmates.
- B. Along with Wasco State Prison (WSP) NKSP is one of two transportation hubs for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).
- C. A variety of religious services are offered; Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and Native American.
- D. The estimated annual cost to house an inmate is \$45,006. Associated medical, dental and mental health costs are \$16,622.
- E. Inmate housing is as follows: Facility A, medium custody/support system; Facility B, reception center; Facility C, dormitory level I, II & III inmates; Facility D, Reception Center, sensitive needs yard and administrative segregation unit; Facility M, level I inmates.
- F. Currently NKSP employs 714 Correctional Officers. With the implementation of AB109, NKSP has had a reduction of 61 positions.
- G. The NKSP prepares two hot meals and a sack lunch (onsite) daily for the inmates.
- H. The WSP, NKSP and Kern Valley State Prison share a Crisis Response Team (CRT). Each institution has employees that are members of CRT.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Inmates working in the prison system presently receive three pay grades; rate three - .08 per hour, rate four -.11 per hour and rate five - .15 per hour.
- F2. In the previous 11 weeks NKSP has admitted 50 inmates to local hospitals.
- F3. Instructors for small engine repair and electrical works have been hired and the programs should start operation in October 2012. There is no office service program.
- F4. The City of Delano maintains and handles the water and sanitary needs for NKSP.
- F5. The NKSP has a solar facility on line and is waiting for a second facility to come on line. Once accomplished it should assist both NKSP's and KVSP's electrical consumption.
- F6. The CDCR and California Correctional Health Services provide both mental and health services to NKSP inmates.
- F7. In fiscal year 2011-2012, 183 inmates at NKSP earned a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Inmates wishing to obtain a GED or college degree are eligible for a tuition waiver and only pay for textbooks.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury thanks the A/Warden and Administrative Assistant/PIO for the courtesy and tour of NKSP.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

- The North Kern State Prison should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.
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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

SHAFTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On October 29, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Shafter Police Department (Department). The visit was to inquire into the operation and management of the Department pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Captain and a Sergeant of the Department. A question and answer session was held in the community conference room. After the question and answer session a brief tour of the Department was conducted.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Department is located at 201 Central Valley Highway, Shafter, California, 93263. Animal Control is located at 18825 South Shafter Avenue, Shafter, California, 93263.

- A. The Department facility increased in size (to allow for future expansion) from 5,300 square feet to 15,800 square feet in 2008.
- B. Restricted areas inside the Department are equipped with a card lock system.
- C. Both interview rooms inside the Department have audio and visual equipment installed.
- D. There is a conference/auditorium designed for multiple uses; e.g. in-service training and community use.
- E. The staffing level of the Department is: the Chief, one Captain, four Sergeants, four Senior Officers and 12 Officers. There are three Reserve Officers. The Department has four Chaplains.
- F. There is an Explorer Program with six participants.
- G. The Department has a shooting range located behind Animal Control. The range has four pistol bays and a long rifle bay. Improvements are being made to the range constantly.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Department's jail section has six holding cells. The jail is only a 24 hour holding facility. Anyone requiring a longer stay will be booked at Kern County Sheriff's Department Central Receiving Facility.
- F2. The Department has an average response time of two minutes for police calls.
- F3. The Animal Control building was completed in January of 2011. The building is air conditioned. There are outside areas for the cats and dogs to exercise.
- F4. The Department has one Animal Control Officer, five full time kennel attendants and many volunteers.
- F5. The Department accepts donations of food from the Target warehouse for use by Animal Control.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the Captain and Sergeant for the courtesy and professionalism extended during the visit and tour.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

NONE

NOTES:

The Shafter Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

STALLION SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On January 29, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Stallion Springs Police Department (SSPD) pursuant to California Penal Code §§919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Community Service District (CSD) General Manager (Manager), the Chief of Police (Chief) and a Police Sergeant (Sergeant). After a question and answer session the Committee was given a tour of the facilities.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. The Department and the CSD are in the same building located at 27800 Stallion Springs Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561. The building was built in 2009 and the building loan will be paid in full in 2014.
- B. Next door to the CSD and Department is a 12,000 square foot multi-purpose “The Corral” and gymnasium. The building is used for CSD functions and is rented out for private events. The building loan will be paid in full in 2016.
- C. Between the two buildings is a community swimming pool donated by the contractor.
- D. The Manager has been in the position for approximately two years and is very knowledgeable and proud of the CSD and the departments within the CSD.
- E. The Manager has a staff of 13 people and includes eight departments.
- F. The Department is staffed by the Chief, Sergeant and a Police Officer. Two part-time Officers work approximately 960 hours a year.
- G. The Department has four four-wheel drive patrol vehicles.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The CSD is 48 square miles and has 50 miles of paved roads. The CSD has 2,200 parcels and 3,500 residents.
- F2. The Department’s budget is \$504,000. The Department books prisoners at either the Mojave Substation or the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield.

