

LAW & 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 complaints related to these agencies.

LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



Mahlon “Sonny” Keel, Chair
Michael McNatt
Horace Smith
Teresa Vasquez

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Law and Justice Committee has visited and/or published reports on the following institutions:

- California City Correctional Facility, California City
- California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi
- Camp Erwin Owen, Kernville
- Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility, McFarland
- City of Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility, Delano
- County Sheriff's Lerdo Facility
- Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility, McFarland
- Kern County Law Library
- Kern County Probation Department James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall
- Kern County Records Division
- Kern County Sheriff's Department Central Receiving Facility
- Kern Valley State Prison, Delano
- North Kern State Prison, Delano
- Shafter Modified Community Correctional Facility, Shafter
- Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility, Taft
- Wasco State Prison, Wasco

The Law and Justice Committee received and responded to 13 citizen complaints.

The Law and Justice Committee used the Kern County Sheriff's Department Fleet Management Office (trip vehicles) for 11 out of 16 visits.

CALIFORNIA CITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On March 20, 2014, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the California City Correctional Facility (CAC). The visit was to inquire into the management of the newly opened CAC pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Chief Deputy Warden, Acting Warden, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer and Staff. After a question and answer session, a tour was provided.

FACTS:

The facility reopened on December 1, 2013. Prior to this time the owner of the facility, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) had leased the premises to Immigration and Custom Enforcement.

Under the current contract between CCA and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) the lease will run for five years with the option for CDCR to extend this an additional two years. The facility now known as CAC will house only Level II inmates in general population. The institution consists of three housing units and one Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) contained within one air conditioned structure. The CCA is responsible for the maintenance of the physical plant. The CDCR is solely responsible for the staffing of the facility and management of the inmate population.

The facility premises are surrounded by a low perimeter fence to prevent the endangered desert tortoise from coming onto the grounds, adhering to Environmental Protection Regulations.

- A. The facility began receiving inmates December 16, 2013.
- B. Maximum capacity is 2,560 inmates. Total inmate population on date of the Committee's visit was 1,181 inmates.

Facility A

Unit A-1	Administrative Segregation Unit (Only)
	"A" section 31
	"B" section 0
	"C" section 0
Unit A-2	"A" section 86
	"B" section 78

	"C" section	82
Facility B		
Unit B-1	"A" section	86
	"B" section	77
	"C" section	83
Unit B-2	"A" section	85
	"B" section	78
	"C" section	84
Unit B-3	"A" section	85
	"B" section	73
	"C" section	6
Unit B-4	"A" section	84
	"B" section	77
	"C" section	86

Facility C

Note: Unoccupied on date of visit.

On date of visit, California City Correctional Facility was staffed as follows:

Correctional Officers	187 + 12 Strike Team Members	
	199 filled positions;	89 vacant positions
Correctional Sergeants	42 filled positions;	6 vacant positions
Correctional Lieutenants	20 filled positions;	2 vacant positions
Correctional Counselor	19 filled positions;	1 vacant position

Non-Custody Positions:

Civilian Staff	84 filled; 51 vacant
Medical Staff	98 filled; 38 vacant

- C. In the Administrative Segregation Unit there are a total of 10 single cell bunks. Typically, double cells are utilized for housing ASU inmates unless the disciplinary violation involved physical violence. All other cells in ASU, and throughout the facility, house two inmates per cell.
- D. As part of the intake and orientation process, all inmates' history is reviewed through an Electronic Record Management System to assess the inmates' prior criminal history, gang affiliation, housing criteria, disciplinary history, etc.
- E. Inmate release dates are tracked by both CDCR and CAC staff, utilizing the Strategic Offender Management System (SOMS), a monitoring process.

- F. No electrified fencing or guard towers are required as the institution's population consists of only level II inmates. However, armed CDCR personnel patrol the perimeter by vehicle 24 hours a day.
- G. There are four separate inmate counts taken daily.
- H. Approximately 265 recording video cameras are located throughout the institution.
- I. Non-lethal weapons are available to staff at all times. A full armory located outside the facility security fence is available when needed.
- J. The facility does not accept inmates with a prior violent criminal history, serving a life term, high risk medical conditions or sensitive needs.
- K. Currently food service for inmates is provided through a contract with Trinity Food Services. This includes two hot meals and one cold meal, prepared off site. Cost of meals is \$4.89 per inmate per day. When the inmate population exceeds 1,200, cost will decrease to \$4.53. Religious and special dietary meals have an additional cost.
- L. All inmate jobs are supervised by facility staff. Staff Supervisors oversee work assignments for inmate crews consisting of six crews made up of five inmates each that work on yard maintenance, plumbing, drains, lights, etc. The Inmate Work Labor Program consists of 35 inmates performing construction related projects, welding, filling porter and cook positions, etc. Laundry services are provided by a six man inmate crew working an eight hour shift. These inmate crews work "on-site only," inside the double fenced perimeter.
- M. Fire services provided by California City Fire Department are coordinated through the CDCR Fire Captain.
- N. Administrative Segregation Unit visitation utilizes remote video conferencing booths negating the need to transport ASU inmates to the visitation area. General Population inmates are allowed face to face visitation. There are no conjugal visits.

- O. Inmates in Administrative Segregation Unit may access the Law Library and legal materials through a computer carted to the inmates' cell. The general population has a Law Library with legal materials available through Lexus/Nexus and is supervised by a Staff Librarian.
- P. Academic classes include English Language Learner, Adult Basic Education and preparation for a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). There is also a computer lab available with 22 computer stations for inmate use. No internet service is available to inmates.
- Q. Vocational classes, now called "Career Technical Education," are offered to eligible inmates. The two courses offered are Vocational Electronics and Vocational Office Services and Related Technology. Upon completion, the inmate may earn a certificate as well as earn "good time credit" while attending classes.
- R. There are Medical, Mental Health and limited Dental services available.
- S. Religious services for Catholic and Protestant inmates are anticipated to begin the week of March 24, 2014.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Assembly Bill 109 caused the redistribution of inmates and resulted in the need to reopen the facility at CAC.
- F2. Upon arrival an inmate's commitment offense is entered into SOMS, and release date is automatically determined. The CAC Records Staff conducts audits daily to ensure the inmates release date is calculated correctly.
- F3. Video recordings are retained for 30 days then transferred to a disk.
- F4. In the event of a riot, Staff is authorized to occupy the roof tops with weapons. The institution may request back-up from Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams from California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi and California State Prison, Los Angeles County located in Lancaster.
- F5. Currently there are 150 inmates enrolled in college courses. The CAC faculty proctors and monitors inmates progress. Availability of GED preparation is limited to approximately 15 inmates. All CAC faculty have required educational credentials.

- F6. Inmates eligible for job assignments may obtain a reduction in sentence by earning "good time credit" and/or earn up to 95¢ per hour.
- F7. The contract between Trinity Food Services and CDCR will terminate effective July 1, 2014. Management of CAC will assume full responsibility for culinary services provided in the facility. Meals would then be prepared on site.
- F8. Upon release inmates are transported to the bus station in Palmdale, California, where they are visually monitored to ensure boarding. Inmates may be picked up by friends or relatives at the facility.

COMMENTS:

The Committee would like to thank the Acting Warden, Chief Deputy Warden, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer and Staff for the courtesy extended. The Committee appreciates the time provided for the extensive tour. The Staff's knowledge displayed during the visit was invaluable. Management expects the facility will reach full capacity by June 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES: The California City 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, click on: Sign up for early releases.

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.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

PREFACE:

On September 9, 2013, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi (CCI) to inspect and report on conditions and operations pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee reviewed previous Grand Jury reports and recommendations then sent CCI a list of questions related to the scheduled inspection. A written response was provided to the Committee upon arrival. The Committee was met by the Chief Deputy Warden, CCI Executive Management personnel and various institutional staff. A question and answer session was followed by an extensive tour of CCI, a level IV prison, conducted by a Lieutenant and Staff.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The California Correctional Institution is located at 24900 Highway 202, Tehachapi, CA 93561. The facility is situated on approximately 1,650 acres. The land was purchased in 1929 for \$110,000 with the intent to be used as a female only institution. In 1933 the original California Institute for Women, the first facility for female inmates, opened on the site. In July of 1952 the facility suffered extensive earthquake damage. The facility was then closed and 417 inmates were transferred to the new California Institution for Women Frontera in Corona. The CCI reopened in 1955 as a branch of California Institute for Men, housing male offenders and by the end of one year was filled to capacity. In 1964, the institution was renamed California Correctional Institution and G.P. Lloyd was appointed as the first Superintendent. The facility is the third oldest prison in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) system. Only San Quentin and Folsom Prisons are older.