- F3. There are two interview rooms at the Department, both of which are audio/video equipped.
- F4. On the 2013 June ballot the CSD will have a proposed Police tax. The tax will enable the CSD to hire two additional Police Officers
- F5. The CSD has 17 locations where U.S. Mail is delivered (secure boxes), lessening the theft of personal mail.
- F6. The Department received approximately 1,000 calls for service last year including Officer initiated activities.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was impressed with the Manager's and Chief's enthusiasm when explaining the CSD and Department and relationship with the residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The Stallion Springs Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

TEHACHAPI POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Tehachapi Police Department (Department) on December 4, 2012, pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Chief of Police (Chief) and a tour of the facility was given.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Tehachapi Police Department is located at 129 East "F" Street, Tehachapi, California 93561.

- A. The Department was reinstated on July 1, 2007. The incorporated area of Tehachapi was previously serviced by the Kern County Sheriff's Department.
- B. The Department services eight square miles and a population of approximately 8,000.
- C. The Department has 14 sworn officers and four reserve officers. In addition, the Department employs an administrative assistant, a records clerk and a half-time code enforcement officer.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Department's facility is approximately 4,440 square feet. Bids for a new 10,000 square foot facility will go out in January. The facility will be ready for occupancy by the fall of 2013.
- F2. The Department currently has 12 Civilian Volunteer Staff.
- F3. The Department uses the Bear Valley Springs Police dispatch service at a cost of \$320,000 per year. During 2011, 15,375 service calls were received resulting in 5,849 dispatched incidents.
- F4. The Department works closely with the Stallion Springs Police, Bear Valley Springs Police, Railroad Police, Kern County Sheriff and the California Highway Patrol.
- F5. The Department sponsors an Explorer Unit. The 15 Explorers participate in competitions throughout the state and in Washington D.C.
- F6. The Department has one K9 unit.
- F7. Officers are allowed to take patrol cars home if the Officer lives within a 30 minute response time. The Officer is charged a quarterly fee for taking the car home.

- F8. The interview room has audio/video capabilities.
- F9. The jail consists of three holding cells which are currently used for storage.
- F10. Arrestees are held until transported to Mojave or Bakersfield for booking.
- F11. The Department owns three four-wheel drive vehicles.
- F12. The Department aids the Sheriff's Department by responding to 10-15 calls weekly.
- F13. The Department also has a Street Interdiction Team.
- F14. Since the institution of AB109 (prison realignment) thefts/burglaries are up 40%.
- F15. Inmates now serve only 20% of sentences before being released.

COMMENTS:

The Committee commends the Chief and the entire staff of the Department for effectively operating in an inadequate facility.

RECOMMENDATION:

- R1. The Committee recommends the Department assume dispatch services as soon as fiscally possible.

NOTES:

The Tehachapi Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

**PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



July 25, 2013

Terry Wolfe, Foreperson
2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield CA 93301

RE: 2012-2013 Grand Jury Report on the Tehachapi Police Department

Dear Judge Humphrey:

I would like to apologize for our delayed response to the above Grand Jury Report. I thought that we had submitted our response in a timely manner.

The Tehachapi Police Department appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Grand Jury and of the Law and Justice Committee in particular. We also greatly appreciate the positive findings reached about our agency by the Law and Justice Committee.

In regard to the sole recommendation contained within the report, "*The Committee recommends the Department assume dispatch services as soon as fiscally possible,*" the Department and the City are continuing to research this issue. Our new police facility has been designed with a dispatch center as a core function, however we are trying to make sure that we move forward in a manner that best serves the long term interests of our community, both in terms of service and fiscal responsibility.