- A. California Correctional Institution Staff and Inmate population numbers reflect information provided to the Committee on the date of inspection. Security Housing Units are the most secure area within a Level IV prison designed to provide coverage (cells, fenced or walled perimeters, electronic security, more staff and armed officers both inside and outside the installation). Per California Code of Regulations Title 15, article 7-3335 (a) Administrative Segregation is *"...when an inmate's presence in an institution's general inmate population presents an immediate threat to the safety of the inmate or others, endangers institution security or jeopardizes the integrity of an investigation of an alleged serious misconduct or criminal activity, the inmate shall be immediately removed from general population and be placed in administrative segregation."*

There are various levels of incarceration at CCI: open dormitories, Security Housing Units (SHU) and Administrative Segregation Units (ASU) within a Level IV prison. Inmates in SHU and ASU are allowed only non-contact family visitation. General population inmates may request conjugal/family visits.

Inmate populations are as follows:

- Facility A
 - SHU - 497
 - ASU - 261
 - Family visitation - 1
- Facility B
 - SHU - 747
 - ASU - 10
 - Family visitation - 1
 - Outpatient Housing Unit - 6
- Community Hospital inmate patients (higher level of care) - 2
- Facility C (Level III) - 934
- Facility D (Level II) - 1,229
- Facility E (Level I) - 1,021
- Firehouse Inmates - 7
- Total Population: 4,716

B. CCI was staffed as follows:

- 994 Correctional Officers with 15 vacancies
- 94 Correctional Sergeants with 8 vacancies
- 36 Correctional Lieutenants with 1 vacancy

C. There are 428 non-sworn staff at CCI.

D. On the date of inspection CCI had a population of 4,716 inmates. Prior to passage of Assembly Bill 109 on October 1, 2009, CCI had an average population of 5,769.

E. As of July 2013 a solar energy system was installed by “SunEdison” and is capable of providing electric power daily until 9:00 PM.

F. Various academic and vocational programs are available to all inmates.

G. Approximately 150 expanded metal temporary holding cells (cages) are located throughout the facility. The temporary cells are used to hold inmates pending medical appointments, awaiting parole board review, outside transportation to courts or other prisons as well as for security/disciplinary purposes. Initially inmates may be held up to four hours.

FINDINGS:

- F1. There have been voluntary and involuntary lay-offs due to AB109.
- F2. Due to roof leaks in facilities A and B immediate repairs are needed.
- F3. Due to the age of the institution's kitchen, built in 1960, replacement of the Central Kitchen is needed.
- F4. Mail is scanned and checked for contraband with the exception of legal correspondence. Unacceptable mail is returned to sender. Intended recipients are notified of mail denial through CDCR Form 1819. The mail room handles approximately 1,500 pieces of mail per month. All indigent inmates are provided 22 envelopes with postage per month.
- F5. The asphalt roads within CCI continue to require extensive repair as reported by previous Grand Juries.
- F6. Any length of confinement more than four hours or release from a temporary disciplinary holding cell requires a Captain's approval.
- F7. A clothing factory operates under the California Prison Industry Authority, a vocational program employing up to 150 inmates.
- F8. A Vocational Automotive Repair Program began on the date of the Committee's visit.
- F9. The Institution has available multiple rehabilitation services such as substance abuse counseling, vocational skills training and General Education Diploma (GED) opportunities. After release, paroled inmates may participate in an aftercare program which monitors their progress.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was met by the Chief Deputy Warden, the Administrative Staff and other personnel. The Committee appreciates the Staff's hospitality, cooperation, professionalism and providing a comprehensive tour.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Roof repairs should be a priority for facilities A and B with replacement as a permanent solution. (Finding 2)

- R.2 As reported and recommended by past Grand Juries, the roads within the grounds of the institution should be repaved when funds become available.
(Finding 5)
- R3. To optimize preparation and distribution of meals, a new Central Kitchen is needed and should be designated a priority in the next fiscal budget.
(Finding 3)

Note: Due to the age of the Institution and in order to maintain a viable facility, it is strongly recommended the above listed **recommendations be given priority over newer institutions.**

NOTES:

The California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi 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: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

P.O. Box 1031
Tehachapi, CA 93581
(661) 822-44



July 28, 2014

Honorable Colette M. Humphrey
1415 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Honorable Colette Humphrey:

GRAND JURY TOUR

On July 22, 2014, the California Correctional Institution (CCI) received the Kern County Grand Jury's, Final Report addressed to S. Reed, Chief Deputy Warden (CDW), requesting a formal response to the findings and recommendations contained within the report. Based on CDW Reed being off on extended leave, the Grand Jury's Final Report was forwarded to my office for review and response.

CCI Administration is pleased with the overall findings contained within the report, and with the Grand Jury's recommendations to repave the institutional roads, prioritize critical infrastructure repairs to its aging Facilities and to designate a new Central Kitchen as a priority in the next fiscal budget.

Based on the Grand Jury's recommendations, CCI Administration has submitted a *Special Repair Project Report* to the Facilities Asset Management Branch, Capitol Renovation and Maintenance Services Division requesting the aforementioned recommendations be prioritized as urgent for review and consideration for allocation of funding for the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year.

Additionally, CCI Administration would like to commend the Grand Jury Committee members who toured CCI for their professionalism and for the comprehensive tour they conducted. Also, as requested in the Final Report, a copy of the Kern County Grand Jury Final Report has been posted and made available for public review.

It is of the utmost importance of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to keep the safety of the public foremost, while providing rehabilitative service to the inmate population in accordance with departmental policy. If you have additional questions in this regard, please contact me at Extension 3607.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Gutierrez", is written over the typed name.

J. GUTIERREZ

Chief Deputy Warden (A), Facilities A and B

cc: K. Holland, Warden

R. Groves, Chief Deputy Warden, Facilities C, D, E and Operations

D. Elliott, Foreperson, Kern County Grand Jury

COUNTY SHERIFF'S LERDO FACILITY

PREFACE:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Lerdo Jail Facility (Lerdo) on August 22, 2013, pursuant to mandates of California Penal Code §§919(b) and 925.

PROCESS:

The Committee was met by Kern County Sheriff's Detentions Lieutenants and other Lerdo supervisory personnel. The Committee was provided a comprehensive tour of the facility and its grounds. The Kern County Sheriff's Office's Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget report was also utilized in preparation of this report.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

Lerdo was originally designed as a Minimum Security facility "Honor Farm" and utilized low-risk inmates to perform a variety of husbandry activities including raising, slaughtering and butchering livestock. Due to changes in the makeup of inmates and the Food and Drug Administration's inspection regulations, farming and ranching activities have ceased. Private vendors are now under contract to provide prepared meals for Lerdo.

Lerdo has four separate Housing Units: Pre-Trial, Minimum-Male, Maximum-Medium and Minimum-Female. The Minimum facility was built in 1940, Maximum-Medium opened in 1978 and Pre-Trial constructed in late 1980's.

<u>Inmate Population:</u>	<u>Maximum Capacity</u>	<u>Inspection Date</u>
• Pre-Trial	1,344	1,247
• Minimum-Male	742	735
• Maximum-Medium	408	381
• Minimum-Female	96	64

Lerdo's inmate population is fluid and fluctuates daily. On the date of inspection all Housing Units were below capacity. In the future, due to AB109, it is anticipated there will be inadequate bed space and facilities to accommodate the projected number of inmates to be transferred from State prisons.

Under a contractual agreement with the United States Marshal's Service, Federal prisoners are segregated within the Maximum/Medium (Max-Med) and Pre-Trial Units. On the date of inspection there were 181 Federal prisoners housed at Lerdo.

Lerdo also serves as a temporary holding facility for Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) inmates are held for 48 hours only unless charged with a California Penal Code violation.

Lerdo is a 24 hour jail facility which provides: custody functions, inmate supervision, custody support services, facility security, rehabilitation, transportation, classification and food services.

- A. Lerdo has been adversely affected by AB109, which was passed, and became California law, October 1, 2011. The Kern County Sheriff's Office 2013-2014 Budget Executive Summary states: "*projections suggests that the influx of felons into jail populations as a result of Realignment has caused the felon population to eclipse misdemeanants.*" As a result the Sheriff has instituted additional alternatives to incarceration to better manage Lerdo's population.
- B. Max-Med and Minimum are antiquated facilities in need of continuous maintenance and repair.
- C. The current average daily cost per inmate is \$74.51. This figure does not include medical cost.
- D. Lerdo has Medical, Dental and Psychological/Mental Health services.
- E. Security is provided through sworn Detentions Deputies and Civilian personnel.
- F. An ATM has been added to the Max-Med Visitor area.
- G. Approximately six months ago Lerdo acquired Restraint Chairs to aid in controlling disordered behavior when less restrictive alternatives prove ineffective.
- H. Two *SecurPass* automated body scanners have been used at Pre-Trial and Minimum for approximately one month and are operated by two specially trained Detentions Deputies. All inmates returning to Pre-Trial and all visitors to Minimum are screened through *SecurPass*.
- I. The Pre-Trial Sally Port is monitored by staff with cameras unequipped to record activities.
- J. Surveillance in Minimum is provided by yard staff and through non-recording cameras.
- K. Lerdo is currently offering 17 educational, vocational and treatment programs to prepare the inmate population for a successful reentry into the community.

- L. Max-Med, Pre-Trial, Minimum each have separate visitation areas and procedures.

FINDINGS:

- F1. All functions of Lerdo have been impacted as a result of AB 109.
- Lerdo may no longer be able to adequately house prisoners transferred from the State Prison system.
 - Responsibilities for long term incarceration of inmates convicted of a felony, have been transferred to Lerdo Administrators and line Deputies.
 - With the exception of the Infirmary, all single inmate cells have been converted to two person cells.
 - According to the Kern County Sheriff's Office 2013-2014 Budget Executive Summary: *"Enhancements to jail programming such as substance abuse services and mental health services are considered a vital part of a comprehensive county effort under realignment."*
 - Alternative methods of incarceration include: Home Detention Program (HDP) and Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) per California Penal Codes §§1203.016 and 1203.018.
 - Realignment has prompted an expansion of the existing Sheriff's Work Release Program as well as the Sheriff's county parole program.
- F2. Upon inspection, the Committee found a leaking shower and according to staff there is peeling paint and evidence of water damage throughout Max-Med .
- F3. The barracks in Minimum are of wood frame construction and are without benefit of automated fire suppression. In the event of fire, inmates will be relocated to a safe and secure area. The Minimum Facility barracks are scheduled to be razed and rebuilding is to begin October 29, 2013, with an anticipated completion date of September 22, 2014. Women's Minimum barracks are currently under renovation rather than replacement.
- F4. Inmates are given three meals per day. A "Mega-Meal", the equivalent of two meals, is provided each morning. The combined meal is a pre-calculated caloric breakfast and lunch which may be consumed at the inmate's discretion. The evening meal is a mandated hot meal. Special diets are provided to accommodate medical and religious requirements. Meal service constitutes a large portion of the average daily inmate cost.
- F5. The Infirmary is staffed with qualified medical and dental health personnel under contract with Kern Medical Center. Mental health advisors are available to evaluate abhorrent behavior and make recommendations for treatment and/or segregation.
- Max-Med contains eight single clinic cells used for suicide watch and other specified inmate classifications, and medical needs.

- Pre-Trial has 19 infirmary single cells used for medical housing, suicide watch and other special housing needs.
- F6. Detention Deputies move an average of 200 inmates per day for court and medical appointments through the Pre-Trial Sally Port. The monitoring system at the Sally Port has no recording capabilities.
- F7. Cameras in Minimum are required behind the barracks as the area is obscured from staff's line of sight.
- F8. On the date of inspection, Lerdo was staffed by 361 sworn Sheriff's Detentions Deputies and 50 Civilian personnel. Lerdo had 45 Sheriff's Detentions Deputy positions and 15 civilian positions unfilled. For fiscal year 2012-2013 the Lerdo Complex was allocated \$3,366,429.89 for staff overtime and expended \$4,717,313.78.
- F9. For convenience Lerdo added "Touch Pay", an ATM system, which facilitates depositing monies into an inmate's account. The system has also expedited and simplified staff accounting of inmate commissary funds.
- F10. Restraint Chair usage is formally logged indicating time and date. Supervisor approval must be obtained and Medical Staff must be notified. As a result of AB109 Lerdo currently incarcerates inmates assessed at a higher security level, including felons transferred from State Penitentiaries.
- F11. Bakersfield Adult School Instructors provide educational classes toward a General Education Diploma (GED). Vocational programs are also available e.g. *Safe-Serve* which provides female inmates the opportunity to learn restaurant related skills by working in the staff cafeteria.
- F12. Visitor areas for Max-Med and Pre-Trial are limited to two 30 minute visits per week. Visitation rooms are separated by glass partitions with no physical contact permitted and communication by telephone only. Visitation in Minimum allows restricted physical contact in an open air setting.

COMMENTS:

The Committee commends Lerdo's staff's professionalism, dedication and resourcefulness while understaffed and underfunded. A new jail is planned; ground breaking is anticipated in late 2014. During the committee's visit, jail personnel noticed a safety hazard in the hall near cell M-208 and took immediate action to remove the hazard.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Due to the continuing extensive maintenance requirements of Max-Med, the Committee recommends funds be allocated for additional maintenance staff. (Finding 2)
- R2. Women's minimum barracks should include in the renovation plan a fire suppression system. (Finding 3)
- R3. The Committee concurs with the prior Grand Jury Report indicating the need for two dialysis machines which could serve Lerdo and other prisons in the area, along with upgrading the dental unit with new chairs and x-ray equipment. Contracted medical providers should upgrade the equipment as soon as possible. (Finding 5)
- R4. Sally Port and Minimum monitoring systems should be upgraded to allow for real-time recording of activities in areas requiring video surveillance. (Finding 6)
- R5. To maintain the proper safe inmate to staff ratio, current vacant positions should be filled. (Finding 8)
- R6. Continued general education and vocational programs should be expanded to provide more skills and opportunities for an inmate to successfully return to the community. (Finding 11)

NOTES:

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

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



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

January 6, 2014

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

On August 22, 2013, members of the 2013-2014 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 November 25, 2013. Below is the Sheriff's Office response to the 2013-2014 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. Due to the continuing extensive maintenance requirements of Max-Med, the Committee recommends funds be allocated for additional maintenance staff.*
- R2. Women's minimum barracks should include in the renovation plan a fire suppression system.*
- R3. The Committee concurs with the prior Grand Jury report indicating the need for two dialysis machines which could serve Lerdo and other prisons in the area, along with upgrading the dental unit with new chairs and x-ray equipment. Contracted medical providers should upgrade the equipment as soon as possible.*
- R4. Sally port and Minimum monitoring systems should be upgraded to allow for real-time recording of activities in areas requiring video surveillance.*
- R5. To maintain the proper safe inmate to staff ratio, current vacant positions should be filled.*

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SHERIFF

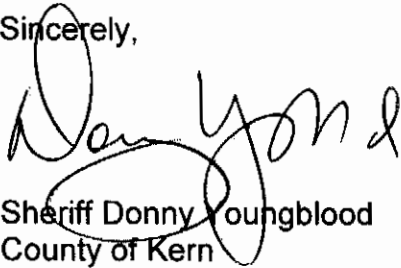
R6. Continued general education and vocational programs should be expanded to provide more skills and opportunities for an inmate to successfully return to the community.

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE:

- R1. The Sheriff's Office recognizes that the Lerdo complex is relatively old and in constant need of repair. Our maintenance section works very hard to address the daily issues associated with keeping our facilities up and running while trying to maintain mandates under California Code of Regulations, Title 15 and Title 24. Staffing needs for the maintenance section are continually evaluated and requests for additional staffing or changes to existing classifications are made to best meet the needs at the facilities. During the upcoming budget year, we will again assess this section to see what changes may need to be made. We will continue to work towards a fully staffed maintenance section.
- R2. Currently, the Minimum Facility's Female Barracks have a fire suppression and alarm system.
- R3. The Sheriff's Office currently contracts with Kern Medical Center for inmate medical services; therefore, the use and purchase of medical equipment is under their purview. We support the committee's recommendation to purchase and/or upgrade medical equipment and will continue to work with Kern Medical Center towards this goal.
- R4. The Sheriff's Office agrees with the committee's recommendation to continue upgrading the Minimum Facility's security and monitoring capabilities. Construction has already begun on the first barracks rebuild at the Male Minimum Facility which will replace all of the older wooden barracks with secure brick dormitory-style buildings. We are also pursuing video monitoring for all of our facilities.
- R5. The Sheriff's Office has worked very hard over the past year to fill vacant positions within the Detentions Bureau. We have added several positions due to the impact of AB 109, and we recently completed a detentions deputy academy with plans to run another one in early 2014. The Sheriff's Office is committed to operating secure detention facilities with appropriate staffing levels to provide the highest quality of service to the inmates entrusted to our care and custody. We constantly evaluate allocated positions and adjust those levels as needed. In early 2014, detentions management staff will embark on a study to reevaluate minimum staffing levels in order to more efficiently and effectively assign staff within the facilities.
- R6. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to offering educational and vocational programs to the inmates in our custody. We have had several successful programs over the years, such as horticulture, cooking and auto body repair. We have worked very hard to add classes during the 2012-2013 school year; including Landscaping, GED, Maintenance, Domestic Violence, Life Skills and Substance Abuse classes. We also expanded these classes to our protective custody inmate population, who had been restricted from taking these classes in the past.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee in its review of the 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 public trust. I hope the tour of our Lerdo Facility was useful to the Committee. Our Facility Staff is always available to you for further review and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donny Youngblood", written over a circular stamp or seal.

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 Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report

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

Response to Findings:

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

Response to Recommendation:

R1: Due to the continuing extensive maintenance requirements of Max-Med, the Committee recommends funds be allocated for additional maintenance staff.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's Office response of assessing staffing needs, within budgetary constraints, during the upcoming budget year in order to continue to work towards a fully staffed maintenance section.

R2: Women's minimum barracks should include in the renovation plan a fire suppression system.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response that the Minimum Facility's Female barracks currently has a fire suppression and alarm system.

R3: The Committee concurs with the prior Grand Jury Report indicating the need for two dialysis machines which could serve Lerdo and other prisons in the area, along with upgrading the dental unit with new chairs and x-ray equipment. Contracted medical providers should upgrade the equipment as soon as possible.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response that the Sheriff's office will work with its medical services provider to explore methods by which medical equipment could be purchased or upgraded.

R4: Sally Port and Minimum monitoring systems should be upgraded to allow for real-time recording of activities in areas requiring video surveillance.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response that the Sheriff's office will continue upgrading the Minimum Facility's security and monitoring capabilities and its plan to pursue video monitoring for all of its facilities.

R5: To maintain the proper safe inmate to staff ratio, current vacant positions should be filled.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of maintaining the proper safe inmate to staff ratio and concurs with the Sheriff's response of reevaluating minimum staffing levels in order to more efficiently and effectively assign staff within the facilities.

R6: Continued general education and vocational programs should be expanded to provide more skills and opportunities for an inmate to successfully return to the community.

The Board of Supervisors acknowledges the Sheriff's efforts of incorporating additional classes to the department's general education and vocational programs during the 2012-2013 school year. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response of continuing the commitment of offering educational and vocational programs to the inmates in the department's custody.

ADM_GJ_Sheriff_Lerdo Facility_B

GOLDEN STATE MODIFIED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility (Facility) located at 611 Frontage Road, McFarland, California 93250 on October 28, 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, a tour of the Facility and an interview with two inmates. The Committee was given free access to all areas of the Facility and met with many staff members while on the tour.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. According to the Global Expertise and Outsourcing Group Inc. (GEO) website the Facility is a 114,450 square foot masonry building financed, designed and built in 1997 on 20 acres of land. The Facility is leased to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (State) as part of the State's attempt to mitigate overcrowding. The Facility has the capacity to house 700 inmates.
- B. The GEO contract with the State was recently extended from June 2016 to June 2018. GEO employs Facility Staff and manages the day to day operations in conjunction with the State which maintains a small administrative staff on site.
- C. The Facility is staffed by approximately 131 GEO Civilian Personnel and ten State Personnel. State Staff may deputize and arm Facility Correctional Staff from the on-site armory to respond to emergency conditions.
- D. The Facility consists of eight dormitory style housing units. There are duplicate housing sections, A and B. Each section consists of four dorms arranged around a central control room. Each dorm has the capacity to house up to 88 inmates. There are 13 Transit Holding Cells, two of which are reserved for medical observation. The Facility houses multiple classrooms, a library, a computer lab and administrative offices and one modular building with two classrooms separated from the main facility but inside the security fence.
- E. The Facility houses inmates with sensitive needs and serving a sentence of five years or less. The State is solely responsible for the assessment and classification of inmates and administers disciplinary hearings. All incoming inmates are assigned

to the general population regardless of prior gang affiliation, race, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

- F. The State reimburses GEO \$40.82 per inmate per day totaling approximately \$14,900 per year. This amount excludes costs associated with extensive medical treatment.
- G. Limited medical, dental and mental health services at the Facility are provided by the State under the contract.
- H. Inmates may order and purchase items from a non-stocked Canteen twice monthly and may purchase ice from two commercial self serve ice machines. Each machine is located in the hallway next to the exercise yard exit doors.
- I. Inmates have access to open exercise yards allowing a variety of sports activities.
- J. The Facility provides a large enclosed visiting area with separate rooms for non-contact confidential consultations. An enclosed patio for family visitation is located adjacent to the visiting area.
- K. At the time of inspection security measures included:
 - Recording security cameras located throughout the Facility
 - Facility is surrounded by a double perimeter fence topped with razor wire
 - Inmates enter and exit through a Sally Port (secured entrance)
 - All prison supplies are accepted at the Sally Port
 - All Facility keys are stored in an electronically monitored controlled lock box
 - All new and returning inmates are strip searched
 - Dormitory window security bars and remotely controlled security gates were added in 2009
- L. The Facility utilizes inmate labor only for the following internal services:
 - Laundry services
 - Maintenance services
 - Meal preparation and food services
 - Administrative support services
 - Tonsorial (Barber) services
 - Housekeeping services
 - Selected inmates perform limited clerical support services for State Employees
- M. Grand Jury members interviewed two inmates pre-selected by staff.
- N. When the Facility originally opened, periods of incarceration were 18 to 24 months. Effective April 30, 2009, as a result of AB109, periods of incarceration may now be up to five years.

FINDINGS:

Facility houses only male inmates. At the time of the visit there were 597 inmates. All dormitories are supervised by at least one GEO Correctional Officer stationed inside at all times.

- F1. State and GEO staff includes four counselors, two per housing section, A and B.
- F2. Educational classes offered are: Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), General Educational Diploma (GED) and a pre-release Life Skills Class (LSC) for each inmate 45 days prior to release.
- F3. Vocational Training Classes include:
 - Computer Classes
 - Horticulture
 - Plumbing, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
 - Janitorial Service
 - Basic Residential Electrical
- F4. GEO corporate office in accordance with Title 15 determines the Facility menus.
- F5. All inmate pre-ordered items from the canteen are delivered to the prison and distributed via the Canteen Clerk. Inmate monies are processed and distributed by the GEO Inmate Payroll Clerk. Inmates may earn money through a prison job, or receive money from outside sources such as family. Inmate accounts are limited to a maximum of \$200.00.
- F6. Laundry service is provided on a weekly basis for all inmates. Laundry detail includes six inmates working seven hour shifts supervised by one GEO Correctional Staff.
- F7. Outside Resource Work Details allow selected inmates to leave the prison at the request of the McFarland City Manager. Work details may include general maintenance, street and sidewalk clean up under GEO Correctional Staff supervision. Work details may require additional uniform changes and laundering.
- F8. Participation in work details may reduce an inmate's length of sentence as well as earn money.
- F9. In the event of an emergency the Facility has mutual security aid agreements with Wasco State Prison, North Kern State Prison and McFarland City Police Department. The McFarland City Police Department agreement allows for perimeter security only.

F10. The result of the inmate interviews provided no evidence of significant complaints. The two selected inmates indicated their complaints could be resolved through contacting Staff or the established appeal process.

F11. There is ambiguity in the Facility Procedures Manual regarding the length of time an inmate may be held in a Transit Holding Cell for disciplinary action.

F12. At the time of the Committee's visit the two ice machines were leaking.

COMMENTS:

The Committee was greeted by the Warden, Deputy Warden and Staff. The Committee was given an extensive tour of the Facility and provided all requested forms and information. The Committee would like to thank the Warden and the staff for the cooperation, hospitality and professionalism provided. This report reflects the staffing level and inmate/dorm capacity at the time of the Committee's visit on October 28, 2013. The Committee has been advised by the Warden that a new contract with the Department of Corrections signed on November 1, 2013, will have a slight impact on staffing levels and inmate/dorm capacities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. A Culinary Program could be developed, broadening current vocational offerings, utilizing the Facility's kitchen during off hours. (Finding 3)
- R2. Review and clarify the language in the Facility's Operational Procedures Manual regarding Transit Holding Cells. (Finding 11)
- R3. Address the continuing health and safety issues associated with both ice machines, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the last two California Department of Public Health – Environmental Health Survey Reports. All other deficiencies noted in the above mentioned report dated June 2013 should be corrected. (Finding 12)

NOTES:

The Golden State Modified 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, click on: Sign up for early releases.

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

**GOLDEN STATE MCCF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP)
2013-2014 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 28, 2013**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. A Culinary Program could be developed, broadening current vocational offerings, utilizing the Facility's kitchen during off hours. (F4)

Such a program is not mandated as required by contract services. Establishing an after hours Culinary Program would first require the approval of the client, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and possibly amending the existing contract. Such an endeavor would require additional Security staffing as well as hiring a certified Culinary Arts Instructor to oversee the training.

Inmates who are assigned as kitchen workers receive training in the skills needed to function in a culinary environment. Those workers who demonstrate exceptional work ethic and skills are recognized with a Certificate of Achievement once their work term has ended. The certificate may be used as a recommendation should the inmate-parolee seek employment in the food service industry.

- R2. Review and clarify the language in the Facility's Operational Procedures Manual regarding Transit Holding Cells. (F12)

Per client guidelines (CCFA Operational Procedure 00-02), Transit Holding Cells (THCs) are designed to house inmates awaiting transfer, pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 15, Section 3340 (h). THC placement is not intended to parallel or substitute for Administrative Segregation Unit housing.

THCs may also be used for inmate placement for security and disciplinary reasons, for a period not to exceed ten (10) days. Television viewing, non-emergency phone calls, barbering services, educational/vocational training, religious services, and commissary privileges are suspended for the duration of the inmate's confinement in THC.

Facility Policy & Procedure 5.G.01, Transit Holding Cells, will be revised to list in detail any restrictions and/or allowances of inmate privileges.

- R3. Correct the condensation puddle problem associated with both ice machines. (F13)

The facility is looking into installing a proper drainage system to address the issue of the condensate waste from the ice machines. As this may require infrastructure changes, approval must first be obtained from the client and Corporate office.

In the meantime, the Fire & Safety Lieutenant and Security staff will monitor the discharge waste from the ice machines in order to prevent and/or manage any nuisance conditions that may stem from the ponding of condensate waste. All issues will be reported immediately to the Maintenance Manager for resolution.

REPORT CLARIFICATION:

In addition to the recommendations noted in the Grand Jury Report, the following items have been listed for clarification:

- The Facility is a 96,963 square foot masonry building.
- The Facility has the capacity to house 640 inmates.
- The Facility is staffed by 136 GEO civilian personnel.
- CDCR and GEO staff respond to emergency conditions. CDCR staff is responsible for the armory on site.
- Each dorm has the capacity to house up to 30 inmates.
- Inmates may order and purchase items from a non-stocked Canteen, twice monthly.
- The Facility utilizes inmate labor for the following internal services
 - Housekeeping services for inmates only

KERN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

PREFACE:

“The primary obligation of the Kern County Law Library is to provide legal information and information services to member of the legal community and citizens who reside or practice in Kern County. Although, Library staff is available to guide and instruct as to what might be appropriate, they cannot provide any type of legal advice or interpret materials.”

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On August 12, 2013, the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury Law and Justice Committee (Committee) visited the Kern County Law Library (Library) to review the operations, procedures and management of the Library in accordance with California Penal Code §933.5.

PROCESS:

The Committee was met by the Law Librarian. A question and answer session was held followed by a thorough tour of the Library and a detailed explanation of resources and services available to the citizens of Kern County.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. The Library is located on the Third Floor, Room 301 of the Kern County Superior Court, 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301.
- B. The Library contains over 23,000 volumes which include the United States Code, the California Codes, Federal and California administrative regulations, Court and Administrative agency decisions, California and Federal research tools including Legal Digests, Judicial Council form books, Treaties and other legal resources.
- C. The Library is funded solely by a fixed portion of the Kern County Superior Court's (Court) First Document Filing Fee. The Library is a stand-alone entity. It could be inferred by the title that the Library is a department of Kern County, it is not. The staff is employed by the Library.
- D. The County of Kern considers the Law Library to be a Special District in order to provide administrative support services, such as the processing of payroll and personnel documents.
- E. The Library staff of five is supervised by the Librarian. The Librarian reports directly to The Board of Trustees of the Kern County Law Library consisting of

five Kern County Superior Court Judges and two private Attorneys. One Attorney is appointed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors and the other by the Kern County Bar Association as per Business and Professions Code 6301.

- F. The Library has 11 available computers with internet access limited to legal research or completing legal documents.
- G. The Library houses the Superior Court Self-Help Center staffed by two Court employees. The Library provides workshops on Family Law matters during the week. The Small Claims Advisor provides walk-in services on a one on one basis. Video conferencing is provided twice a week to the Ridgecrest community on family law and other legal matters. In Ridgecrest, the workshops are held in the office of the First District Kern County Supervisor. The Ridgecrest Library resource materials are housed at Cerro Coso Community College. Video is also available to the Lake Isabella community. Resource materials for that law library are held at the Family Resource Center in Lake Isabella. The Library is planning to expand video services to other outlying communities.
- H. Once a month, two local private Attorneys come to the Kern County Law Library to provide a workshop on bankruptcies and how to probate small estates.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Library usage by the General Public averages 100 visits per day. Usage by local and visiting Attorneys averages 20 visits per week.
- F2. Workshop attendees receive general information on specific topics such as Family Law and Small Claims. After the general video workshop session, individuals may confer privately with the Small Claims Advisor, however, no legal advice or interpretation is given.
- F3. Library expansion plans may include Video Workshops in the outlying communities of Lake Isabella, Frazier Park, Taft and Mojave.
- F4. Attorney led Bankruptcy and Small Estate Probate Workshops are provided at no cost. No attorney-client privilege is implied.
- F5. The Library's legal resources are continually updated by replacing each individual page as changes occur.

COMMENTS:

The Committee found the Library to be very clean and well organized and the staff eager to assist customers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

NOTES:

The Kern County Law Library should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

KERN VALLEY STATE PRISON

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On February 27, 2014, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP) to inquire into the management and conditions of KVSP pursuant to California Penal Code §919 (b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Warden, Associate Warden, the Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer, the Litigation Coordinator and Staff. After a comprehensive overview of the institution, a tour of KVSP was provided by the Public Information Officer, the Litigation Coordinator and Staff.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The KVSP is located at 3000 West Cecil Avenue, Delano CA 93215. The KVSP is on 600 acres with an additional 200 acres designated for use by Prison Industries Authority and is contracted to grow alfalfa.

The KVSP is a Level IV prison consisting of four identically designed 180° facilities A, B, C and D. There are also two stand-alone Administrative Segregation Units (ASU) all surrounded by an internal lethal electrified fence. There is also a Level I Minimum Support Facility (MSF) located inside the outer perimeter fence.

Facility D contains the Transitional Housing Unit (THU) a unique program originated at Pelican Bay State Prison for inmates requesting to disassociate themselves from various gang affiliations. Kern Valley State Prison is the only institution currently offering this program.

Kern Valley State Prison complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A. . Maximum capacity is 5,092 inmates. Total inmate population on the date of the Committee's visit: 3,748 inmates.

- Facility A
 - General Population 901
- Facility B
 - General Population 636
 - ASU (Mental Health) 146
- Facility C
 - Sensitive Needs 816
 - Enhanced Out Patient 100
- Facility D
 - Sensitive Needs 711
 - Transitional Housing Unit 135

- Facility M (MSF)
 - General Population 117
- Infirmary 20
- ASU (Non-Mental Health) A 87
- ASU (Non-Mental Health) B 79

- B. Work crews consist of Level I minimum security inmates and are responsible for the upkeep of the facility such as grounds maintenance, janitorial services, etc.
- C. On the date of the visit, Kern Valley State Prison was staffed as follows:
- Total budgeted Staff positions: 1,626 (filled positions - 1,506)
 - Management Staff 14 filled; 1 vacant
 - Correctional Officers 940 filled; 45 vacant
 - Medical Staff 259 filled; 44 vacant
 - Education Staff 37 filled; 5 vacant
 - Support Staff 199 filled; 21 vacant
 - Trades Staff 57 filled; 4 vacant
- D. The estimated cost to house an inmate is \$41,437 a year. Medical, Dental and Mental Health costs are estimated at \$11,637 a year, for a cost of \$53,074 per inmate.
- E. The KVSP has paid Chaplains and volunteers to provide religious services and counseling.
- F. Inmates are provided a hot meal for breakfast and dinner and a cold midday sack lunch. All Level IV inmate's meals are served in cells and Level I inmates are served in a dining hall. Meal cost is \$3.41 per day per inmate. Provisions made for religious and dietary meals have an additional cost.
- G. Academic classes offered include English Language Learner, Adult Basic Education and preparation for a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).
- H. Fire services for KVSP are provided by North Kern State Prison.
- I. Kern Valley State Prison has an understanding with the City of Delano to provide citizens with shelter, food and other services during emergency situations.
- J. The California Department of Public Health (DPH) - Environmental Compliance Section conducted an inspection at KVSP "*... as means to ensure the health and safety of inmate workers and staff in meeting correctional accreditation and standards.*" A Corrective Plan was requested to address identified deficiencies outlined in the DPH report. According to management at KVSP a Corrective Plan has been submitted.

- K. Kern Valley State Prison is periodically inspected and audited by various entities. The American Correctional Association audited KVSP on March 21, 2014, and has recommended accreditation. Accreditation requires a minimum of 90% approval rating of national non-mandatory standards and 100% of mandatory standards for Correctional Institutions.

FINDINGS:

- F1. With the passage of AB 109, the inmate daily population has decreased. Prior to AB 109, KVSP housed between 4,700 and 4,800 inmates but now averages 3,700 inmates. Between 40% and 50% of the current inmate population is serving out sentences ranging from Life to Life Without Parole.
- F2. Leaks were observed on a bakery steam kettle steam-line and the vegetable cleaning area faucet. Management has documented repairs were completed to the steam-line and to the leaking faucet.
- F3. There was no signage to warn of wet floors.
- F4. Three unrefrigerated sack lunches were found under a podium in one of the ASU units.
- F5. Security doors to two fire extinguisher cabinets in the kitchen were missing. Management reports new doors are being fabricated with anticipated completion date of May 22, 2014.
- F6. Incoming inmates already undergoing gender reassignment treatments may continue such treatments. Requests for initiation of gender reassignment treatments will not be approved. Special housing will not be provided in either instance.
- F7. Office services and welding classes will resume when instructors become available. Small engine repair classes are scheduled to begin March 5, 2014.

COMMENTS:

The Committee would like to thank the Warden, the Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer and Staff for professionalism and the extensive orientation and tour.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Warning signs must be in place at all times when floors are wet. (Finding 3)
- R2. To prevent illness, perishable foods should be refrigerated in compliance with applicable health regulations. (Finding 4)

- R3. Fire extinguisher cabinet doors should be replaced as soon as possible. (Finding 5)
- R4. Continued efforts should be made to fill vacant instructor positions and increase the types of vocational classes to create additional opportunities for employment after release. (Finding 4)

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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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

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

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

**DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS
KERN VALLEY STATE PRISON**

P.O. Box 3130
Delano, CA 93216-6000



August 12, 2014

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

Dear Honorable Judge,

This is in response to the letter I received dated, June 3, 2014, concerning the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury report on Kern Valley State Prison. The following is submitted in response to the aforementioned letter:

- Per California Penal Code Section 933 (a), Kern Valley State Prison agrees with the findings located in the Kern County Grand Jury's report for 2013-2014.
- Recommendations of the Grand Jury:

R1. Warning signs must be placed at all times when floors are wet.

Kern Valley State Prison has re-iterated to all staff and has ensured availability of signs for posting as needed when sections of floors are wet.

R2. To prevent illness, perishable foods should be refrigerated in compliance with applicable health regulations.

All culinary staff assigned to food services has been made aware to ensure all perishable foods are refrigerated in accordance with applicable health regulations.

R3. Fire extinguisher cabinet doors should be replaced as soon as possible.

The two fire extinguisher doors in the Facility 'B' satellite kitchen have been repaired.

cc: Mahlon L. Keel, Foreman
Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

R4. Continued efforts should be made to fill vacant instructor positions and increase the types of vocational classes to create additional opportunities for employment after release.

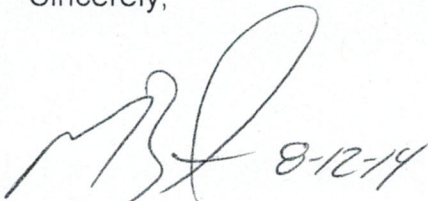
Office Service classes have not resumed due to staff vacancy, Welding classes should start in approximately 1 month, and Small Engine Repair classes started as scheduled in March 2014. In addition, Kern Valley State Prison has been authorized two additional vocational classes which will be starting in the very near future, Electronics and Masonry.

- Kern Valley State Prison has implemented the recommendation that the Kern County Grand Jury's report be posted where it is available for public view. Kern Valley State Prison has posted the report on Institution Bulletin Boards, and a scanned copy placed in a folder accessible to Institutional computers.

Kern Valley State Prison extends our appreciation to the Kern County Grand Jury for its annual reviews and recommendations to improve and sustain our high standard of excellence.

Please contact Lieutenant Marshall Denning, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer should you have concerns/questions at (661) 721-6314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MB", followed by the date "8-12-14".

MARTIN D. BITER
Warden
Kern Valley State Prison

NORTH KERN STATE PRISON

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On February 11, 2014, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the North Kern State Prison (NKSP) to inquire into the management and conditions of NKSP pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Warden, the Public Information Officer, the Litigation Coordinator, Executive and Medical Staff and numerous personnel representing various areas of expertise/responsibility. After a comprehensive overview of the institution, a tour of NKSP was provided by the Public Information Officer, the Litigation Coordinator and Staff.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

The NKSP is located at 2737 West Cecil Avenue, Delano, California sitting on 640 acres. Construction began in 1990 and the facility opened in April 1992. However, 360 acres are designated as protected wildlife habitat for the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard, San Joaquin Kit Fox and the Tipton Kangaroo Rat. The institution has an onsite solar power plant constructed in 2012 at no cost to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). All housing units have tank-less water heaters. The institution complies with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery mandates for reduction of waste transferred and disposed of in solid waste landfills and a self-contained recycling program. The institution has a 16 bed Correctional Treatment Center licensed in 2005, providing 24-hour medical and psychiatric care for the inmates. The institution has a fully staffed fire department and when called upon provides mutual aid to the Delano community.

- A. The institution is a Reception Center for processing inmates from southern and some northern county jails, averaging a monthly intake of 928 inmates.
- B. The institution is also the Central California Transportation Hub. The Hub normally transports inmates from institution to institution after being processed and assigned to appropriate prisons, averaging 970 outgoing inmates monthly.
- C. Due to Assembly Bill 109, Reception Centers were reduced from nine to six: California Institution for Men, Del Norte Vocational Institution, San Quentin State Prison, Wasco State Prison (Kern County), North Kern State Prison (Kern County) and Central California Women's Facility.
- D. Total inmate population on the date of the Committee's visit: 4,653
 - Reception Center - 3,797
 - o Facility B (two tiered cell setting) - 1,173

- Facility C (two tiered dormitories) - 1,539
- Facility D (two tiered cell setting) - 934
- Administrative Segregation Unit - 151
- General Population - 818
 - Facility A (two tiered cell setting) - 695
 - Facility M (open dormitory) - 123
- Infirmary - 13
- Inmate Work Assignments - 21
- Hospital - 4

E. On the date of visit, North Kern State Prison was staffed as follows:

- Total budgeted Custody positions: 804 (filled positions - 737)
 - Management Staff - 7 filled positions; 1 vacant position
 - Captain - 4 filled positions; 2 vacant positions
 - Lieutenant - 25 filled positions; 4 vacant positions
 - Sergeant - 64 - filled positions; 7 vacant positions
 - Correctional Officer - 585 filled positions; 48 vacant positions
 - Classification & Parole Representative - 1 filled position
 - Counseling Staff - 51 filled positions; 5 vacant positions

F. There are 590 civilian positions including Medical Staff.

G. Inmates housed in the General Population area of the institution, separate from the Reception Center area, are assigned to either a work assignment or an academic class. Medium and Minimum custody inmates provide work support for the institution and may be assigned to maintenance, warehouse, building porter, clerical support, firehouse or kitchens.

H. A variety of religious services are offered: Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Native American and others.

I. Medical services are provided 24 hours a day seven days a week. Inmate medical, dental and mental health appointments average 16,453 per month with less than 1% of appointments missed. On site appointments average 4,000 per month.

J. Estimated cost to house an inmate is \$58,816.00 per year including meals and medical. Estimated medical cost is \$10,524.00 per year and per day meal cost averages \$3.22.