As an update, construction finally began last week on the new police facility and we look forward to occupancy within the next eight months.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (661) 822-2222 x124 or by email at JKermode@TehachapiPD.com

Sincerely,

JEFF KERMODE
Chief of Police

C: Honorable Collette M. Humphrey
Greg Garrett, City Manager

TURNING POINT KENNEMER CENTER RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On March 28, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Turning Point of Central California, Kennemer Center Residential Treatment Program (Center) in Bakersfield, CA pursuant to California Penal Code §§925 and 933.6.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Program Director. After a discussion and a question and answer session, the Committee toured the Center. There are 102 rooms available to be used by residents.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Residential Treatment Program is operated by Turning Point of Central California, Inc., a private non-profit organization with facilities throughout California. The Center conducts residential alcohol and drug recovery services predominantly for parolees. The Center is located at 1100 Union Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93307. The building was formerly the old Bakersfield Inn and then a Senior Citizen home before Turning Point bought the property. There are currently 14 clients, 12 male and two female.

- A. The clients are mostly substance abuse and mental health offenders.
- B. There are 200 rooms at the Center.
- C. A contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation pays for parolees. Private pay costs are \$59.00 per day for outside clients.
- D. Three meals a day, two hot and one sack lunch are served.
- E. Sixty five video cameras are used for surveillance.
- F. Ten washers and dryers are available for client use.
- G. Clients may have TV's in the individual rooms.
- H. Snack machines are on the premises.
- I. Fourteen college preparatory classes are offered.

- J. The program duration is 90 days with a maximum of 180 days.
- K. Cell phones are allowed so clients can keep in touch with family.
- L. Murals around the center have been painted by the clients.
- M. At one time 41 Staff Members were employed, currently only 12 remain.
- N. Clients are taken to Kern Medical Center if the need arises.
- O. Medication is dispensed from a locked cabinet four times a day. Psychotropic medication is supplied through the Center.
- P. Clients are transported by van.
- Q. One Certified Substance Abuse Counselor is on Staff.
- R. Ten Residential Client Supervisors are on Staff.
- S. Curfew is 10:00 p.m. weekdays and 11:00 p.m. on weekends. When clients return from off-campus trips a random drug test is administered.
- T. Residents can take weekend leave after being at the Center for two weeks.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The Center was clean and well maintained.
- F2. The two clients the Committee spoke with were very positive and had gone through the treatment program. The clients are now employed by the Center.
- F3. The success rate for completion of the program is 65%.
- F4. In order to remain in business the Center needs more client contracts. The Kern County Probation Department does not have a contract with the Center at this time.

COMMENTS:

The Committee would like to thank the Program Director for the time taken answering questions and giving the Committee a tour of the Center.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1. The Committee encourages the Center to continue seeking more clients by working with the Kern County Probation Department and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

NOTES:

The Turning Point Kennemer Center Residential Treatment Program should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

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1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

September 27, 2013

Terry Wolfe, Foreperson

2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury

Suite 600

1415 Truxtun Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Mr. Wolf,

Thank you for your inquiry and response regarding the Law and Justice Committee's 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury site visit at the Kennemer Center Residential Treatment Program, located at 1100 Union Avenue, Bakersfield, CA. We appreciate, with great respect, the information contained in the report; specifically the **FINDINGS** and **RECOMMENDATIONS** sections.

As a new Director at this facility, it brings me great joy to read such positive feedback in the FINDINGS section. We do our absolute best to try and maintain an aesthetically pleasing site, while maintaining the integrity and discipline of our residential treatment facility. It is our practice to encourage, motivate and kindle empathy, compassion and integrity. Because we believe in the human spirit, giving individuals the opportunity to change their lives is not only our mission, but our pleasure. Because of this, we encourage former clients to apply for employment after they have been clean and sober for a duration of time.

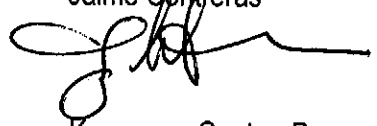
In regards to client contracts, we currently maintain the SASCA contract as well as the newly implemented Day Reporting Center contract. The Day Reporting Center opened August 5th, 2013. The Day Reporting Center's goal is to reduce recidivism and increase public safety through effective community reintegration by way of open door services, 7 days a week. DRC participants continue to receive services including intensive case management with assessments, anger management counseling, substance abuse counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, job development and education, literacy lab, pro-social skill building, life skills, criminal thinking, family relationships, and 52 week court ordered batterer's intervention program; complete with state certification. The DRC is an amazing addition to TPOCC and is effectively building professional relationships with law enforcement and other community based providers. It is the first of its kind in Kern County and serves as a collaborative, integrated services resource.

As of September of 2013, all Kennemer Center contracts are through CDCR. This means all participants must have active parole status. A contract with the Kern County Probation Department would be a fantastic addition to the services provided through the Kennemer Center if those individuals referred had "dual status." This means the individual would have to have both probation and parole status at the same time.