- K. North Kern State Prison maintains an inmate manned Fire Department and has mutual aid agreements with Kern Valley State Prison, City of Delano and Kern County Fire Department.
- L. Vocational training programs are available to General Population inmates. Small Engine Repair and Residential/Commercial Electrical Works Installation and Repair programs were instituted within the past six months.
- M. Academic Programs available: Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes, High School-General Education Diploma (GED) and College level courses. Only General Population may participate in Vocational and Academic programs.
- N. California Department of Public Health Environmental Compliance Section conducted an inspection December 2-6, 2013, *"...as a means to ensure the health and safety of inmate workers and staff in meeting correctional accreditation and standards."*
- O. The NKSP is periodically inspected and/or audited by various entities. Accreditation is pending by the American Correctional Association. This accreditation requires a 95% approval rating of nationally set standards for Correctional Institutions.

FINDINGS

- F1. The reduction in Reception Centers has not affected the operation of NKSP but a deleterious effect has been felt in the Kern County Jail System. Some inmates previously housed in State Prisons are now serving sentences in county jails.
- F2. Four kitchens utilize 250 inmate laborers and 37 NKSP staff. The Central Kitchen prepares approximately 15,000 meals per day, including two hot meals and one cold meal. Hot meals are flash frozen three days in advance and apportioned daily to three satellite kitchens for re-heating and disbursement to the inmates. The NKSP Correctional Food Manager II's meal preparation program is being considered as a "model" and may be emulated statewide by all California Correctional Institutions.
- F3. Inmates in the General Education Program have limited access to computer terminals **but no internet access**. Among state prisons, NKSP has the second highest number of inmates graduating with a GED.

- F4. General Population inmates may obtain a certificate from the National Center for Construction Education and Research for work completed through the Electrical Residential Works Program. Completion of the Small Engines Repair Program results in a Small Engine Technician Certificate. Both certificates are recognized nationally.
- F5. Consideration is being given to allow employees to bring in personal small engine powered equipment for repair. An administrative fee would be charged to recover costs.
- F6. Firehouse Crews may have five to ten trained inmates assigned. Inmates earn points in the Milestone Program to reduce their sentence up to six weeks per year. The firefighting training received by inmates is equivalent to that of a Forestry Fire Correctional Camp; when released, inmates are able to apply for positions in the fire service.
- F7. During the tour of the Central Kitchen, the Committee observed a cooking kettle with a leaking steam line. Staff advised that a maintenance request had been submitted on November 7, 2013, for repair. It should be noted this repair was completed prior to the end of the Committee's inspection.
- F8. Between May 31st and October 31st dormitories are monitored for excessive temperature and humidity levels. When temperatures reach 90° inside, an hourly temperature log is initiated and inmates are monitored by a nurse. Ice chips are dispensed in an attempt to mitigate discomfort of both inmates and staff.
- F9. Employees of NKSP maintain a good relationship with the City of Delano through various charitable and community activities such as the distribution of Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families. The NKSP employees also sponsor a cake auction to benefit children of incarcerated parents.

COMMENTS:

The Committee extends appreciation to all personnel that facilitated the inspection and for the hospitality received.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Due to a limited number of qualified mechanics available in the field, consideration should be given to expand the Small Engine Repair Program to include marine engines and outboard motors. Employment opportunities may thus be expanded for inmates after release. (Findings 4 and 5)

- R2. An attempt should be made to relieve the excessive humidity and high temperatures in the Dormitory style housing units, experienced by inmates and staff alike, during the summer months. (Finding 8)
- R3. The California Department of Public Health-Environmental Health Survey Report dated January 24, 2014, indicated numerous areas in need of attention and correction. As indicated by staff, NKSP's Environmental Corrective Plan is being prepared with a response for each area of concern and is expected to be completed and submitted to the California Department of Public Health for review by April 1, 2014. It is recommended that the Correction plan be submitted as soon as available to prevent any health issues or injuries to Staff or inmates. (Finding 7)

NOTES:

The North Kern State Prison 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: FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS**NORTH KERN STATE PRISON**

2737 West Cecil Avenue

P. O. Box 567

Delano, California 93216



April 29, 2014

Kern County Grand Jury-Law & Justice
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue, 2nd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

RE: GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

We have received your final report and would first like to take this opportunity to say it was a pleasure having the Kern County Grand Jury visit North Kern State Prison (NKSP). The final report along with the findings and recommendations has been reviewed. There were three recommendations noted in the findings and at this time the recommendations will be addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Due to a limited number of qualified mechanics available in the field, consideration should be given to expand the Small Engine Repair Program to include marine engines and outboard motors. Employment opportunities may thus be expanded for inmates after release.

As a component of the Employee Services program, the Small Engine Repair program does provide repair services to marine engines and outboard motors. In this way, the students receive entry level training on those types of engine applications. The industry certification testing the inmates receive while in the program includes both two and four stroke training which encompasses marine and outboard applications.

- R2. An attempt should be made to relieve the excessive humidity and high temperatures in the Dormitory style housing units, experienced by inmates and staff alike, during the summer months.

The cell decking has been replaced within all the swamp coolers within the last couple of weeks, which will make living conditions more comfortable within the dormitories. The dormitories are all equipped with floor fans to help circulate the air and assist in keeping the temperature within the appropriate parameter.

- R3. The California Department of Public Health-Environmental Health Survey Report dated January 24, 2014, indicated numerous areas in need of attention and correction. As indicated by staff, NKSP's Environmental Corrective Plan is being prepared with a response for each area of concern and is expected to be completed and submitted to the California Department of Public Health for review by April 1, 2014. It is recommended that the Correction plan be submitted as soon as available to prevent any health issues or injuries to staff or inmates.

The completed Environmental Health Survey Corrective Action Plan along with all proof of practices (completed work orders, purchase orders, memos, OJT, etc) was submitted to the

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS**NORTH KERN STATE PRISON**

2737 West Cecil Avenue

P. O. Box 567

Delano, California 93216



Office of Audits and Court Compliance March 28, 2014. NKSP is continually working to ensure a safe environment for employees, inmates, and visitors.

Again it was a pleasure to have you tour NKSP and if you have any follow up questions please do not hesitate to call Litigation Coordinator/Public Information Officer (A) Joseph Ortega, (661) 721-3188.

Sincerely,


Sandra Alfaro
Warden

WASCO STATE PRISON-RECEPTION CENTER

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On February 18, 2014, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Wasco State Prison-Reception Center (Prison) to inquire and inspect the conditions and management of the Prison pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Warden, the Administrative Assistant/Litigation Coordinator, executive staff, medical staff and numerous personnel representing various areas of expertise and responsibility. After a comprehensive verbal overview of the institution, a tour of the Prison was provided by the Public Information Officer, the Litigation Coordinator and staff.

FACTS:

The Prison is located at 701 Scofield Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280, and was opened in February 1991 as the First Reception Center in Kern County. The Prison is situated on 634 acres. *"The primary mission is to provide short term housing necessary to process, classify and evaluate new inmates physically and mentally, to determine their security level, program requirements, and appropriate institutional placement."* The Prison was originally designed to house 6,213 inmates. At the time of the Committee's visit the population was 5,209.

- A. There are 696 Correctional Officer positions authorized of which 649 are filled. There are 499 civilian employees and 255 medical personnel, employed at the prison
- B. The Prison has inmates assigned to the Fire House; a landscape crew maintains the prison grounds.
- C. With the passage of AB 109, the inmate population has been reduced by approximately 1,000 inmates. Staffing levels have also been reduced.
- D. Approximately 350 inmates arriving and departing weekly.
- E. Currently the State of California contracts with corporations operating facilities in Arizona, Mississippi and Oklahoma housing approximately 9,000 inmates.
- F. On the date of the Committee's visit total inmate population was: 5,209 (State of California authorized bed capacity - 4,997)
 - Facility A 799
 - Facility B 1,080

• Facility C	1,135
• Facility D	1,299
• Facility H	769
• Facility M	99
• Fire Station	6
• Correctional Treatment Center (Infirmary)	15
• Hospital	7

- G. The estimated cost to house an inmate is approximately \$42,000 per year not including medical costs. The estimated medical cost is \$10,318 per year. Meal costs average \$3.10 per day and are prepared in a central kitchen for approximately 5,000 inmates.
- H. Recording surveillance cameras are located in central control, pedestrian and vehicle sallyports, visiting rooms, designated medical rooms, Administrative Segregation and Prison Industries areas. There are no surveillance cameras in the General Population dining area.
- I. Outside volunteers provide counseling on various subjects to the General Population inmates. The Volunteer Program consists of: Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Breaking the Barriers and religious services. Breaking the Barriers is a program designed to assist inmates in preparing to re-enter society.
- J. Various academic and vocational programs are available to the General Population inmates.
- K. There are numerous temporary expanded metal holding cells located throughout the facility. Length of confinement in these temporary expanded metal holding cells for more than four hours or subsequent release requires approval of a Captain or above.
- L. California Department of Public Health Environmental Compliance Section conducted an inspection on September 23-27, 2013, *"...as a means to ensure the health and safety of inmate workers and staff in meeting correctional accreditation and standards."*
- M. Wasco State Prison is periodically inspected and audited by various entities and accreditation is pending by the American Correctional Association. This accreditation requires a minimum of 90% approval rating of national

non-mandatory standards and 100% of mandatory standards for Correctional Institutions.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Upon arrival, inmates are screened for gang affiliation, mental and physical health conditions and classification review prior to being assigned to the transient population. Within approximately 90 days, inmates are transferred to a permanent institution.
- F2. On February 12, 2014, the Reception Center received an unusually high number of unexpected inmates after hours. This occurrence required overnight housing of inmates in the Reception Center's holding cells. This situation required Prison personnel to notify the chain of command including headquarters in Sacramento.
- F3. Surveillance video is retained for only seven days.
- F4. Per the Warden, the frequent use of temporary expanded metal holding cells is necessary due to the many diverse gang affiliations within the inmate population. This type of confinement minimizes conflict between gangs and promotes safety when moving inmates within the prison halls.
- F5. During the tour, the Committee found housekeeping in the kitchen area to be deficient. The floors were unswept with trash strewn about. Staff indicated they were understaffed and had no inmate labor available on the date of inspection. Excessive water and food spillage on the floor was observed, with no warning signs posted, constituting a possible safety issue for both inmates and staff. Bulk sacks containing flour and rice were stored on the floor and not on the required raised pallets. Clean meal containers had fallen from the transport carts and were lying on the loading dock outside the kitchen. Staff was informed several times but no immediate action was taken. However, upon leaving the area the Committee observed the containers had been removed.
- F6. National Accreditation consists of meeting 63 mandatory standards and 458 non mandatory standards to be fully accredited.

COMMENTS:

In spite of a riotous situation on the day before the Committee's visit the facility staff was able to accommodate the committee's inspection. The Committee would like to thank the Warden, Correctional Lieutenant/Public Information Officer and numerous staff for time expended for the orientation and extensive tour of the facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. In order to avoid the need to process a high number of new inmates after hours, closer communication and coordination with the transferring facility are needed. This would diminish and/or eliminate future temporary shortages of Reception Center bed space. (Finding 2)
- R2. For the safety of Staff and inmates, recording cameras should be installed in the General Population dining area. Surveillance videos should be retained for a minimum of 30 days. (Finding 3)
- R3. The California Department of Public Health-Environmental Health survey was conducted September 23-27, 2013, and found numerous areas in need of attention or correction. Wasco State Prison's Environmental Corrective Plan was prepared with a response for each area of concern and submitted to the California Department of Public Health for review in October 2013. The proposed correction plan should be implemented as soon as possible to prevent any health issues or injuries to staff or inmates. (Finding 5)

NOTES:

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**cc: FOREPERSON
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BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS
WASCO STATE PRISON – RECEPTION CENTER
P. O. Box 8800
Wasco, California 93280-8800
(661) 758-8400



September 4, 2014

Honorable Colette M. Humphrey
1415 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dennis Mike Elliott
Foreperson
2014-2015 Kern County Grand Jury
1415 Truxton Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Honorable Humphrey and Foreperson Elliott:

This is in response to your letter of August 25, 2014, concerning the 2013-2014 Kern County Grand Jury report concerning Wasco State Prison – Reception Center. The following responses are given for the Findings and Recommendations listed in the aforementioned letter:

Findings:

- F1. Upon arrival, inmates are screened for gang affiliation, mental and physical health conditions and classification review prior to being assigned to the transient population. Within approximately 90 days, inmates are transferred to a permanent institution.

Yes inmates are screened when they enter Receiving & Release. Inmates are transferred, as soon as housing becomes available, which meets the inmate's needs.

- F2. On February 12, 2014, the Reception Center received an unusually high number of unexpected inmates after hours. This occurrence required overnight housing of inmates in the Reception Center's holding cells. This situation required prison personnel to notify the chain of command including headquarters in Sacramento.

The arrival busses from other institutions and at times, other agencies are hampered by unforeseen circumstances. The busses arrival time is subject to varying road conditions, road closures, accidents, vehicle breakdown, weather, etc., which can hamper their timely travel. Further, busses coming from significantly northern or southern institutions are geographically located a great distance from our institution preventing an earlier arrival. The shortage of bed space is hampered by the sending outside agencies decision to fill bus seats. We have to project institution populations and likely bus occupancy for the individual agencies the week prior and the morning of their arrival. This has been the safest and most consistent evaluator to ensure the closest measure to control our population and available bed space.

- F3. Surveillance video is retained for only seven days.

In the Visiting Department, the surveillance video is currently inoperable. Staff only can view live feed. Work orders have been submitted to rectify the problem.

- F4. Per the Warden, the frequent use of temporary expanded metal holding cells is necessary due to the many diverse gang affiliations within the inmate population. This type of confinement minimizes conflict between gangs and promotes safety when moving inmates within the prison halls.

The temporary expanded metal holding cells have been using for several years.

- F5. During the tour, the committee found housekeeping in the kitchen area to be deficient. The floors were unswept with trash strewn about. Staff indicated that were understaffed and had no inmate labor available on the date of inspection. Excessive water and food spillage on the floor was observed, with no warning signs posted, constituting a possible safety issue for both inmates and staff. Bulk sacks containing flour and rice were stored on the floor and not on the required raised pallets. Clean meal containers had fallen from the transport carts and were lying on the loading dock outside the kitchen. Staff was informed several times, but no immediate action was taken. However, upon leaving the area the committee observed the containers had been removed.

Cleaning of the kitchens is a continual process, safety precautions have been taken and food items are properly stored.

- F6. National Accreditation consists of meeting 63 mandatory standards and 458 non-mandatory standards to be fully accredited.

There are 62 mandatory standards and 467 non-mandatory standards. Wasco State Prison – Reception Center received accreditation from the American Correctional Association on August 17, 2014.

Recommendations:

- R1. In order to avoid the need to process a high number of new inmates after hours, closer communication and coordination with the transferring facility are needed. This would diminish and/or eliminate future temporary shortages of Reception Center bed space. (Finding 2)

The arrival busses from other institutions and at times, other agencies are hampered by unforeseen circumstances. The busses arrival time is subject to varying road conditions, road closures, accidents, vehicle breakdown, weather, etc., which can hamper their timely travel. Further, busses coming from significantly northern or southern institutions are geographically located a great distance from our institution preventing an earlier arrival. The shortage of bed space is hampered by the sending outside agencies decision to fill bus seats. We have to project institution populations and likely bus occupancy for the individual agencies the week prior and the morning of their arrival. This has been the safest and most consistent evaluator to ensure the closest measure to control our population and available bed space.

- R2. For the safety of Staff and inmates, recording cameras should be installed in the General Population dining area. Surveillance videos should be retained for a minimum of 30 days. (Finding 3)

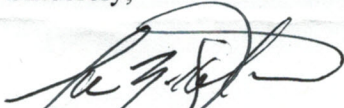
The department has considered installing cameras within dining halls and on exercise yards to assist staff during disturbances. The unfortunate cost of this equipment and the need to ensure statewide installation of a similar system has been prohibitive factors. Should the department find and supply such funding, we would gladly consider your recommendation for retaining the videos for 30 days.

- R3. The California Department of Public Health-Environmental Health survey was conducted September 23 – 27, 2013, and found numerous areas in need of attention of correction. Wasco State Prison's Environmental Corrective Plan was prepared with a response for each area of concern and submitted to the California Department of Public Health for review in October 2013. The proposed correction plan should be implemented as soon as possible to prevent any health issues or injuries to staff or inmates. (Finding 5)

Subject: 2013-2014 Kern Country Grand Jury Report
Page 4
September 4, 2014

The Environmental Health Audit Corrective Action Plan has addressed all of these issues brought forth from the survey. This document is our means of evaluating, addressing and repairing or changing our policies and/or practices to rectify these matters. Our institution has been proactive with these health related concerns and takes steps to correct them.

Sincerely,



JOHN N. KATAVICH
Warden

Wasco State Prison – Reception Center

JNK:tpg

c: Vimal J. Singh
Associate Director
Reception Centers Mission