Unfortunately, at this time, the Kennemer center only provides services for state parolees. However, your recommendations to continue seeking clients through the Kern County Probation Department and CDCR are exactly correct. We will continue to attend provider fairs as well as PACT meetings to keep our community informed of Turning Point's services. We will continue to strive in delivering professional, therapeutic services focusing on pro-active recovery, relapse and intervention.

Thank you for your time, professional opinions and all recommendations. It was a pleasure to serve you.

Jaime Contreras

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaime Contreras', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kennemer Center, Program Director

WASCO STATE PRISON-RECEPTION CENTER

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On October 29, 2012, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2012-2013 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Wasco State Prison-Reception Center (WSP-RC or Prison) to inquire into the conditions and management of the Prison pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Warden and Administrative Assistant/Litigation Coordinator. The Warden provided an overview of the Prison and discussion with the Committee. After the question and answer session a tour was conducted.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The Prison is located at 701 Scofield Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280, and was opened in February 1991. The Prison is situated on 634 acres (1.1 sq. miles) and operates primarily as a reception center for 11 surrounding counties. The Prison was designed to house 4,800 inmates. At the time of the Committee's visitation the population was 5,123.

- A. There are currently 695 Correctional Officers at the Prison. The complete roster includes 30 Correctional Lieutenants, 74 Correctional Sergeants and 695 Correctional Officers. There are 711 civilian personnel employed at WSP-RC.
- B. There are no actual community or road crews at the Prison. The Prison does have inmates assigned to the Fire House and the Landscape Crew which maintain the prison grounds.
- C. With the passage of AB109, the inmate population has been reduced by approximately 900 inmates. In addition, the staffing levels have been reduced as well.
- D. The State of California contracts with the states of Arizona for 4,375 inmates, Mississippi for 2,535 inmates and Oklahoma for 1,655 inmates.
- E. California no longer utilizes furloughs but there are staff members having not used all furlough time. The staff is required to use furlough time before any other leave credit is used.
- F. The Volunteer Program consists of: Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Religious Services and Breaking the Barriers. Breaking the Barriers is a program designed to assist inmates in preparation to re-enter society.

G. Approximately 350 inmates arrive and depart from WSP-RC weekly.

FINDINGS:

F1. According to the Prison Institutional Gang Investigative Unit, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will be implementing a new identification process to identify the gang members using a threat level measure. Specifically, the new gang's identification will now be identified as Security Threat Groups (STG).

- Gang members identified as major prison gangs will be categorized in STG "1".
- The gang members identified as members in the disruptive groups will be identified in STG "2".

F2. The newest trend of gangs is now occurring in the Prison's Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY). For example: Dropout gang members are now forming gangs in SNY facilities.

F3. The purpose of the Dropout gangs is to provide protection for members. The following are some of the gangs that have been formed:

- The 25's (this gang will accept any race)
- The Gay Boy Gangsters
- The Independent Riders
- The Cut Throat Family (this gang mainly consists of former Fresno Bulldog gang members).

F4. The Electronic Unit Health Records program is fully operational.

F5. The Waste Water Treatment Plant is fully operational and is in compliance with all regulatory codes within the boundaries of the Prison's permit.

F6. Surveillance cameras are located in the following areas: Central Control, Pedestrian Sallyport, Vehicle Sallyport and the Visiting Room.

F7. The Prison is adding the following courses: Vocational Electronic Repair, Small Engine Repair and Office Service Technician. Educational programs have not been deleted.

F8. It costs approximately \$55,527 to house an inmate for one year. Eighty percent of the money is used for staffing costs. Under a private managed prison, only fifty percent of the money is used for staffing costs. ***The cost to send inmates to other states is less than housing the inmates in California.***

F9. Wasco added three new buildings making the facility larger than North Kern State Prison which was built with the same plans.

F10. The Prison employs 250 medical staff which includes mental and dental services.

F11. The gymnasium has been fully restored for recreational use.

F12. Transgender inmates are housed in a separate section of the Prison.

F13. The one classroom visited had 18 students in attendance. Each computer was equipped with the Plato Learning System. The General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is administered “free” monthly.

COMMENTS:

The Committee thanks the staff at Wasco State Prison-Reception Center for professionalism and dedication.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

NONE

NOTES:

The Wasco State Prison-Reception Center should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, and click on: Sign up for early releases.

Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED