



## **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 pursuant to penal code 919(b) 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.

Members: Donna Schaffel, Chairperson, Richard Frank, Scott Shaw, Dwayne Ardis

# **LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Reports:**

- City of McFarland, Female Community Re-entry Facility
- City of McFarland, Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility
- Kern County Sheriff Department – Lerdo
- Kern County Sheriff, Central Receiving
- California Correctional Institute – Tehachapi
- Bakersfield Police Department
- North Kern State Prison
- Wasco State Prison Reception Facility
- Taft Police Department
- Shafter Police Department
- Kern Valley State Prison
- City of Shafter Modified Community Correctional Facility
- Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility
- California City State Prison
- California City Police Department
- Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility
- Delano Police Department
- Kern County Probation Juvenile Treatment Center (Crossroads)
- JG Bowles Juvenile Hall
- Mojave Sub Station (Kern County Sheriff )
- Tehachapi Police Department

### **Other Visits:**

- Coroner's Office
- Crime Laboratory
- Kern County Sheriff Office – Bomb Squad Demonstration, K-9 Demonstration, Search and Rescue Air Support Unit Hanger Tour
- Kern County Sheriff Office – Search and Rescue Air Support Unit (Helicopter Tour-Kern River)
- NASA – Edwards Air Force Base

### **Complaints:**

15 Complaints investigated and closed

# **CALIFORNIA CITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On March 17, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the California City Correctional Facility (CCCF). The purpose of 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 CCCF Warden and two senior staff members. After a question and answer session, we were given a tour of the prison where we met with other staff members.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The CCCF is located at 22844 Virginia Boulevard in California City, CA. CCCF began operations as Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) in early 2010. CCA at California City housed inmates for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). On October 15, 2013, CCA entered into a lease for the 2,381 bed facility with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The facility has 10 housing units located on 70 acres of CCA owned land. Each housing unit is a two story building consisting of three pods, A, B and C. Pods A and C each contain 88 inmates while pod B contains 84.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. The CCCF is surrounded by two razor wired chain link fences and motion detectors, along with guard towers and towering light posts.
- F2. On the day of our visit, there were 1,874 male Level II general population inmates housed at CCCF.
- F3. Visitation is allowed on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 8:15 AM and 2:45 PM. Visitation is also allowed on five major holidays. All visitations are supervised.
- F4. The kitchen was found to be in pristine condition. The floors were clean, all cooking utensils were accounted for and even the copper pipes under the sinks were highly polished. The kitchen crew prepares about 5,700 meals per day from predetermined menus, in addition to kosher and religious meat alternatives. They are allocated \$3.50 per day to feed each inmate. Breakfast and dinner are served hot while lunch is served cold. Inmates are given 15 minutes to finish their meal. The inmates on the kitchen crews have developed a good working relationship with the Kitchen Supervisor and do a great job in food preparation.

- F5. All inmates are placed on a waiting list for full-time work, education, vocational, or substance abuse programs. However, there are not enough jobs to employ every inmate at this time.
- F6. Work incentive programs include:
- Food Services
  - Laundry
  - Support Warehouse
  - Instructional Aide
  - Janitorial Services
  - Recreation
  - Porters
- F7. There are volunteer programs available to the inmates which include:
- Alcoholics Anonymous
  - Narcotics Anonymous
  - Alternative to Violence Program
  - Inside Out Dads
  - Anger Management
  - Criminal Thinking
  - Substance Abuse Re-entry
  - Inmate Advisory Council
  - Veterans Group
- F8. Mental Health, Medical and Dental needs are managed via a triage method. Medical request slips are picked up daily and evaluated and inmates are seen within a 24 hour period. There is a \$5.00 co-pay for each new medical needs appointment. Chronic care requires a one-time co-pay. Doctors are available 40 hours per week and RNs are available 24/7.
- F9. Inmate appearance looked good. Clothing appeared to be in good shape and appropriate for the season.
- F10. There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. Outgoing mail to attorneys is inspected with inmate present, but not read.
- F11. Each pod has four telephones. All phone calls are made collect and are monitored. Inmates cannot receive phone calls. Telephones may be used between 8:30 AM and 8:45 PM. Inmates must sign up the night before for a time slot the next day. They cannot make phone calls during their assigned work hours.
- F12. CCCF staffing is 623. There are 383 custody personnel, 121 non-custody personnel and 119 health care professionals.



- F13. Inmates are subject to random drug testing for substance abuse. Inmates may not possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol, unauthorized drugs or narcotics. Possession of drug or narcotic related paraphernalia is also prohibited. If an inmate has prior drug disciplinary issues or is suspected of being under the influence of drugs, they can be tested at any time.
- F14. CCCF annual budget is \$64,785,176. The cost to house a single inmate is \$34,570.53 per year which includes medical.
- F15. Showers are allowed anytime between 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. except during inmate count and meals.
- F16. Each pod consists of a large day room with steel tables and four stationary stools. The perimeter of the room has two tiers of solid cell doors with a narrow window on each door. Two inmates per cell share a toilet in the cell. Cell dimensions are 7' 2" by 14'. Cell doors are locked for 8 1/4 hours at night. Shower stalls are located at one end of the day room. There are no lockers or shelves for inmates to use so container boxes are provided to store personal items in their cells.
- F17. Inmates are allowed to purchase and wear approved personal clothing but the prison laundry cannot be used to launder these items. Inmates must purchase laundry detergent and hand wash them themselves.
- F18. Staff and Corrections Officers coming on duty are not screened for drugs or cell phones per union agreement.
- F19. There are 263 video surveillance cameras throughout the facility. Video recordings are retained for 45 to 90 days.
- F20. Although the CCCF has no fire department, they do have a Fire Captain that oversees inspections and fire drills.
- F21. Some 6,000 California prisoners are still being held out of state. The costs to house each inmate out of state was unavailable.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with its visit to the CCCF facility along with the knowledge and insight provided by the Warden and staff we interviewed. The facility appears to be well run and in good condition.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends more work programs, vocational and educational classes to be provided. (Finding F5)
- R2. The Grand Jury recommends showers should be limited to help conserve water. (Finding F15)
- R3. The Grand Jury recommends the Department of Corrections negotiate with the Correctional Officer's union to allow screening for drug and cell phones. (Finding F18)

## **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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

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## **RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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

**DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS**  
CALIFORNIA CITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
22844 Virginia Boulevard  
P.O. Box 2626  
California City, CA 93504



August 18, 2016

The Honorable John Somers, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Honorable John Somers:

#### RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

California City Correctional Facility (CAC) is a State Prison and operates 24 hours, seven (7) days a week. CAC has three, eight hour shifts that Peace Officers (custody staff) work. First Watch is 10 pm to 6 am. Second Watch is 6 am to 2 pm. Third Watch is 2 pm to 10 pm. Administrators, some custody staff and support staff normally work 8 am to 4 pm.

CAC was visited by the Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) on March 7, 2016. The Grand Jury released a Final Report of their visit to CAC on May 2, 2016.

After reviewing the report and in compliance with § 933.05, Response to Findings (Excerpt), CAC agrees with finds F1 through F20, except for F18.

CAC disagrees with finding of F18 for the following reasons:

- All staff have their lunch bags, backpacks, briefcases and purses searched while entering and exiting CAC for all watches every day of the week.
- All peace officers up to and including the warden, are subject to random drug screening. The staff member is chosen by a computer generated process which derives from the Division of Adult Institutions Headquarters. The name of the chosen staff member is submitted to the Lieutenant of the Investigative Services Unit (ISU), who notifies the staff member and sends them out to be tested at a contracted testing site. This testing is conducted weekly.
- Monthly, CAC conducts enhanced searches of all staff entering the Institution for a particular watch. The enhanced search of the staff members requires the staff member to empty everything out of their pockets for searching, a visual search of their person, and again they are required to remove everything from their lunch bags, backpacks, purses and briefcases to be searched.
- If at any time a staff member is believed to be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance, the staff will then be subject to reasonable suspension review and testing.



- If at any time a staff member is discovered to be in possession of alcohol, controlled substance and/or drug paraphilia, the staff member would be subject to arrest and felony prosecution.

After reviewing the report and in compliance with § 933.05, Response to Recommendations, CAC responses are as follows:

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends more work programs, vocational and educational classes to be provided. (Findings F5)

The recommendation requires further analysis as CAC is very limited on space, thus limiting the number of work programs, vocational and educational classes to be provided. Since April 2016, CAC has increased the number of college classes being offered onsite by Cerro Coso College instructors. Currently, classes are being taught five days a week, from 3 pm to 5 pm, to approximately 90 inmate students. CAC in conjunction with the Office of Correctional Education is looking into offering classes during third watch. At this time there is no space to expand vocational classes without adding buildings or modular trailers. Further noted, expanding programs or education will require additional staffing for that program; which would be a state budgetary issue for funding the additional staff. CAC has been and is currently recruiting for volunteers to run Inmate Leisure Groups, Religious classes and teaching. CAC is currently running:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Anger Management
- Celebrate Recovery Inside
- Creating a Healing Society Program
- Criminal Thinking
- DEFY Ventures
- Inmate Community Services Program
- Inside Out Dads
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Recovery Group
- Veterans Support

- R2. The Grand Jury recommends showers should be limited to help conserve water.

The recommendation has been partially implemented in one of three facilities. A pilot program was implemented in facility B2 as follows:

POD	Shower Times
B2-A	1030 – 1300; 1330-1600; and 2000 – 2100 hours
B2-B	1030 - 1300; 1430-1600; and 2000 – 2100 hours
B2-c	1030 – 1300; 1400 – 1600; and 2000 – 2100 hours

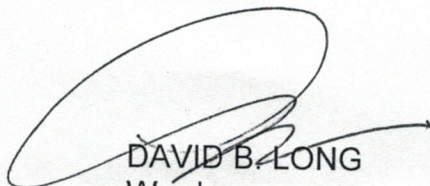
The remaining facilities will be aligned with facility B2 within 6 months from today.



- R3. The Grand Jury recommends the Department of Corrections negotiate with the Correctional Officer's union to allow screening for drugs and cell phones. The recommendation has been implemented.
- All staff have their lunch bags, backpacks, briefcases and purses searched while entering and exiting CAC for all watches, every day of the week.
- All peace officers up to and including the warden, are subject to random drug screening. The staff member is chosen by a computer generated process which derives from the Division of Adult Institutions Headquarters. The name of the chosen staff member is submitted to the Lieutenant of the Investigative Services Unit (ISU), who notifies the staff member and sends them out to be tested at a contracted testing site. This testing is conducted weekly.
- Monthly, CAC conducts enhanced searches of all staff entering the Institution for a particular watch. The enhanced search of the staff member requires the staff member to empty everything out of their pockets for searching, a visual search of their person, and again they are required to remove everything from their lunch bags, backpacks, purses and briefcases to be searched.
- If at any time a staff member is believed to be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, the staff member will then be subject to reasonable suspension review and testing.
- If at any time a staff member is discovered to be in possession of alcohol, a controlled substance and/or drug paraphilia, the staff member would be subject to arrest and felony prosecution.

If you have any questions, please contact PIO/AA (A) Rick Jones at (760) 246-7600, extension 7015.

Sincerely,



DAVID B. LONG  
Warden

California City Correctional Facility

cc: Richard Frank, Foreperson

# **CALIFORNIA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On March 17, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the California City 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 one of the California City Police Sergeants as the Police Chief was away on business. A question and answer session was held in the station break room followed by a brief tour of the Department where the Committee met with other staff and Law Enforcement Officers.

## **BACKGROUND/FACTS:**

- A. The Department is located at 21130 Hacienda Blvd. in California City, CA 93505.
- B. The staffing level of the Department is:
  - Police Chief
  - One Lieutenant
  - Four Sergeants
  - 13 Officers
  - Two Detectives
  - Two K-9 Officers
  - Six Dispatchers
  - One Records Supervisor
  - One Records Clerk
- C. The property room is well organized. The property room is managed using a Report Management System to track property and location of all evidence collected by the Department.
- D. All Department Officers wear body cameras.
- E. The Department has four holding cells, two for men, one for sobering, and one for women.
- F. The Department has their own 911 call center aided by computerized mapping and dispatch.



## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. In the Department's jail section, prisoners are held until they are transported to the Mojave Sheriff Substation or to the Kern County Central Receiving Facility. If prisoners are held longer than six hours, they are provided a meal from one of the local restaurants.
- F2. The Committee was given a demonstration of how the body camera videos were downloaded at the end of each shift by the supervising Officer to insure the recorded videos were not lost or compromised.
- F3. The 911 call center receives about 150 calls per day. All call center training is done in house. Medical and fire calls are forwarded to Hall Ambulance or the California City Fire Department for response.
- F4. The property room is staffed by a Level II reserve Officer and a Community Service Officer.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury would like to thank the California City Police Department for their courtesy and professionalism extended to us during our visit and tour.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

NONE

## **NOTES:**

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## **NO RESPONSE REQUIRED**

# **CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On October 22, 2015, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury visited the California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi (CCI) pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee members met with the CCI Assistant Warden and staff. An extensive tour was provided through various units in the facility.

## **BACKGROUND/FACTS:**

- A. CCI, located at 24900 Highway 202, Tehachapi, CA 93581, is the third oldest prison in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).
- B. CCI opened in 1933, housing only female inmates.
- C. In 1952, CCI sustained major damage from an earthquake. Due to this extreme damage, CCI was closed and the inmates were transferred to other institutions.
- D. CCI was rebuilt and reopened in 1954, housing only male inmates.
- E. The facility covers 1,650 acres and now encompasses 5 different facilities.
- F. CCI facilities (with population) are as follows:
  - Facility A – Level IV General Population Sensitive Needs Yard: 412 inmates
  - Facility B – Secure Housing Unit (SHU): 139 inmates
  - Facility C – Level III Sensitive Needs Yard: 910 inmates
  - Facility D - Level II Sensitive Needs Yard: 1,291 inmates
  - Facility E - Level I Sensitive Needs Yard: 606 inmates
  - Fire House: 5 inmates
  - Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU): 139 inmates
  - Medical Outpatient Housing Unit: 5 inmates
  - Off-site Community Hospital patients: 1 inmate
  - Total population: 3,795 inmates

G. Staffing levels are as follows:

- 929 Correctional Officer positions with 41 current vacancies
- 88 Correctional Sergeant positions with 0 current vacancies
- 32 Correctional Lieutenant positions with 2 current vacancies
- 671 non-custody (civilian) staff employees

H. In October 2013, CDCR had two agreements in place with Sun Edison for Solar plants. The first agreement was for a 1 megawatt (MW) system and the second was for a 4 MW expansion. CCI completed the 1 MW system and has completed the second phase with an additional 3 MW expansion. The system produces enough power that when operating at peak output, the facility requires almost no electricity from Southern California Edison. The site covers 37 acres located behind Facility D and E. The system will offset almost 221 million pounds of carbon dioxide over a 20 year period. All the power produced is used by the facility and they pay less for their power than they would pay the utility company.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. CCI is currently in the implementation phase to construct new Health Care Clinics at each facility, a stand-alone pharmacy and statewide medication distribution for facilities A, B and C.
- F2. The facility is currently tasked with housing Step 3 and Step 4 inmates and providing them with privileges and activities designated by the step down program. With each step completed, the inmates gain additional privileges and activities that they can participate in.
- F3. Facility C was converted from a Reception center to a Level III Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) in 2012. In 2013, CCI established a Prison Industries Authority (PIA) sewing operation as well as Vocational Electronics Program for the inmates to acquire skills/abilities to utilize once released from prison.
- F4. The prison is in compliance with the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PRIA) Standards effective July 2015, through staff training and inmate notification. However the state law, AB966, requires condoms be provided to inmates even though it is illegal for inmates to have sex.
- F5. CCI has also started additional self-help groups consisting of Going-Out by Going-In (GOGI) at Facility A (ASU) and Facility B (SHU). This has been beneficial to both inmates and custody.
- F6. The reduction in population from last year's count of 4,398 inmates is a result of several reasons such as: AB 109, Proposition 36, Proposition 47 and the Non-Violent Second Striker Work Group "F" eligible inmates.

- F7. Since the last Grand Jury inspection on October 30, 2014, CCI has had two suicides, 11 attempted suicides, zero other deaths and no escapes.
- F8. For general population inmates, exercise areas are provided outdoors and indoors until dark with no time limit. Tennis, basketball, and handball courts, a baseball field and horse shoes are available. Inmates in the SHU facilities are limited to 10 hours per week in an 8 foot by 10 foot fenced individual exercise module that is shared by only their cell mate.
- F9. General housing consists of open barrack style quarters with bunk beds that can house approximately 166 inmates. Inmate interaction is not restricted. SHU housing consists of individual two man cells that can house approximately 40 inmates per unit. SHU inmates are not allowed to interact with other inmates except for their cell mate. However, limited interaction is permitted while inmates are in their fenced personal exercise modules.
- F10. Various religious services are offered weekly with some offered daily. Clergy is available as needed.
- F11. Community volunteer programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and others are available.
- F12. Medical and mental health services are available 24/7 provided by 10 doctors, 46 Registered Nurses, 55 Licensed Vocational Nurses and 50 Certified Psychiatric Technicians. Doctors are available during normal office hours and are on call after hours.
- F13. Various vocational training classes are offered such as computer use, welding, auto mechanics, auto body and paint, air conditioning and heating, office services, plumbing, construction and others. Various general education courses are also available, all leading the inmate towards earning his GED. Typical class size is 27 students. On the day of our visit, there were approximately 216 inmates enrolled in classes. Classrooms were clean and there were adequate school supplies such as paper, pencils, pens and text books. CCI employs 35 to 40 teachers.
- F14. Work programs include warehouse and waste water plant operations. Tehachapi City used CCI inmate labor last year for a nominal fee, but declined using inmate labor this year.
- F15. Inmate discipline is enacted on an as needed basis and contingent upon the seriousness of the rules infraction. The inmate may receive a verbal counseling, a written counseling, an administrative rules violation report or a serious rules violation report. Discipline can include loss of certain privileges if found guilty of an administrative rules violation report or the loss of privileges and good time credits from 0 to 365 days for serious rules violation reports.

- F16. The most common type of grievances involve property transfers. When an inmate is transferred into the facility, their property may be lost/delayed or items are reported as missing.
- F17. Telephones are available to inmates and all calls are placed as collect calls. Calling cards are not used and all phone calls are monitored. Each inmate is limited to two 15 minute phone calls for a maximum of 30 minutes per day.
- F18. All inmates were well dressed and clean. Laundry is exchanged on a weekly basis. Showers are provided daily for 15 minutes. Showers are monitored while providing privacy below the waist.
- F19. Visitation is provided Saturday, Sunday and some holidays and is limited to one hour.
- F20. Inmates receive orientation during the first week of incarceration. They receive a copy of the rules and procedures and copies are available in the library.
- F21. The kitchen area was clean and well organized but in need of updating, painting and re-tiling the floors. Old ovens are in the process of being replaced. Inmates volunteer to work in the kitchen and receive mandatory weekly training. All inmates must have a medical clearance and review prior to being assigned to work in the kitchen. Implements are checked out with a chit system to account for all items used in the kitchen and are verified three times per shift.
- F22. Meals are served from steam tables in the kitchen and are eaten in a central cafeteria, except for the security housing units where food is served to their cell. Special meals and accommodations are provided for special dietary and religious needs. Inmates are allowed 30 minutes to eat their meals.
- F23. For an old facility, the interiors and exteriors are well kept, walls and floors are clean with no graffiti. Water saving devices have been installed throughout the facility. To conserve water, toilets are limited as to the number of times it can be flushed per day.
- F24. For maintenance items, the roof leaks have been patched, but the roadway still needs a lot of work to fill in recurring pot holes. The roads need to be resurfaced. There are holes in the ceiling in one of the SHU units but work was in progress fixing pipe leaks. The grounds were clean but the grass was brown due to the drought.
- F25. Weapons are stored in the armory. Corrections officers (COs) are provided with OC Pepper Spray and batons for inmate control, along with various personal protective equipment for handling illness and injuries. COs in the watch towers and SHU unit monitoring offices are armed with both lethal and non-lethal rifles.

- F26. Indigent inmates are provided with postage paid envelopes and paper. All inmates are aware that mail may be read, except for confidential correspondence with attorneys which are inspected for contraband.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Committee was impressed with its visit to the CCI facility along with the knowledge and insight provided to the Committee by those that conducted the facility tour.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. Recommend the kitchen updating, painting and floor re-tiling be completed as soon as possible or when funds become available. (Finding F21)
- R2. Recommend the main road into CCI (Hwy 202) be resurfaced first as it is used the most. Recommend other roads be patched or resurfaced as needed. Lack of roadway maintenance is a recurring budget problem and more efforts should be made to effect repairs as quickly as possible. (Finding F24)

## **NOTES:**

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## **RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: WESLIE BROWN  
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**



# **CITY OF SHAFTER MODIFIED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On March 3, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the City of Shafter Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF). 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 MCCF Chief of Corrections, the Captain representing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and several Shafter Correctional Officers. A question and answer session was held in the conference room followed by a tour of the prison.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The MCCF received their first inmates under the current contract on December 16, 2013, and this contract with CDC is set to expire on June 30, 2018. At the current location, the City of Shafter operated a Community Correctional Facility (CCF) under contract with the CDCR from January 1991 to November 2011. In the past, the CCF utilized outside work crews to assist other non-profit agencies (i.e. Cal Trans, California State University, Bakersfield) but with the current custody level of the inmates, they cannot provide that service any longer.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. The MCCF is surrounded by a two chain link fences with barbed wire, along with motion detection sensors and a Corrections Officer that patrols around the perimeter fence at various times of the day.
- F2. There are currently 628 Level I & II general population inmates housed at MCCF.
- F3. Visitation is allowed on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. All visitations are supervised. Because of space limitations, only 35 visitors are allowed at any one time.
- F4. The Food Service Department prepares approximately 1,900 meals per day from predetermined menus, in addition to kosher, religious meat alternative, vegetarian meal nourishment bags for diabetics, liquid nutrition supplements and therapeutic diets. The Food Service Department is allotted \$3.54 per day to feed each inmate. Lunch is served cold and breakfast and dinner are served hot.

- F5. All inmate clothing/bedding/linens are exchanged for clean laundry at least once a week.
- F6. All inmates are placed into an academic program based on skill assessments. Inmates will remain in their assigned program until promotion to the next class, graduation or parole. Classes available are:
- ESL (English as a Second Language)
  - ABE 1 (Adult Basic Education)
  - ABE 2
  - ABE 3
  - GED
  - Office Services and Related Technology
  - Building Maintenance
- F7. There are many volunteer programs available to the inmates which include:
- Pre-Release program
  - College Correspondence Classes offered by Palo Verde, Coastline and Lassen
  - AA
  - Celebrate Recovery
  - Conversational Spanish
  - Computer Learning Lab
  - College Club
  - WESTEC-PASSPORT
  - Anger Management
- F8. Mental Health, Medical and Dental needs are managed via a triage method. Medical request slips are picked up daily and evaluated and inmates are seen within a 24 hour period. There is a \$5.00 co-pay for each new medical needs appointment.
- F9. Inmate clothing appeared to be in good shape and appropriate for the season. Inmates without job assignments are limited to three showers per week to help conserve water. Inmates with job assignments are allowed to shower daily.
- F10. There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. All mail to and from attorneys is inspected with inmate present, but not read.
- F11. Each housing unit has three telephones. All phone calls are made collect. Inmates are not allowed to receive phone calls. Telephones are off limits between 12:00 AM to 6:00 AM.

- F12. Inmates are subject to random urinalysis for substance abuse. Inmates may not possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol, unauthorized drugs or narcotics. Possession of drug or narcotic related paraphernalia is also prohibited.
- F13. Total staffing is 90. There are 64 custody personnel, 18 non-custody personnel, 6 health care professionals, and 2 management personnel.
- F14. The annual operating budget for MCCF is \$14,515,306.
- F15. It was reported that there have been no attempted suicides or escapes.
- F16. Illegal drugs and cell phones are occasionally tossed over the perimeter fence. This is in part due to neighboring industry around the facility.
- F17. The Committee noticed there were no solar panels at the facility.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with its visit to the MCCF facility along with the knowledge and insight provided to the Committee by the Chief of Corrections, the CDCR Captain and staff interviewed. The facility appears to be well run, in good condition, and the staff enjoys working there.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends a Corrections Officer do a sweep of the exercise yard prior to inmates going into the yard to inspect for contraband that has been tossed over the fence. (Finding F15)
- R2. The MCCF should consider installing solar panels to help reduce their electrical usage. (Finding F17)

## **NOTES:**

The Shafter 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

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**RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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



August 9, 2016

## MODIFIED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The Honorable John Somers, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Honorable Judge Somers:

I must apologize for not submitting our response in a timely manner; I was confused on the process this year. In any case, the City of Shafter, Shafter Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF), appreciates the time and effort the jury members made in visiting our facility on March 3, 2016. Reviews and inquiries of this nature provide valuable information our staff can utilize in managing the operations of the MCCF.

Based on the report submitted by the jury members, I am providing the following responses:

- R1. Jury Recommendation: The Grand Jury recommends a Corrections Officer do a sweep of the exercise yard prior to inmates going into the yard to inspect for contraband that has been tossed over the fence. (Finding F15)

Shafter MCCF Response: Corrections Officers clear the yard (sweep for contraband) prior to each opening of the exercise yard. Further, while the yard is open and inmates are present, the yard corrections officers continually walk the yard to insure any introduction of contraband via the outer perimeter (tossed over the fence) is immediately detected and confiscated. Additionally, while the yard is open and inmates are present, there is a corrections officer posted on the roof which provides an additional "set of eyes" to detect the introduction of contraband on the yard. These directives are an essential part of the yard and roof corrections officers' post order.

- R2. Jury Recommendation: The MCCF should consider installing solar panels to help reduce their electrical usage. (Finding F17)

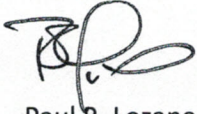
Shafter MCCF Response: Staff at the Shafter MCCF has done an analysis of adding solar to reduce electrical costs. What has been determined is the contract with CDCR expires June 30, 2018, and there is no assurance there will be a renewal. Therefore, the city would not be in a position to reap the return on investment from the installation of solar panels. If a longer contract with CDCR is secured, then a re-evaluation of an investment into solar panels can be completed. Until that time, it is not fiscally responsible to make an investment into solar power at the Shafter MCCF.



The Honorable John Somers, Presiding Judge  
August 9, 2016  
Page Two

Again, I apologize for not submitting the responses in a timely manner. I hope this information proves helpful and if you should have any questions and/or concerns, do not hesitate to call me at (661) 746-8900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Lozano', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul R. Lozano  
Chief of Corrections

cc: Scott Hurlbert  
Kern County Grand Jury, Foreperson



# **CITY OF TAFT MODIFIED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On March 10, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the City of Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF). The visit was to inquire into the operation and management of the Facility pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with the MCCF Facility Manager and several Taft Correctional Officers. A question and answer session was held in the Facility Manager's office followed by a tour of the prison.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The MCCF is located at 330 Commerce Way in Taft, CA adjacent to the Taft Police Department. MCCF began operations as a correctional facility in January 1991 with Level I inmates with less than 18 months left to serve. In November 2011, the facility was closed due to AB109. The facility re-opened in December 2013 as a Level II Special Needs Yard and a second security fence was installed. Since March 2014, the MCCF has housed prisoners with less than ten years to serve. Maximum inmate capacity is 616.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. The MCCF is surrounded by a two chain link fences with barbed wire, along with motion detection sensors. As with other MCCFs the Committee has visited, this fence does not prevent contraband from being tossed into the exercise yard.
- F2. There are currently 525 Level I & II general population inmates housed at MCCF.
- F3. Visitation is allowed on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM except when work or training is scheduled. All visitation is supervised.
- F4. Aramark is contracted by the City of Taft to prepare about 1,600 meals per day from predetermined menus, in addition to kosher, religious meat alternative, vegetarian meal nourishment bags for diabetics, liquid nutrition supplements and therapeutic diets. Aramark is allotted \$4.86 per day to feed each inmate. On weekdays, lunch is served cold and breakfast and dinner are served hot. On weekends, all three meals are served hot. Inmate kitchen crews are not rotated out as with other prisons. These inmates have developed a good working relationship with the Kitchen Supervisor and do a great job in food preparation. Inmates from

two dorms will dine at the same time in the chow hall and are given 20 minutes to finish the meal.

- F5. Each able-bodied inmate is assigned and participates in a full-time or combination full-time work, training or educational program six hours per day, five days per week while kitchen crews work 7.5 hours daily.
- F6. Work incentive programs include:
  - Food Services
  - Laundry
  - Maintenance
  - Instructional Aide
  - Janitorial Services
  - General Services (barber, shoe shine, clerical, library)
- F7. All qualified inmates are eligible for both academic and vocational training classes:
  - GED
  - Carpentry
  - Computer Applications
- F8. There are volunteer programs available to the inmates which include:
  - Alcoholics Anonymous
  - CSAP (Center for Substance Abuse Prevention)
  - Veterans Group
- F9. Mental Health, Medical and Dental needs are managed via a triage method. Medical request slips are picked up daily and evaluated and inmates are seen within a 24 hour period. There is a \$5.00 co-pay for each new medical needs appointment. A Doctor and LVN are available 40 hours per week and RNs are available 24/7. A Dentist is available two days per week.
- F10. Inmate appearance looked good. Clothing appeared to be in good shape and appropriate for the season.
- F11. There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. Outgoing mail to attorneys is inspected with inmate present, but not read.
- F12. Each housing unit has three telephones. All phone calls are made collect. Inmates cannot receive phone calls. Telephones may be used 24 hours a day and are limited to 10 minutes per call if someone else is waiting to use the phone.

- F13. Inmates are subject to random urinalysis for substance abuse and locker searches. Inmates may not possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol, unauthorized drugs or narcotics. Possession of drug or narcotic related paraphernalia is also prohibited.
- F14. Total staffing is 79. There are 57 custody personnel, 13 non-custody personnel and nine health care professionals.
- F15. The annual cost to house a single inmate is \$21,900.00 per year which includes medical.
- F16. It was reported that there have been no attempted suicides or escapes.
- F17. Inmate discipline ranges from verbal counseling to solitary confinement to criminal prosecution referral on felony charges.
- F18. Inmates are allowed to shower anytime between 6:00 A.M. to 1:00 A.M.
- F19. Chain link fence brackets and wire wraps are painted red to indicate missing hardware, except on the laundry room fence.
- F20. Inmates working in the laundry room are under direct supervision. The MCCF has two new dryers and three energy efficient washing machines. Inmate laundry is exchanged at least once a week.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with its visit to the Taft MCCF along with the knowledge and insight provided to the Committee by the Facility Manager and staff we interviewed. The facility appears to be well run and in good condition.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends one or two Corrections Officer do a sweep of the exercise yard to inspect for contraband that has been tossed over the fence prior to inmates entering the yard. (Finding F1)
- R2. The Grand Jury recommends inmates should be limited to specific days for showering to help with water conservation. (Finding F18)
- R3. It is recommended that the chain link fence brackets and wire wraps in the laundry room be painted red as they are on the exterior fence. (Finding F19)

## **NOTES:**

The Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility 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, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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





*Celebrating 100 Years  
1916 to 2016*

## *The Taft Police Department - MCCF*

*330 Commerce Way Taft CA. 93268  
661-765-2840 – Main 661-765-2850 – Fax  
Craig Jones – City Manager  
Ed Whiting – Chief of Police*

April 15, 2016

PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

CC: RICHARD FRANK, FOREPERSON  
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

Dear Mr. Frank,

Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility would like to thank you for your recent Grand Jury visit on March 10, 2016.

I have prepared responses to the recommendations given by the Grand Jury related to your recent tour.

**R1. The Grand Jury recommends one or two Corrections Officer do a sweep of the exercise yard to inspect for contraband that has been tossed over the fence prior to inmates entering the yard. (Finding F1)**

Two Correctional Officers are assigned to work the exercise yard when inmates are present on the exercise yard. Prior to opening the exercise yard Correctional Officers check the yard for contraband and check the fence line to assure that they are no cuts in the fence and the integrity of the fence is good condition. Searches are completed on the exercise yard by Correctional Officers when the exercise yard is closed for the night. Taft MCCF completes random perimeter checks on each shift. Taft MCCF prides itself on having no contraband entering the facility. The facility has been open for two years and we have remained free of cellphones and have had no positive random urinalysis test results.

**R2. The Grand Jury recommends inmates should be limited to specific days for showering to help with water conservation. (Finding F18)**

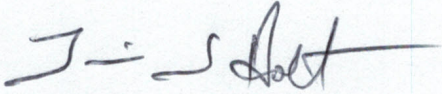
On December 8<sup>th</sup> 2015, memorandums were placed in each dormitory informing inmates that the State of California was experiencing severe water shortages. To meet the State wide goal of a 32 percent cut back all inmates must reduce their showers to less than 15 minutes.

**R3. It is recommended that the chain link fence brackets and wire wraps in the laundry room be painted red as they are on the exterior fence. (Finding F19)**



The fence ties and brackets on the outside of the perimeter fence are painted red to ensure that no fence ties or fence brackets are missing. The fence ties and brackets on the inside of the perimeter fence by the laundry room have been painted red to ensure that no fence ties or fence brackets are missing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tami Holt', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tami Holt  
Facility Manager

Cc; Craig Jones, City Manager  
Ed Whiting, Police Chief  
Yvette Mayfield, City Clerk



# **DELANO MODIFIED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On April 7, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility (DMCCF). The visit was to inquire into the operation and management of the Facility pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with the DMCCF Chief of Corrections and several City of Delano Correctional Officers. A question and answer session was held in the Chief's office followed by a tour of the prison.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The DMCCF is located at 2727 West Industry Way in Delano, CA. DMCCF began operations as a correctional facility in 1990 with Level I inmates. In 2009, the facility was closed due to AB109. In 2013, the facility re-opened as a Level II Special Needs Yard and a second security fence was installed. The DMCCF now houses prisoners with less than ten years to serve. Maximum inmate capacity is 578.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. The DMCCF is surrounded by two chain link fences with barbed wire, along with motion detection sensors.
- F2. There are currently 523 Level II general population inmates housed at DMCCF.
- F3. Visitation is allowed on Friday between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Saturday between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and Sunday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. as well as five major holidays except when work or training is scheduled. All visitations are supervised.
- F4. Trinity is contracted by the City of Delano to prepare about 1,600 meals per day from predetermined menus. Trinity is allotted \$4.20 per day to feed each inmate. Breakfast and dinner are served hot while lunch is served cold. Inmate kitchen crews work 8 hour shifts. Inmates are given 15 minutes to eat their meals.
- F5. Each able-bodied inmate is assigned and participates in a full-time or combination full-time work, training or educational program eight hours per day, five days per week.

- F6. Work incentive programs include:
- Food Services
  - Laundry
  - Maintenance
  - Instructional Aide
  - Porters
  - General Services (painting, clerical, library)
- F7. All inmates who qualify, currently 137, are eligible for both academic and vocational training classes:
- Adult Basic Education 1 and 2
  - GED
  - Computer Applications
  - Job Safety Certificate
  - Various College Correspondence programs
- F8. There are volunteer programs available to the inmates which include:
- AA
  - Music
  - Choir
  - Religious
- F9. Mental Health, Medical and Dental needs are managed via a triage method. Medical request slips are picked up daily and evaluated and inmates are seen within a 24 hour period. There is a \$5.00 co-pay for each new medical needs appointment. Inmates requiring extensive examination or treatment are transferred to another facility. Emergency services are provided contractually by local health care providers.
- F10. Inmate clothing appeared to be in good shape and appropriate for the season.
- F11. There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. Outgoing mail to attorneys is inspected with inmate present, but not read.
- F12. Each housing unit has four telephones. All phone calls are made collect. Inmates cannot receive phone calls. Telephones may be used 24 hours a day.
- F13. Inmates are subject to random urinalysis for substance abuse and locker searches. Inmates may not possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol, unauthorized drugs or narcotics. Possession of drugs or narcotics related paraphernalia is also prohibited.

- F14. Total staffing is 80. There are 62 custody personnel including supervisory and management personnel, seven non-custody personnel which includes education instructors and secretarial staff and 11 contracted health care professionals which include nine RNs and two LVNs and one contracted private physician.
- F15. The 2015-2016 operating budget is \$9.5 million which includes medical services. The operating budget for 2016-2017 is expected to be \$11.5 million.
- F16. An area is provided for storing and distributing canteen items to inmates. A wide variety of food and notions are available for purchase using funds from the inmate's personal account. Quite often inmates will buy food and eat it back at their housing area instead of eating the prepared food from the kitchen.
- F17. Inmate discipline ranges from verbal counseling to solitary confinement to criminal prosecution referrals on felony charges.
- F18. Inmates are allowed to shower anytime with no time limitation.
- F19. Inmates working in the laundry room are under direct supervision. The DMCCF has two dryers and three washing machines. Inmate laundry is exchanged at least once a week.
- F20. One kitchen sink faucet had a constant water leak and puddles of water were found on the kitchen floor and storage unit with no "Wet Floor" warning signs present.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with its visit to the Delano MCCF along with the knowledge and insight provided to the Committee by the Chief of Corrections and staff we interviewed. The facility appears to be well run and in good condition.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends the kitchen staff be more diligent about mopping up standing water on the floors and storage areas and placing warning signs nearby until standing water is cleaned up. A dripping water faucet in the kitchen should be repaired as soon as possible. (Finding F20)
- R2. Suggest inmates be limited to three or four days per week for showers to help conserve water. (Finding F18)

## **NOTES:**

The Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility 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, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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



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1015 ELEVENTH AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 3010

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DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93216-3010

(661) 721-3300  
(661) 721-3317 TDD  
[www.cityofdelano.org](http://www.cityofdelano.org)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ricardo G. Chavez  
MAYOR

Ruben "Ruby" Hill  
MAYOR PRO TEM

Rueben Pascual  
Liz Morris  
Grace Vallejo

---

Maribel G. Reyna  
CITY MANAGER

September 21, 2016

The Honorable John Somers, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Honorable John Somers, Presiding Judge:

The Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility apologizes for the late response to the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury Final Report.

In response to the recommendations presented by the Kern County Grand Jury in the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury Final Report, the following procedures have been implemented.

R1. The Grand Jury recommends the kitchen staff be more diligent about mopping up standing water on the floors and storage areas and placing warning signs nearby until standing water is cleaned up. A dripping water faucet in the kitchen should be repaired as soon as possible.

The dripping water faucet in the kitchen has been repaired. It is the policy of the Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility to maintain a safe and healthy work environment. The Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility has instituted The Injury and Illness Prevention Program, which established a framework for identifying and correcting workplace hazards. This includes communicating the importance of workplace health and safety to all employees, ensuring regular workplace inspections and encouraging prompt employee reporting of health and safety concerns.

R2. Suggest inmates be limited to three or four days per week for showers to help conserve water.

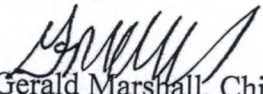
The Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility abides by inmate showering guidelines established by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. These guidelines allow the inmate population unlimited access to shower.

CITY OF DELANO



The Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility stopped watering the grass at the facility on September 21, 2015. The facility is in the process of replacing all interior and exterior areas with rock to conserve water.

Respectfully,

  
Gerald Marshall, Chief of Corrections  
Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility

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



# **DELANO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On April 7, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Delano Police Department (Department). The purpose of 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 Delano Police Chief, three Commanders, one Sergeant, one Detective and one Officer. An extensive tour of the new Department building with the Police Chief and several senior staff Officers was conducted. At the end of the tour, a question and answer session was held in the Department's conference room.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Delano Police Department was established May 10, 1910 when Yancy B. Stokes was named City Marshall. In 1920, the first Police Officer was titled a Motorcycle Speed Officer and his pay was \$7.70 per day. In 1927, the first Police Chief was named. In 1929, some modern comforts were brought into the Delano City Jail when heat was installed. By 1965, the Department had grown to 26 Officers. Today, the Delano Police Department staff has grown to approximately 76 Officers and staff with 29 patrol vehicles, a mobile command post, an armored critical response vehicle, three motorcycles, several detective vehicles and two animal control vehicles.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. The Department is located at 2330 High Street in Delano, CA 93215. The new 48,000 square foot facility was built in 2013 with enough room to accommodate growth over the next 20+ years. The facility is well designed with modern energy efficient features throughout.
- F2. The staffing level for the Department is:
  - One Police Chief
  - Three Commanders
  - Five Sergeants
  - Eight Corporals
  - 31 Officers
  - 28 various office management and staff members
- F3. The Department has a small gym with all the usual equipment which was paid for by the Delano Police Officers' Association.

- F4. The property room is well organized and is managed using a Report Management System to track property and location of all evidence collected by the Department. Normally, only the property room clerk has access to the property room. In times of emergency, the Chief can access the room with a key that is locked and sealed in a secured container.
- F5. The Department has five interview rooms with audio and video surveillance recording capabilities. Recordings are retained in accordance with legal retention policies.
- F6. The Department has their own 911 call center and handles approximately 100 to 150 calls for service per day. Call center training is done through outside accredited institutions.
- F7. The Department has two holding areas. Typically, juvenile and adults are held less than four hours before being transferred to Juvenile Hall or to the Kern County Central Receiving Facility.
- F8. Field Officers and Call Center personnel work 12 hour shifts while Command Officers and School Resource Officers work eight hour shifts.
- F9. The Chief is responsible for issuing CCW permits to the residents of Delano.
- F10. Body cameras are not used due to union contract agreements; however the Chief is currently working with the union on that. The Department's goal is to obtain a grant to purchase the body cameras and all related equipment to meet current legal retention requirements.
- F11. When asked about training, the Committee was informed that training budgets are strained due to cuts. The Department respects the budget constraints and is working hard to insure maximum efficiency in using all training funds in the best cost-effective way possible.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Police Chief and his staff for the courtesy and professionalism they extended to us during the visit and tour. The Grand Jury would also like to commend the Delano City Council for their decision to provide the Delano Police Department with a new building that allows for future growth. Keep up the good work.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends the Delano City Council and Police Chief renegotiate with the Police Union contract to require Field Officers wear body cameras. This could provide legal protection for both the Field Officer and the City of Delano. (Finding F10)

- R2. The Grand Jury recommends the Delano City Council institute a Training Trust Fund to better facilitate Police training needs. This could help reduce the city's annual budget by funding Police training from the Trust. Then as any training grants or reimbursements come in, those funds would be directed back into the Training Trust Fund. (Finding F11)

## **NOTES:**

The Delano Police Department and Delano City Council 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, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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





CITY HALL  
1015 ELEVENTH AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 8010  
DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93216-3010

(661) 721-8800  
(661) 721-3312 Fax (City Manager)  
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[www.cityofdelano.org](http://www.cityofdelano.org)

(661) 721-3317 TDD

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MAYOR PRO TEM

Grace Vallejo  
Ruben Pasqual  
Liz Morris

CITY MANAGER  
MARIBEL G. REYNA

May 18, 2016

Honorable John Somers  
Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Judge Somers,

We are writing today to provide our response to the recommendations made by the Committee that are contained within their correspondence dated April 11, 2016.

**Recommendation R1.**

The Grand Jury recommends the Delano City Council and Police Chief renegotiate with the Police Union contract to require Field Officers wear body cameras. This could provide legal protection for both the Field Officer and the City of Delano. (Finding F10).

**Response:**

Staff will take this recommendation under advisement.

**Recommendation R2.**

The Grand Jury recommends the Delano City Council institute a Training Trust Fund to better facilitate Police training needs. This could help reduce the city's annual budget by funding Police training from the Trust. Then as any training grants or reimbursements come in, those funds would be directed back into the Training Trust Fund. (Finding 11).

CITY OF DELANO

**Response:**

Staff will take this recommendation under advisement.

Very respectfully submitted,

*for*  
*Mark P. DeRosia*

Maribel Reyna  
CITY MANAGER

*Mark P. DeRosia*

Mark P. DeRosia  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Cc: Richard Frank, Foreperson, Kern County Grand Jury

# **JAMES G. BOWLES JUVENILE HALL FACILITY**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On April 21, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall Facility (JHF). The visit was to inquire into the operation and management of the Facility pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with the Deputy Chief of Institutions, the JHF Director and Assistant Director. A question and answer session was held in the Facility conference room followed by a brief tour where the Committee met with other staff members and Juvenile Corrections Officers.

## **BACKGROUND/FACTS:**

- A. JHF is located at 1831 Ridge Road in Bakersfield, CA 93305. The Facility was built in the 1950s and is in relatively good shape for its age.
- B. The Facility consists of three units, along with two additional housing commitment programs. Maximum capacity is 128 male and female youth in Juvenile Hall, 23 females in the Pathways Academy and 30 “high risk” males in the Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation program.
- C. For Fiscal Year 2015, there were 2,199 Juvenile bookings. The average daily Juvenile Hall population was about 91 youth, with the average length of stay being approximately 21 days. Of those detained, 510 were for crimes against persons, 671 for property crimes, 162 for drug/alcohol and 466 for probation violations. The rest comprised of court remands, warrants and other offenses.
- D. Colored shirts are worn by the youth to distinguish their security level within the Facility.
- E. By law, youth detained in Juvenile Hall must have academic and physical education programs.
- F. JHF has a “no tolerance policy” for gang activity. All youth are housed together; there is no separation by gang affiliation.
- G. The facility maintains a 1 to 10 ratio of staff to youth. There are 106 staff positions, with 103 filled at present with 30 “extra help” available on an “as needed” basis.

- H. Two RNs are on duty seven days a week, 12 ½ hours per day. A Nurse Practitioner and a supervisor are on duty Monday through Friday as well as Mental Health Services. After hour crisis services are available through Wraparound, operated by Kern County Mental Health.
- I. Some meals are prepared by the Crossroads Facility and transported daily to Juvenile Hall for distribution to the housing units at meal time. Youth working in the kitchen can earn a Serve Safe Certificate to help them gain employment once released.
- J. JHF partners with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Youth attend 270 minutes of classroom instruction per day and academic programming is designed to meet individual academic needs.
- K. Social Awareness Programs are designed to promote social awareness and reduce recidivism.
- L. The JHF budget for 2015 was 13.2 million dollars.
- M. While awaiting a court date or disposition, some youth have stayed up to two years.
- N. Video cameras monitor classrooms and some outside areas. Recordings are retained for 30 days.
- O. Other than the initial visit that is allowed when the youth is booked into Juvenile Hall, visitation is only allowed for two hours on Sundays and five major holidays.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. On the day of the Grand Jury visit, there were 59 male and 19 female youth housed at Juvenile Hall, 20 females at Pathways Academy and 28 males at the Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation program.
- F2. It costs the County \$299.78 per month to house each youth. Parents/guardians are charged up to \$870.00 per month according to their ability to pay.
- F3. More video surveillance equipment is needed to provide security and safety for all youth and staff throughout the Facility.
- F4. The Pathways Academy recidivism rate for 2015 was 53%. The recidivism rate for Juvenile Hall is not tracked.
- F5. Employee parking is not secured, thus vehicle vandalism has occurred over the years.
- F6. A proposal has been submitted that food preparation should be done at JHF to eliminate the daily transportation of prepared foods from the Crossroads facility.



- F7. The youth working in the kitchen were observed cleaning the floors and washing dishes. The youth wore hair nets while the adult staff preparing the food did not. This oversight was corrected at the time it was noted.
- F8. Most of the youth rooms were in good condition, but some rooms needed additional work because the youth have picked at the paint causing the paint to chip. The room floors had paint drips all over showing lack of preparation before painting.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Kern County Probation Department and the James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall Facility staff for their courtesy and professionalism extended to us during our visit and tour.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends additional video cameras be installed around the Facility to increase security for the youth and staff. (Finding F3)
- R2. The employee parking area should be secured to prevent vandalism. (Finding F5)
- R3. Each new occupant should inspect and document their room's condition. The occupant should then be held accountable for any damages. (Finding F8)

## **NOTES:**

The Kern County Probation Department and the James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury).

**RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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

Kern County Board of Supervisors  
Response to Grand Jury Final Report  
James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall Facility

Response to Findings:

The Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct with the exception of finding F2, which should state it costs the County \$299.78 per *day* (not per month) to house each youth.

Response to Recommendations:

*R1: The Grand Jury recommends additional video cameras be installed around the Facility to increase security for the youth and staff.*

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to install additional video cameras throughout the Facility to increase security for youth and staff. A Capital Project request is currently on file to address this need. Recently, vendors have been contacted to obtain an updated assessment using more current technology and to provide a more accurate estimate of the cost to complete this project.

*R2: The employee parking area should be secured to prevent vandalism.*

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to provide secure parking for employees to prevent vandalism. The maintenance project, which is near completion, will allow employees a choice to park on the west field of the institution's secured parking. This maintenance project is the first phase in securing a permanent asphalt parking area with adequate lighting and safety features for all Juvenile Hall staff within the secure perimeter of the institution.

*R3: Each new occupant should inspect and document their room's condition. The occupant should then be held accountable for any damages.*

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to ensure each new occupant inspect and document their room's condition. The occupant should be held accountable for any damages. The Juvenile Hall Youth Handbook clearly outlines it is the youth's responsibility to inform staff of any marks or graffiti when assigned a room. Youth who mark, deface, or destroy any property are held responsible either with administrative discipline or criminal action depending on the magnitude of damage.

# **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

## **Central Receiving Facility**

### **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On August 13, 2015, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (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 of the facility was provided.

### **BACKGROUND AND/OR 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 141 incarcerated on the day of the visit (103 male and 38 female).
- 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.

### **FINDINGS:**

- F1. As reported in earlier Grand Jury reports, the replacement of the antiquated gate control panel is still on hold due to lack of funding.
- F2. The Lieutenant reported that one estimate of \$140,000 to \$180,000 had been obtained for replacing the gate control panel from a company located out of state.
- F3. Video surveillance systems are now in use and recorded video feeds are retained for 25 months.



- F4. The electronic field arrest data system is now operational.
- F5. As reported by the CRF Lieutenant, the Sheriff's Office is saving about \$200,000 per year in overtime pay by using ankle monitors to monitor detainee location when transported to Kern Medical Center (KMC) for treatment versus having a deputy remain.
- F6. The new booking procedure and the electronic field arrest data form is now in use. This provides a paperless booking process and expedites the booking procedure.
- F7. There are currently 53 Sheriff's Deputies and five civilian Sheriff's Support Personnel employed over four 12-hour shifts. This averages four female and twelve male deputies per shift handling daily operations and bookings of 80 to 110 arrestees per day.
- F8. Two locks were replaced with funds from AB109 in February 2015.
- F9. The hospital staffing remained unchanged due to the uncertainty of available space at KMC.
- F10. The pre-trial release program, despite some minor glitches, has been overall successful.
- F11. Inmates are allowed two 30 minute visits per week not including legal consultation visits.
- F12. All mandated local inspections of the facility have been conducted and passed within the last year.
- F13. Medical evaluation via video conferencing is being developed. This could reduce the need to transport detainees to KMC for medical evaluation.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Law and Justice Committee was impressed with its visit to the CRF. The Grand Jury wants to thank and commend the CRF personnel for their professionalism and knowledge displayed during the visit. We would also like to commend the CRF staff for their cost saving efforts utilizing ankle monitors for detainees needing medical attention at KMC and successfully implementing the new electronic field arrest data system.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The gate control panel should be replaced as soon as funds become available. The Grand Jury recommends researching various grant and other funding sources for this purpose. (Finding 1)
- R2. The Grand Jury recommends the Sheriff's Office seek bids from local automation control companies to replace the gate control panel as only one estimate has been obtained at this time. (Finding 2)

## **NOTES:**

- The Kern County Sheriff'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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.
- Note: 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury).

## **RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 60 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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



SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
COUNTY OF KERN

Telephone (661) 391-7500



1350 Norris Road  
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

January 6, 2016

The Honorable John S. Somers, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

On August 13, 2015, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2015–2016 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 December 4, 2015.

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

**GRAND JURY FINDINGS:**

- F1. As reported in earlier Grand Jury reports, the replacement of the antiquated gate control panel is still on hold due to lack of funding.*
- F2. The Lieutenant reported that one estimate of \$140,000 to \$180,000 had been obtained for replacing the gate control panel from a company located out of state.*
- F3. Video surveillance systems are now in use and recorded video feeds are retained for 25 months.*
- F4. The electronic field arrest data system is now operational.*
- F5. As reported by the CRF Lieutenant, the Sheriff's Office is saving about \$200,000 per year in overtime pay by using ankle monitors to monitor detainee location when transported to Kern Medical Center (KMC) for treatment versus having a deputy remain.*



- F6. The new booking procedure and the electronic field arrest data form is now in use. This provides a paperless booking process and expedites the booking procedure.*
- F7. There are currently 53 Sheriff's Deputies and five civilian Sheriff's Support Personnel employed over four 12-hour shifts. This averages four female and twelve male deputies per shift handling daily operations and bookings of 80 to 110 arrestees per day.*
- F8. Two locks were replaced with funds from AB109 in February 2015.*
- F9. The hospital staffing remained unchanged due to the uncertainty of available space at KMC.*
- F10. The pre-trial release program, despite some minor glitches, has been overall successful.*
- F11. Inmates are allowed two 30 minute visits per week not including legal consultation visits.*
- F12. All mandated local inspections of the facility have been conducted and passed within the last year.*
- F13. Medical evaluation via video conferencing is being developed. This could reduce the need to transfer detainees to KMC for medical evaluation.*

#### **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:**

The Sheriff's Office concurs with findings F3, F4, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, and F13.

The Sheriff's Office agrees that the findings for F1 and F2 were accurate at the time of the site visit. However, following the Grand Jury's visit, the Sheriff's Office was able to work with the Kern County General Services Division to secure funding and begin the replacement project for the CRF control panel.

- F5. The Sheriff's Office agrees in part with the finding. Based on the most current accounting figures, the Sheriff's Office is projected to save approximately \$147,000 for 2015.*

#### **GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The gate control panel should be replaced as soon as funds become available. The Grand Jury recommends researching various grant and other funding sources for this purpose.*



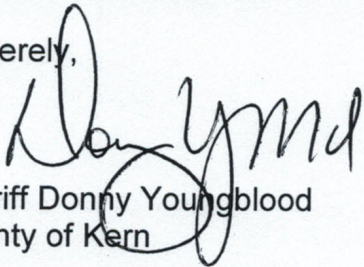
- R2. *The Grand Jury recommends the Sheriff's Office seek bids from local automation control companies to replace the gate control panel as only one estimate has been obtained at this time.*

**KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance of replacing antiquated and unserviceable equipment. The Sheriff's Office has worked with the Kern County General Services Division to secure funding and has begun the replacement project for the CRF control panel.
- R2. The Sheriff's Office is currently working with the Kern County General Services Division to complete the bidding process for the appropriate contractors for replacing the CRF control panel for the gate system.

The Sheriff's Office sincerely thanks the Grand Jury's Law and Justice Committee for taking the time to visit the Central Receiving Facility and providing their valuable 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 Curtis Cornelison  
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler  
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann  
Clerk of the Board  
Kern County Grand Jury Foreman  
Assistant CAO Teresa Hitchcock



Kern County Board of Supervisors  
Response to Grand Jury Final Report  
Kern County Sheriff's Office Central Receiving Facility

Response to Findings:

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

Response to Recommendations:

*R1: The gate control panel should be replaced as soon as funds become available. The Grand Jury recommends researching various grant and other funding sources for this purpose.*

We concur with the Sheriff's response recognizing the importance of securing funding to replace antiquated and unserviceable equipment including the gate control panel.

*R2: The Grand Jury recommends the Sheriff's Office seek bids from local automation control companies to replace the gate control panel as only one estimate has been obtained at this time.*

We concur with the Sheriff's response to appropriately follow the bidding process to receive additional contractor's bids to replace the gate control panel.

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

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On September 17, 2015, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff's Office Lerdo Facility (Lerdo) pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b). Lerdo houses sentenced and un-sentenced inmates at its three Type II facilities; Pre-Trial, Minimum and Maximum-Medium Facility (Max-Med).

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee members met with the Lerdo facility Commander, several Lieutenants and Sergeants. An extensive tour was provided throughout the facility. Upon transitioning to each detention facility, a Lieutenant and a Sergeant from that facility directed our tour and answered our questions.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Lerdo Facility is the largest detention facility operated by the Kern County Sheriff's Office.

On the day of our visit:

- The Pre-Trial facility housed 1,195 inmates both male and female with a maximum capacity of 1,344
- The Max-Med Facility housed 346 inmates with a maximum capacity of 408
- The Minimum Facility housed 562 with a maximum capacity of 792

In addition to providing housing for County inmates, the Kern County Sheriff's Office is under contract with Federal agencies to temporarily house their inmates during court procedures. Once their trials are completed, they are moved to one of the Federal prisons. These inmates are predominantly housed at the Max-Med and Pre-Trial facility.

The facility has medical staff on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition, psychiatric staff is available 7 days a week from 7 am to 5 pm.

The Max-Med is the second oldest jail in the Kern County Sheriff's Office jail system and generally holds pre-sentenced and sentenced inmates.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. Facility maintenance is handled by one Maintenance Supervisor, five specialty positions, seven general maintenance workers and two Detention Deputies. There are currently two open specialty positions and one general maintenance position.

- F2. In an effort to conserve water, most standard water faucets have been replaced with water saving faucets.
- F3. The Committee found a mixture of old and new housing units at the Minimum facility. Older female housing units contain 31 inmates. Older male housing units contain 42 inmates. The newer housing units contain 120 inmates (60 on each side). Older housing units are in poor condition and in need of replacement or renovation.
- F4. There is a high turnover rate among Detention Deputies. Detention Deputies tend to stay a few years to gain experience and then leave for positions at other facilities due to better salaries and benefits.
- F5. Some military veteran inmates are voluntarily housed together in special housing units separate from the general population and are provided with special services to address issues like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The number of veteran inmates in this program averages 22.
- F6. One hot meal and two cold meals are provided each day.
- F7. Phones are available at each dorm for inmates to make collect phone calls during specified times of the day. Phone use is allowed from 4 am to 10 pm on week days and 4 am to 11 pm on weekends. Pre-paid phone cards can be purchased by inmates.
- F8. Educational classes are offered throughout the day that includes GED instruction, substance abuse, anger management, computer classes, food preparation and food service, as well as vocational training such as auto body repair.
- F9. At least three hours of exercise time per week is provided for County inmates but Federal inmates are allowed five hours per week per Federal contractual agreement.
- F10. Inmate work programs include cleaning state highways and waste management, as well as kitchen and laundry crews.
- F11. Inmate disciplinary actions range from privileges being denied to disciplinary segregation depending on the offence.
- F12. Prior to AB109, inmates were sentenced to County jail for one year or less. Since the passage of AB109, the average sentence in County jail is now seven to eight years with one inmate currently serving 18 years.
- F13. The Lerdo facility also houses inmates under a Federal contract for \$109.00 per inmate per day.



- F14. Male and female inmates are able to earn a Serve Safe Certificate by working in the officers' mess or main kitchen.
- F15. New video cameras were installed within the last year at the men's minimum security facility to monitor activities. The Committee found two cameras not working. Problems continue to persist even though service personnel have recently replaced the cameras.
- F16. The Lerdo facility is currently awaiting a certified independent audit to show it has met the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Lerdo staff has worked very hard to meet these requirements and to be among the first in the state to do so.
- F17. Complaints and grievances are recorded and sent through a review system to resolve the issues.
- F18. The most common complaints or grievances are about food and medical services.
- F19. Rules and procedures are posted in the facility and are explained in a video orientation upon arrival.
- F20. Weed control is lacking throughout the facility due to understaffing.
- F21. Two chaplains are available along with various non-denominational services held throughout the week.
- F22. Seven clinic cells at pre-Trial and eight clinic cells at Max-Med are set aside for suicide watch. About 70% of Lerdo inmates have some mental issues.
- F23. There are currently 34 vacant Detention Deputy positions, three vacant Detention Senior Deputy positions, two vacant Detention Sergeant positions and one vacant Detention Lieutenant position.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Committee was impressed with its visit to the Kern County Sheriff's Office Lerdo facility along with the knowledge and insight provided to the Committee by those that conducted the facility tour.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The County should increase the Sheriff's department budget to allow more maintenance personnel to be hired to maintain the facility. (Finding 1)
- R2. Qualified personnel should conduct more in-depth trouble shooting to resolve the video camera issues (perhaps contact the manufacturer's technical representatives). (Finding 15)

R3. A weed control program should be instituted. (Finding 20)

**NOTES:**

The Kern County Sheriff'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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

Note: 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury).

**RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 60 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: WESLIE BROWN  
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**





1350 Norris Road  
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

December 11, 2015

The Honorable John S. Somers, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA. 93301

On November 12, 2015, the Law and Justice Committee of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury published the County of Kern 2015-2016 Grand Jury Final Report: Kern County Sheriff's Office Lerdo Facility.

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

#### **GRAND JURY FINDINGS:**

*F1. Facility maintenance is handled by one Maintenance Supervisor, five specialty positions, seven general maintenance workers and two Detentions Deputies. There are currently two open specialty positions and one general maintenance positions.*

*F2. In an effort to conserve water, most standard water faucets have been replaced with water saving faucets.*

*F3. The Committee found a mixture of old and new housing units at the Minimum facility. Older female housing units contain 31 inmates. Older male housing units contain 42 inmates. The newer housing units contain 120 inmates (60 on each side). Older housing units are in poor condition and in need of replacement or renovation.*

*F4. There is a high turnover rate among Detentions Deputies. Detentions Deputies tend to stay a few years to gain experience and then leave for positions at other facilities due to better salaries and benefits.*

*F5. Some military veteran inmates are voluntarily housed together in special housing units separate from the general population and are provided with special services to*



*address issues like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The number of veteran inmates in the program averages 22.*

*F6. One hot meal and two cold meals are provided each day.*

*F7. Phones are available at each dorm for inmates to make collect phone calls during specified times of the day. Phone use is allowed from 4 am to 10 pm on week days and 4 am to 11 pm on weekends. Pre-paid phone cards can be purchased by inmates.*

*F8. Educational classes are offered throughout the day that includes GED instruction, substance abuse, anger management, computer classes, food preparation and food service, as well as vocational training such as auto body repair.*

*F9. At least three hours of exercise time per week is provided for County inmates but Federal inmates are allowed five hours per week per Federal contractual agreements.*

*F10. Inmate work programs include cleaning state highways and waste management, as well as kitchen and laundry crews.*

*F11. Inmate disciplinary actions range from privileges being denied to disciplinary segregation depending on the offence.*

*F12. Prior to AB 109, inmates were sentenced to County jail for one year or less. Since the passage of AB 109, the average sentence in County jail is now seven to eight years with one inmate currently serving 18 years.*

*F13. The Lerdo facility also houses inmates under a Federal contract for \$109.00 per inmate per day.*

*F14. Male and female inmates are able to earn a Serve Safe Certificate by working in the officers' mess or main kitchen.*

*F15. New video cameras were installed within the last year at the men's minimum security facility to monitor activities. The Committee found two cameras not working. Problems continue to persist even though service personnel have recently replaced the cameras.*

*F16. The Lerdo facility is currently awaiting a certified independent audit to show it has met the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Lerdo staff has worked very hard to meet these requirements and to be among the first in the state to do so.*

*F17. Complaints and grievances are recorded and sent through a review system to resolve the issue.*

*F18. The most common complaints or grievances are about food and medical services.*



*F19. Rules and procedures are posted in the facility and are explained in a video orientation upon arrival.*

*F20. Weed control is lacking throughout the facility due to understaffing.*

*F21. Two chaplains are available along with various non-denominational services held throughout the week.*

*F22. Seven clinic cells at Pre-Trial and eight clinic cells at Max-Med are set aside for suicide watch. About 70% of Lerdo inmates have some mental issues.*

*F23. There are currently 34 vacant Detentions Deputy positions, three vacant Detentions Senior Deputy positions, two vacant Detentions Sergeant positions and one vacant Detentions Lieutenant position.*

#### **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:**

The Kern County Sheriff's Office concurs with findings F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F8, F9, F10, F11, F13, F14, F17, F19, F20 and F22.

F1. The Sheriff's Office agrees in part with the finding. Facility maintenance is currently handled by one Structural Maintenance Superintendent, seven specialty positions, eight general maintenance positions and two Detentions Deputies. Of that number, there are currently two open specialty positions and two open general maintenance positions.

F7. The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding; however, phone hours may vary by facility.

F12. The Sheriff's Office agrees in part with the finding. While it is now common for inmates to receive multi-year sentences, per the Classification Unit, the current average jail sentence is 276 days and the longest local sentence to date is 15.6 years.

F15. The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding; however, the problems have been resolved and at this time the camera issues at the Male Minimum Facility have been resolved and all cameras are functioning properly.

F16. The Sheriff's Office agrees in part with the finding. The Sheriff's Office was notified in September 2015, that we are 100% compliant with PREA requirements.

F18. The Sheriff's Office agrees in part with the finding. In general, the most common complaints are regarding medical care, mental health medication and food/special diets.

F21. The Sheriff's Office agrees in part with the finding. A chaplain's assistant position was added during the 14-15 fiscal year, bringing total chaplaincy staffing to three.



F23. The Sheriff's Office agrees that this finding was accurate at the time of the site visit. However, vacancy rates are fluid, and as of this date, there are 19 Detentions Deputy vacancies with an additional 20 Detentions Deputy vacancies being filled by students in the Corrections Officer Core Academy, two Detentions Senior Deputy vacancies, zero vacant Detentions Sergeant positions and zero vacant Detentions Lieutenant positions.

#### **GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*R1. The County should increase the Sheriff's department budget to allow more maintenance personnel to be hired to maintain the facility. (Finding 1).*

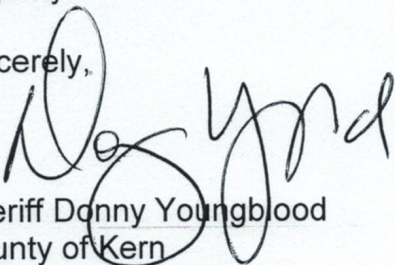
*R2. Qualified personnel should conduct more in-depth trouble shooting to resolve the video camera issues (perhaps contact the manufacturer's technical representatives). (Finding 15)*

#### **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:**

R1. While the Sheriff's Office would welcome additional funding to allow more maintenance personnel to be hired, we recognize the extremely difficult budgetary times the County is currently experiencing. However, the Sheriff's Office also recognizes the need to ensure the efficient and effective maintenance of our jail facilities. To that end, the Sheriff's Office plans to fill as many Maintenance vacancies as possible during the upcoming fiscal year.

R2. The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding. At this time, the camera issues at the Male Minimum Facility have been resolved and all cameras are functioning properly.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood  
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl  
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda  
Chief Deputy Curtis Cornelison  
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler  
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann  
Clerk of the Board  
Kern County Grand Jury Foreman  
Assistant CAO Teresa Hitchcock



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 finding are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendations:

*R1: The County should increase the Sheriff's department budget to allow more maintenance personnel to be hired to maintain the facility.*

We concur with the Sheriff's response that they recognize the extremely difficult budgetary times the County is currently experiencing while also recognizing the need to ensure the efficient and effective maintenance of jail facilities.

*R2: Qualified personnel should conduct more in-depth trouble shooting to resolve the video camera issues (perhaps contact the manufacturer's technical representatives).*

We concur with the Sheriff's response that the camera issues have been resolved and are functioning properly.



# **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MOJAVE SUBSTATION**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

Located next to America's first civilian spaceport, the Kern County Sheriff's Office Mojave Substation (Substation) provides law enforcement for Eastern Kern County as well as three Kern County Superior Court rooms. On April 26, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Substation to inquire into its operation and management pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with the Supervising Sergeant of the Substation and a question and answer session was provided during the one hour tour.

## **BACKGROUND/FACTS:**

- A. The Substation is located at 1771 Hwy 58, in Mojave, CA 93501.
- B. The staffing level of the Substation is:
  - One Lieutenant
  - One Sergeant
  - Two Senior Deputies
  - 13 Deputies
  - One Senior Detention Deputy
  - Four Detention Deputies (2 Male and 2 Female)
- C. The property room was well organized with lockers of various sizes. The property room uses a Report Management System to track property and location of all evidence collected at the Substation.
- D. The Substation has six holding cells with 14 beds that are mainly used by the courts, however individuals taken into custody may be held for up to 96 hours before being transported to the Kern County Sheriff's Central Receiving Facility (CRF).
- E. The Substation provides bailiff and court room security for the three connecting Kern County Superior Court rooms.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. On the day of the Committee's visit, 22 individuals were in custody awaiting their court appearance and two were awaiting transportation to the CRF.

- F2. All holding cells are monitored via video cameras and those that are on suicide watch are visually checked every 15 minutes until they are transported to CRF.
- F3. Individuals in custody are fed a sack lunch or a microwaveable meal.
- F4. Transportation to and from the CRF is provided by a Sheriff's Department bus. Those in custody are generally kept in shackles unless they are placed into one of the small holding cells on the bus while being transported.
- F5. The Committee noted that there is no secured parking area for patrol cars and employee vehicles. The parking lot is open and easily accessible to anyone from the streets.
- F6. The property room has no surveillance camera to monitor activities inside the room.

### **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Kern County Sheriff's Office Mojave Substation for their courtesy and professionalism extended to us during our visit and tour.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends that when the budget allows, a security fence and gate be installed around the patrol car and employee parking area. (Finding F5)
- R2. Recommend a video camera be installed in the property room and be monitored and recorded per legal retention policies as soon as possible. The Substation supervisor reported that the Sheriff's Department had set aside funding for next year to install a new camera and increase the recording storage. (Finding F6)

### **NOTES:**

The Kern County Sheriff's Department should post a copy of this letter 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury).

**RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 60 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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





1350 Norris Road  
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

August 4, 2016

The Honorable John S. Somers, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA. 93301

On June 7, 2016, the Kern County Grand Jury published the County of Kern 2015-2016 Grand Jury Final Report: Kern County Sheriff's Office Mojave Substation.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Grand Jury for its efforts in reviewing the Kern County Sheriff's Office Mojave Substation.

The objective review provided by the Grand Jury helps to strengthen the foundation of trust between the community and the Sheriff's Office. As always, the Sheriff's Office appreciates the valuable insight the Grand Jury has provided.

#### **GRAND JURY FINDINGS:**

- F1. *On the day of the Committee's visit, 22 individuals were in custody awaiting their court appearance and two were awaiting transportation to the CRF.*
- F2. *All holding cells are monitored via video cameras and those that are on suicide watch are visually checked every 15 minutes until they are transported to CRF.*
- F3. *Individuals in custody are fed a sack lunch or a microwaveable meal.*
- F4. *Transportation to and from the CRF is provided by a Sheriff's Department bus. Those in custody are generally kept in shackles unless they are placed into one of the small holding cells on the bus while being transported.*
- F5. *The Committee noted that there is no secured parking area for patrol cars and employee vehicles. The parking lot is open and easily accessible to anyone from the streets.*



F6. *The property room has no surveillance camera to monitor activities inside the room.*

#### **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:**

The Kern County Sheriff's Office concurs with each and every one of the Grand Jury's findings (F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, and F6).

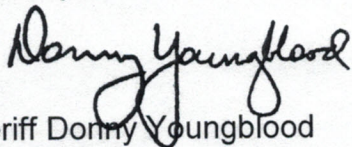
#### **GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION:**

- R1. *The Grand Jury recommends that when the budget allows, a secure fence and gate be installed around the patrol car and employee parking area. (Finding F5)*
- R2. *Recommend a video camera be installed in the property room and be monitored and recorded per legal retention policies as soon as possible. The Substation supervisor reported that the Sheriff's Department had set aside funding for next year to install a new camera and increase the recording storage. (Finding F6)*

#### **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Sheriff's Office continuously explores the possibility of securing the parking areas for patrol cars and its employees (R1). When the budget does allow, secured parking will be highly considered. The Sheriff's Office was able to allocate monies from AB109 to improve the video system and storage capabilities in the jail and secure hallways adjoining the court house. There may be a possibility of expanding that system to include a camera in the property room. This recommendation (R2) will be considered when the video system project resumes.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood  
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff RoseMary Wahl  
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda  
Chief Deputy Curtis Cornelison  
Chief Deputy Brian Wheeler  
Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann  
Clerk of the Board  
Kern County Grand Jury Foreman  
Assistant CAO Teresa Hitchcock



Kern County Board of Supervisors  
Response to Grand Jury Final Report  
Kern County Sheriff's Office Mojave Substation

Response to Findings:

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

Response to Recommendations:

R1: *The Grand Jury recommends that when the budget allows, a security fence and gate be installed around the patrol car and employee parking area.*

We concur with the Sheriff's response that they consider the possibility of securing the parking areas when the budget allows.

R2: *Recommend a video camera be installed in the property room and be monitored and recorded per legal retention policies as soon as possible. The Substation supervisor reported that the Sheriff's Department had set aside funding for next year to install a new camera and increase the recording storage.*

We concur with the Sheriff's response that they consider the possibility of expanding the funded video system and storage capabilities project to include the property room.



# **KERN VALLEY STATE PRISON**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On February 18, 2016, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP) pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b).

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with the newly appointed PIO/Administrative Assistant. An extensive tour was provided throughout the main kitchen, one of the satellite kitchens, class rooms, a Level IV Housing Unit, and the medical clinic and hospital.

## **BACKGROUND:**

KVSP is located at 3000 W. Cecil Ave. Delano, CA 93215. It is the 33<sup>rd</sup> prison to be built in California and was opened in 2005. The prison sits on 600 acres. KVSP houses Level IV Maximum Security inmates along with a minimum support facility staffed with Level I inmates. Its design capacity is 2,448 with a maximum capacity of 6,013. On the date of our visit, there were 3,967 inmates which is 162% of design capacity. KVSP consists of four semi-autonomous 180 degree facilities, two stand-alone Administrative Segregation Units, one Transitional Housing Unit and a Level I Minimum Support Facility, all of which is surrounded by a lethal electrified fence. The annual operating budget for KVSP is approximately \$154 million dollars.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. Each cell measures 6'-10" wide by 12'-6" long. With a small shelving unit mounted to the wall and bunk beds, there is just enough room to move about the cell. Each cell has a toilet and a sink, both containing water restriction devices and one small window allowing light in, but not for viewing.
- F2. To help conserve water, inmates without job assignments are limited to three showers per week while inmates with job assignments are allowed to shower daily.
- F3. Visitation is allowed on Saturday, Sunday and four holidays (New Year's, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas) between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM. Receiving family visits is a privilege which may be revoked for disciplinary reasons. These family visits can extend to two overnight stays commensurate with security, space availability and procedures/regulations.

- F4. The Food Service Department operates seven days a week, 16 hours per day and prepares approximately 12,000 meals per day from predetermined menus. Additionally, kosher and religious meat alternative meals are available. The Food Service Department is allotted \$3.43 per day to feed each inmate. Lunch is cold and breakfast and dinner are served hot. Level IV inmates working in the kitchen are given a medical screening before joining one of the kitchen work crews. Raw foods are kept fresh in secured, temperature controlled, refrigerated storage units and inventory is controlled by date on a "First In First Out" method. All trays and food containers as they arrive and leave the kitchen are rigorously counted and recounted to insure nothing is missing. All cooking utensils are checked in and out using chits assigned to the inmates working in the kitchen.
- F5. All inmate clothing and linens from KVSP are sent to Wasco State Prison-Reception Center for laundering. Inmate clothing appeared to be in good condition and adequate for the season.
- F6. KVSP offers Academic, Voluntary Education Programs (VEP), and Vocational classes. Academic classes are offered in all facilities twice a day with up to 27 inmates assigned to each class. The VEP is offered twice a day with up to 120 voluntary inmates. The VEP serves any inmate who desires to further their own education either by earning a GED or enrollment in college correspondence courses. Vocational classes are offered once a day with up to 27 assigned inmates. The Committee talked to the electronics class instructor and learned that tools that are normally used in the trade have been requested a year ago and have not yet been made available in the classroom, only text books.
- F7. General population and Reception Center inmates have access to a Law Library and regular Library where they have recreational reading materials as well as legal materials. Library book carts are located in the housing units. The book carts contain recreational reading materials and academic consumable workbooks that are available free of charge to the inmates.
- F8. Medical needs are managed via a triage method. Medical request slips are picked up daily and evaluated. KVSP has a 22 bed Correctional Treatment Center and an observation cell designed to provide medical care 24/7. Some inmates may spend years in these hospital cells. Mental Health Services (MHS) provides short term acute care mental health services in a 12 bed Mental Health Crisis program to care for severely mentally ill patients. Specialty Services provide diagnostics in Radiology, Optometry, Podiatry, Orthopedics, Audiology, Orthotics and Physical Therapy. A Telemedicine Program provides video-conferencing technology to off-site physicians and services to clinics at distant locations.

- F9. Dental health services are provided Monday through Friday between 6:00 AM and 4:00 PM. A Dentist is available 24/7 for urgent needs outside normal office hours. Regular services provided are restorative treatments (fillings, extractions, root canals) and oral surgery.
- F10. There are three K9's on site used to sniff out drugs and cell phones. These dogs and handlers are often loaned out to other state prisons as needed.
- F11. There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. Correspondence to/from attorneys is inspected but not read in the inmate's presence.
- F12. Total staffing is 1,665. There are 940 custody personnel with 78 vacancies, 329 non-custody personnel with 36 vacancies, 303 health care professionals with 44 vacancies, and a total of 15 management personnel with one vacancy.
- F13. A wide variety of religious programs and services are provided. Congregational services, religious education programs and counseling are provided through institution chaplains, with support provided through various community volunteers. There are three full-time chaplains (Protestant, Catholic and Native American) available.
- F14. Currently there are 14 self-help programs:
- Alcoholics Anonymous
  - Narcotics Anonymous
  - Parenting
  - Anger Management
  - Criminal Gangs Anonymous
  - Veterans
  - Art Program
  - Parole Group Program
  - JRJI (Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative)
  - GOGI (Going Out by Going In)
  - Inside Outside Writers
  - Education, Diversion, and Goals to Endeavor – an intervention program
  - White Bison Wellbriety – A substance abuse program
  - Friends Outside – Provide assistance with personal concerns related to incarceration, supporting the family system, facilitating a successful reentry into society and Conflict Resolution counseling
- F15. A small TV set in a bag and some trash were observed unattended in the exercise yard.
- F16. Wooden benches located in cell blocks have suffered impact damage from book and laundry carts resulting in large pieces of wood splintering off.



- F17: Loss of property is the most common complaint from inmates. When this occurs, efforts are taken to remedy the issue as quickly as possible.
- F18: It was reported that there has been one suicide and 23 attempts during the past year.
- F19: There have been no successful escapes from the secure perimeter to date.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with its visit to the KVSP facility along with the knowledge and insight provided by the PIO/Administrative Assistant and staff that were interviewed. The facility appeared to be well run, in good condition, with a staff that enjoyed their job. The Grand Jury was particularly impressed with the pharmacy, the Correctional Treatment Center and the Corrections Officer in charge of the Kitchen.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends the prison look into grant funds, contacting electronic testing equipment manufacturers, retailers and local industry, for equipment donations to aid in the classroom instruction. (Finding F6)
- R2. Corrections Officers should be more vigilant at getting inmates to pick up trash and other objects left unattended. (Finding F15)
- R3. All wooden bench seats should be replaced with metal benches or capped with a metal seat. The chipped seats are rough to the touch and could splinter and injure an inmate or possibly be used as a shank. (Finding F16)

## **NOTES:**

The State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

Note: 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury).

**RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: RICHARD FRANK, 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



May 17, 2016

Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Honorable Judge,

This is in response to the letter I received dated, April 14, 2016, concerning the 2015-2016 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 disagrees in part with the findings located in the Kern County Grand Jury's report for 2015-2016.

Specifically, F7 identifies "Reception Center inmates" in the findings. Kern Valley State Prison is not designated as a "Reception Center" nor do we have inmates on grounds identified by that designation.

Kern Valley State Prison agrees with the remaining findings.

- Recommendations of the Grand Jury:

R1. The Grand Jury recommends the prison look into grant funds, contacting electronic testing equipment manufacturers, retailers and local industry, for equipment donations to aid in the classroom instruction. (Finding F6)

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. As of this date, the resources needed to effectively teach the electronics class identified in F6 have been received to the institution. Additionally, the institution will continue to be diligent in obtaining the necessary consumable resources from state funded means for future classes.

R2. Corrections Officers should be more vigilant at getting inmates to pick up trash and other objects left unattended. (Finding F15)

cc: Richard Frank, Foreperson  
Kern County Grand Jury  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600  
Bakersfield, CA 93301



The recommendation has been implemented. Training relative to maintaining clean grounds and promptly addressing unattended items was given to Corrections Officers in accordance with the Grand Jury's recommendation.

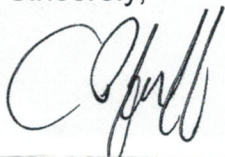
- R3. All wooden bench seats should be replaced with metal benches or capped with a metal seat. The chipped seats are rough to the touch and could splinter and injure an inmate or possibly be used as a shank. (Finding F16).

After careful consideration, the recommendation will not be implemented. Many benches at Kern Valley State Prison are outdoors. Kern Valley State Prison is located in a geographical area where ambient temperatures reach over 100 degrees during summer months. Metal benches exposed to this extreme temperature will absorb the heat and become unusable with the possibility of causing burns to inmates who use them. Kern Valley State Prison has elected to purchase wooden bench seats from Prison Industries Authority (PIA) and replace the worn or broken benches with original design. Plant Operations will purchase the replacement benches using 2016/2017 funds. Upon their receipt, the damaged benches will be replaced.

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 Michael Betzinger, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer should you have concerns/questions at (661) 721-6314.

Sincerely,



CHRISTIAN PFEIFFER  
Warden (A)  
Kern Valley State Prison

# **LARRY J. RHOADES**

## **KERN CROSSROADS FACILITY**

### **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On April 19, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Larry J. Rhoades Crossroads Facility (Crossroads). The visit was to inquire into the operation and management of the Facility pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

### **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with the Crossroads Director and two senior staff members. A question and answer session was held in the Facility conference room followed by a brief tour where the Committee met with other staff members and classroom instructors.

### **BACKGROUND/FACTS:**

- A. Crossroads is located at 17824 Quality Road in Bakersfield, CA 93308.
- B. Crossroads is a secure residential institution with complete medical and mental health components. Medical facilities are operated from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seven days a week. After hours medical emergencies are evaluated and, if needed, are sent by ambulance to Kern Medical. About one third of all youth at Crossroads have been prescribed to take “psych meds” and are seen regularly by mental health practitioners.
- C. The staffing level for Crossroads is 71 full-time personnel of which 52 are Juvenile Correctional Officers.
- D. Due to 2014-2015 budget cuts, Crossroads closed one housing unit reducing maximum capacity from 120 to 80.
- E. The Crossroads Program is a one year commitment. Ideally, youth spend six months in custody and six months on furlough back in the community.
- F. The kitchen facility prepares all meals for Crossroads and some of the meals at the James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall at a cost of \$1.50 per meal. Meals are transported once daily to Bowles Juvenile Hall.
- G. Crossroads partners with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Youth attend 270 minutes of classroom instruction per day and academic programming is designed to meet individual academic needs. Some performance scores in core subjects may improve as much as two grade levels.

- H. In 2016, a construction class was established to provide students with basic math and construction skills. Upon release, the youth will be enrolled at the Bridges Academy where they will learn how to build and finish projects.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. On the day of the Grand Jury visit, there were 75 male youths housed at Crossroads. The age range is between 12 and 19 year olds. Length of stay is between 24 and 36 weeks.
- F2. There are three, two story buildings with two pods per building. Each pod holds 20 youth. There are 16 single occupancy rooms and 4 dual occupancy rooms per pod. It costs the County \$301.39 per month to house each youth, and parents/guardians are charged up to \$870 per month according to their ability to pay.
- F3. There are 43 video cameras used to monitor classrooms, housing units and other areas around the facility. There is no recording equipment used at the facility.
- F4. Last year, 107 juveniles were released and 23 juveniles were returned to custody giving Crossroads a 78% success rate.
- F5. Grievance forms and deposit boxes are readily available to the youth.
- F6. Many of the programs at Crossroads are reward based. Four youths are selected each month to be the "Student of the Month". For good behavior, youth may also earn a brown or blue shirt along with a star or other achievement patches that come with special privileges.
- F7. Family visits are allowed on weekends that may include BBQs/picnics or family time activities. All visitors are screened for non-permitted items like cell phones, drugs or other illegal items.
- F8. This year, eight Crossroads youths will participate in the Continuation Schools graduation with three already meeting graduation requirements and five others who are just a couple of units shy.
- F9. There are several work programs available outside the facility for the youth to be involved in, such as Habitat for Humanity or other non-profit groups. Involvement in these activities earn the youth special privileges and award patches but no monetary compensation.
- F10. There is no Canteen store at Crossroads.
- F11. The grass area in front of the housing units was green and freshly mowed but soil compaction in some areas has created an uneven playing field.



## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Kern County Probation Department Juvenile Treatment Facility for their courtesy and professionalism extended to us during our visit and tour.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends all video feeds be recorded and retained per legal retention policies. (Finding F3)
- R2. The Grand Jury suggests youth be paid a small fee for working outside the Facility. This would require Crossroads to implement an accounting system to track each youth's earnings. These funds would serve as a savings account and then be available to the youth upon graduation from the Facility. (Finding F9)
- R3. A Canteen should be established so youth may buy goods using the money they accumulate in their accounts. (Finding F10)
- R4. The grass area in front of the housing units should be leveled to prevent injuries. (Finding F11)

## **NOTES:**

The Kern County Probation Department Juvenile Treatment Facility 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, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: RICHARD FRANK, FOREPERSON  
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 Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct with the exception of finding F2, which should state it costs the County \$301.39 per *day* (not per month) to house each youth.

Response to Recommendations:

R1: *The Grand Jury recommends all video feeds be recorded and retained per legal retention policies.*

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to record and retain all video feeds per legal retention policies. The Probation department is currently exploring installing additional recording cameras with adequate retention storage throughout the Crossroads facility. Once a proposal is established, it will be placed on the Capital Projects list to be completed as soon as feasible.

R2: *The Grand Jury suggests youth be paid a small fee for working outside the Facility. This would require Crossroads to implement an accounting system to track each youth's earnings. These funds would serve as a savings account and then be available to the youth upon graduation from the Facility.*

The County appreciates the Grand Jury's recommendation for youth to earn funds while in the Crossroads program; however youth currently work outside the facility to establish a sense of service to the community and to atone for their mistakes. Many of the work opportunities the youth receive come from non-profit organizations or government entities who can't afford to pay for services. Volunteering to work to help support the community helps the youth understand how non-profit organizations contribute to the welfare of the county. Requiring compensation would drastically reduce the number of opportunities available to work in the community. Additionally, creating two tiers of work assignments (paying and non-paying) would create new legal and administrative issues.

R3: *A Canteen should be established so youth may buy goods using the money they accumulate in their accounts.*

Recommendation R2 and R3 are mutually related; therefore our response is the same as R2.

R4: *The grass area in front of the housing units should be leveled to prevent injuries.*

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to level the grass area on the campus as it is occasionally used for recreational activity. We have sought cost estimates to accomplish this project and placed it on the County's Capital Projects list for future consideration. Until the improvement is completed, Crossroads staff will continue to diligently care for the field and use it while rotating activities on other fields.

# **McFARLAND CENTRAL VALLEY MODIFIED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On September 3, 2015, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury visited the McFarland Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF), pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b). The medium security facility houses custody inmates and parole violators for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) who are designated as level II custody grades.

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee members met with the Warden and GEO Group, Inc. (GEO) staff employees as well as GEO Correctional Officers. An extensive tour was provided throughout the facility.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The MCCF is a 96,963 sq. ft. single story masonry building on 20 acres of land with a capacity of 700 inmates. It contains a health care unit and rooms for classroom instruction, counseling and visitation. Educational areas include a computer laboratory, library, and outdoor recreational areas. Housing units are designed so that inmates may move about freely under the direction of officers who monitor their activities and movements between areas. The dormitory style facility has two dorms with 86 beds, six dorms with 88 beds and an additional 13 single-bunked cells for inmate segregation. Two cells with single bunks are reserved for medical purposes.

The facility design enables modern correctional techniques such as direct supervision. The building's perimeter and control centers utilize state-of-the-art electronic surveillance and detection techniques. Security enhancement measures include a central control room that contains closed circuit TV monitors allowing staff to survey the interior as well as perimeter areas, and a microwave detection system to monitor the perimeter fence.

The MCCF provides educational, vocational and counseling opportunities which include drug and alcohol counseling, pre-release instructions, life/social skills development programs, English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education/GED instruction, and computer programming for male inmates meeting the eligibility requirements of an MCCF. In addition to the extensive programming GEO provides full service medical, dental and mental health services.



## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. MCCF has eight dorms, six dorms with 88 beds and two dorms with 86 beds for a maximum facility capacity of 700. On the day of our visit, there were approximately 70 inmates per dorm. Each dorm has three TVs connected to Direct TV services. There is one community TV in a separate seating area and two digital TVs in the main living area where inmates must purchase a head set to listen. There are three pay phones in each dorm.
- F2. Only level one and level two inmates are housed at MCCF. Incoming inmates must be off any psychological care for six months prior to arrival. Inmates can be housed at MCCF for as long as 10 years.
- F3. An RN is on site 24/7 and an MD is available on site 40 hours per week. Any major medical or mental health needs are treated at the medical hub at the North Kern State Prison.
- F4. The cost of housing one inmate per day is \$60.00, which includes medical/dental expenses.
- F5. MCCF provides 11 full time educational and vocational instructors. The Committee found the classrooms clean and cool. Each classroom was equipped with computers and smart boards to aid in instruction. Activities are assigned by the teachers including course work and homework. Educational programs include GED, ESL, as well as vocational training for electrical 1 and 2, HVAC and plumbing along with computer based training in Microsoft 1 and 2. College classes are attended as a correspondence course. Proctors are provided for any college testing.
- F6. MCCF has recently established their reentry program to facilitate inmate's reentry into society and the workplace. There are currently 135 inmates in the reentry program.
- F7. The kitchen was found to be clean and organized. All cooking utensils that were being used were checked out and accounted for. The Committee did see several areas with water on the floor and there were no warning cones in place to alert staff and inmates to the slip hazard. Three hot meals are provided each day in a central cafeteria. Twenty minutes are provided for meals. Inmates do the cooking and clean up duties under the direction of a kitchen staff supervisor.
- F8. Exercise time is allowed any time an inmate is not in class. Sports equipment is provided such as basketballs, handballs and elliptical equipment. Various sports tournaments are held four times a year.
- F9. Inmates do facility maintenance.

- F10. Limited free postage is provided for indigent inmates. Inmates are aware that their incoming and outgoing mail is subject to monitoring. If confidential mail is received, the letter is opened in front of the inmate but not read by the MCCF staff.
- F11. Visitation is allowed only on weekends and holidays. Visits are limited to six and a half hours or less depending on the number of visitors. Visits are monitored by one Correctional Officer and video surveillance.
- F12. The CDCR handles all disciplinary issues including up to 10 days in a holding cell.
- F13. The Committee found the most common grievance issue was lost property when an inmate moves from one facility to another.
- F14. A full time chaplain is on site. Time is provided throughout the week to observe many different religious services.
- F15. Surveillance videos are retained for 30 days.
- F16. One of the two barbershops was converted to a dental suite to facilitate a new 16 hour per week Dentist.
- F17. Weapons locker is only accessible by CDCR staff.
- F18. All rules and grievance procedures are posted and understood by inmates.
- F19. The Warden stated that the facility thermostat was set at 72 degrees.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Committee was impressed with the visit to the MCCF facility, especially the way the inmates participated in the housekeeping tasks. The facility was exceptionally clean and well kept. The Warden and staff showed pride in the condition of the facility. The Committee thanks and commends the reentry facility personnel for their professionalism and knowledge displayed during the visit.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends MCCF kitchen staff utilize warning cones when water is on the floor to help reduce the risk as slipping and falling. (Finding 7)
- R2. The Grand Jury recommends MCCF install solar panels to help reduce their electrical cost since facility thermostats are set to 72 degrees. (Finding 19)

## **NOTES:**

The GEO Group, Inc. 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

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## **RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: WESLIE BROWN  
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**





December 15, 2015

Honorable John S. Somers  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxton Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Central Valley MCCF  
254 Taylor Avenue  
McFarland, CA 93250

TEL: 661-792-3492

[www.geogroup.com](http://www.geogroup.com)

Dear Honorable Judge Somers,

The following is in response to the Kern County Grand Jury report on Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF) which was received on November 19, 2015:

**Recommendation**

R1. Facility Kitchen staff should utilize warning cones when water is on the floor to help reduce the risk of slipping and falling.

**Central Valley MCCF has re-iterated to all staff the facilities policy concerning the posting of warning cones when sections of floor are wet. The practice is now being followed.**

R2. The Facility should install solar panels to help reduce their electrical cost since facility thermostats are set to 72 degrees.

**Central Valley MCCF frequently reviews and focuses on operational expense categories to include energy usage in order to maximize budget outcomes without jeopardizing the safety and security of our daily operations. The installation of Solar panels to reduce electrical cost will be researched for possible purchase in the future.**

Central Valley MCCF extends our appreciation to the Kern County Grand Jury for its review and recommendations. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

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

Mark Bowen  
Warden  
Central Valley MCCF

Cc: Weslie Brown  
Kern County Grand Jury  
1415 Truxton Avenue, Suite 600  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

# **McFARLAND FEMALE COMMUNITY REENTRY FACILITY**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On August 27, 2015, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury visited the McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility, pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b). The reentry facility houses minimum-security adult female inmates who are within three years of release with a moderate to high risk to reoffend and an assessed criminogenic need as identified by CDCR.

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee members met with the warden and GEO Group, Inc. (GEO) staff employees as well as GEO correctional officers. An extensive tour was provided throughout the facility.

## **BACKGROUND AND/OR FACTS:**

The McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility is a 36,704 sq. ft., one-story masonry building with a capacity of 300 inmates. It was financed, designed and built by GEO on five acres of land. It has a well-equipped health care unit and rooms for classroom instruction, counseling, and visitation. Educational areas include a computer lab and a library. Indoor and outdoor recreational areas are available. A fully equipped kitchen provides meal service for inmates and staff. The facility design incorporates modern correctional techniques such as radial design and direct supervision.

- A. In preparation for the current female population, the facility was renovated to provide a more gender responsive environment conducive to providing the extensive programs and services focused on reducing recidivism and implementing the “GEO Continuum of Care”.
- B. In addition to traditional programs such as academic education and vocational training, the McFarland FCRF provides trauma-informed, gender responsive cognitive behavioral treatment programming. Under the “GEO Continuum of Care” approach evidence-based programs dealing with Substance Abuse, Family Relationships, Anger Management, and Criminal Thinking are provided to female inmates along with transitional assistance to begin reentry planning.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. The facility is staffed by 115 personnel, 47 corrections officers, five lieutenants, five sergeants, and 68 support services staff.

- F2. The facility capacity is 300. On the day of the visit, there were 260 females with another 20 females due to arrive.
- F3. This facility is arranged for female detainees with three or less years remaining on their sentence provided they meet certain criteria. The facility programs are meant to help female detainees facilitate re-entry into society in order to help reduce recidivism.
- F4. Any male corrections officers wanting to work in this facility, are interviewed by the warden before being allowed to work. All staff working at the facility must attend Gender Response Training.
- F5. Before August, 2014, this was a men's facility. It has since been revamped to better facilitate the housing of women.
- F6. The facility has six single cells of which one cell is reserved for inmates that the staff has evaluated to have the potential for causing harm to themselves or others. The remaining five cells are used for intake flow.
- F7. The facility consists of four dormitories with 75 beds per dorm. Each dormitory has two 60 inch flat screen TVs, and a washer and dryer. There are also two telephones in each dorm for the detainees to make collect phone calls during down times, (when not participating in programs, count time or after lights out).
- F8. Inmates are allowed supervised visitation on weekends and holidays from 9 A.M to 3:30 P.M. with no time limit per visit. There is no time limit for legal consultations.
- F9. The entire facility is monitored 24/7 with 100 closed circuit cameras. Recorded videos are retained for 30 days or until the recorder begins to delete it.
- F10. The state pays \$89.50 to the facility per inmate per day which includes medical and dental care.
- F11. Medical and mental health care is available 24/7 with a doctor available during regular office hours five days a week.
- F12. Some vocational computer training is provided to the population as well as Adult Basic Education (ABE), and English as a Second Language (ESL).
- F13. Hair salon services are provided.
- F14. Inmates receive two hot meals and one cold meal each day. Inmate workers help in the preparation of food and clean up.



- F15: Anger Management, Pre-release/Transitions, Substance Abuse Treatment Counseling, Criminal thinking, and Family and Relationships classes are offered to inmates.
- F16: Inmates are allowed to produce and direct plays and special programs for holidays and special occasions as well as make their own sets and costumes.
- F17: The number of grievances filed have dropped since the expansion of job related programs. The McFarland FCRF promotes a positive inmate to staff and staff to inmate conducive environment for success.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury was impressed with the visit to the reentry facility, especially the way the inmates all participated in the housekeeping tasks. The facility was exceptionally clean and well kept. The warden and staff showed pride in the condition of the facility. The Committee thanks and commends the reentry facility personnel for their professionalism and knowledge displayed during the visit.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. Install several TV antennas on the roof with amplifiers to eliminate the clutter of makeshift antennas in the dormitory windows. (Finding 12)
- R2. Expand culinary classes to include commercial applications, rules and regulations, for employment in the public sector. (Finding 13)
- R3. Provide more work training and education classes. (Finding 13)

## **NOTES:**

The GEO Group, Inc. 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, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

**CC: WESLIE BROWN  
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**




## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 25, 2016

To: Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court

CC: W. Brown  
Kern County Grand Jury

From:   
M. Wofford, Warden  
McFarland FCRF

**RE: ANNUAL FACILITY VISIT**

---

On August 27, 2015, members of the Kern County Grand Jury conducted an annual visit. The members toured the facility and interviewed inmates during the visit. In addition they were able to ask questions and review documentation necessary to gain insight into the current operation of the institution.

As part of the annual review, the following information has been compiled per your request. We apologize for the delayed response which may have been caused by the change in Warden causing the mail to be directed to another facility. We trust our responses are useful and satisfy the content of each inquiry. If you require further documentation or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the facility.

### **Findings**

For the purpose of subdivision (b) of Section 933, the facility agrees with the findings listed for F1 – F17.

### **Recommendations**

For the purpose of subdivision (b) of Section 933, the facility has listed the responses below.

**R1:** Install several TV antennas on the roof with amplifiers to eliminate the clutter of makeshift antennas in the dormitory windows. (Finding 12)

***The new Warden, M. Wofford, met with the TV provider to discuss ways to eliminate makeshift antennas. The facility is currently looking into installing roof antennas which would be connected to transmitters located in each housing unit. This would allow the inmate personal TV's to receive better reception and eliminate the need for makeshift antennas.***



**R2:** Expand culinary classes to include commercial application, rules and regulations, for employment in the public sector. (Finding 13)

***The McFarland FCRF is partnering with Bakersfield Community College to provide a Culinary Arts program. This program will provide hands-on and classroom learning, with a variety of classes running over the course of 13 months. Both parties are anticipating a July 2016 start.***

**R3:** Provide more work training and education classes. (Finding 13)

***McFarland FCRF recently became a HiSET Testing Center and began providing HiSET tests in May 2016. To date 15 inmate participants have earned their High School Equivalency certificate.***

***McFarland FCRF, in partnership with Bakersfield Community College, anticipates Culinary Arts starting in July 2016.***

***McFarland FCRF has purchased Certiport exams to supplement the Office Services and Related Technologies (OSRT – vocational computers) classes. Testing is scheduled to begin in July 2016.***

# **NORTH KERN STATE PRISON**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On January 21, 2016, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury visited the North Kern State Prison (NKSP) pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b). NKSP is a general population medium custody facility with a minimum support facility and a ten-bed Level I firehouse.

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with NKSP facility Commander and a Lieutenant. An extensive tour was provided throughout the facility.

## **BACKGROUND:**

NKSP is located at 2737 Cecil Avenue, Delano, CA. Groundbreaking construction began in February 1990 on 640 acres. Construction was completed in April 1992 and received its first inmate in April 1993. The prison was built as a single cell facility and shortly after opening was changed to a Reception Center. Now NKSP processes approximately 500 incoming and outgoing inmates per week. Incoming inmates are evaluated by their criminal records, life histories, medical, dental, physiological, mental health and social histories. Then according to custody scores and specific placement needs, each inmate is assigned to one of the state's 33 State prisons.

NKSP is proud to be "going green" with clean, renewable energy. A 5.7 megawatt solar power plant was constructed by Sun Edison at no cost to the California Department of Corrections, the State of California, or tax payers. On October 22, 2012 the solar panel plant was activated. It is projected to save \$13M over the next 20 years.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. Inmates are housed in 26 single cells and 1,690 multiple cells. With eight dormitories, the total inmate population is 4,235. The age range of offenders is between 18-79 and all are males.
- F2. Total staffing is 1,352. There are 771 custody personnel with 39 vacancies, 258 non-custody personnel with 43 vacancies, 304 health care professionals with 36 vacancies, and a total of 14 management personnel with no vacancies.
- F3. The NKSP has a total operating budget of \$190,910,875, with \$142,161,008 going to run the institution, \$46,363,439 for medical, and \$2,386,428 for educational training.

- F4. The NKSP maintains an onsite firehouse staffed by a Fire Chief, five Fire Captains and an Associate Hazardous Materials Specialist. The firehouse has the bed capacity for ten minimum custody inmate fire fighters. Currently, the firehouse has five inmate fire fighters assigned. The prison is part of a mutual aid agreement with Kern Valley State Prison, City of Delano and the Kern County Fire Department.
- F5. Visitation is allowed on Saturday, Sunday and four holidays (New Year's, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas) between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Receiving family visits is a privilege, limited by the assignment of the inmate to a qualifying work/training incentive group. These visits can extend overnight commensurate with security, space availability and procedures/regulations.
- F6. The Food Service Department prepares over 12,000 meals per day in addition to kosher, religious meat alternative, vegetarian meal nourishment bags for diabetics, liquid nutrition supplements and therapeutic diets. The Food Service Department is allotted \$3.43 per day to feed each inmate. Lunch is served cold and breakfast and dinner are served hot. Inmates working in the kitchen are given a medical screening before joining one of the kitchen crews. The kitchen crew was observed working hard and diligently cleaning the floors and cooking surfaces while preparing food.
- F7. Dirty, damaged or worn laundry is exchanged in one of the three clothing rooms. All inmate clothing and linens are sent to Wasco State Prison-Reception Center for laundering.
- F8. Academic and vocational education consists of electrical works and small engine repair. Inmates can work to receive certifications from the National Center for Construction Education and Research as well as Equipment and Engine Training Council. Adult Basic Education begins at the middle school level through GED. Some Community College classes are offered that can lead towards an AA degree.
- F9. General population and Reception Center inmates have access to a Law Library and regular Library where they have access to recreational reading materials as well as legal materials. Library book carts are located in the housing units. The book carts contain recreational reading materials and academic consumable workbooks that are available free of charge to the inmates. Book carts are available seven days a week between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM.



- F10. Medical needs are managed via a triage method. Medical needs request slips are picked up daily and evaluated. The Correctional Treatment Center is a 16 bed facility with ten mental health beds and six medical beds. One additional safety cell and one observation cell is designated to provide professionally supervised health care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Approximately 40% of the urgent care treatments are sent to outside hospitals.
- F11. Dental health services are provided Monday through Friday between 6:00 AM and 4:00 PM. A Dentist is available 24/7 for urgent needs outside normal office hours. Regular services provided are restorative treatments (fillings, extractions, root canals) and oral surgery.
- F12. Self-Help and inmate leisure time activity groups include:
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
  - Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
  - 18 Week Passages course
  - Incarcerated Veterans
  - Dads Against Drugs
  - Center for Counselling
  - Malachi Dads
  - Quest for Personal Change
  - AA/NA Spanish
  - Celebrate Recover Inside
- Religious Community Programs are sponsored by five staff chaplains and 60 volunteers. Various religious services include:
- Christian
  - Jewish
  - Protestant (English/Spanish)
  - Catholic
  - Adventist
  - First Assembly of God
  - Native American
  - Jehovah's Witness
  - Apostolic
  - Mormon
  - Buddhist
  - Muslim
- Contract Services sponsored by Contract Employees include:
- Anger Management
  - Conflict Resolution
  - Parenting Skills
- F13. The grounds around the buildings were green because of recent rainfall, however most of it was weeds. The Committee noticed small amounts of litter and towels in the exercise yard.

- F14. Inmates in Facility A general population have access to exercise yard and dayroom activities from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, seven days a week. Inmates in the Reception Center are allowed access to the exercise yard two hours a day, two days a week and dayroom activities three hours a day, five days a week. It was discovered that the inmates tend to segregate themselves around various parts of the exercise yard. This is in part for security and social reasons.
- F15. Inmate appearance looked good. Clothing looked to be in good shape and appropriate for the season. Inmates are limited to 3 showers per week to help conserve water. Inmates are allowed to purchase light grey and blue clothing to augment their prison issued clothing.
- F16. Loss of property is the most common complaint from inmates. Much of this stems from the fact that NKSP is a reception center and processes a large volume of inmates; inmates are in transit from other facilities and at times property is misplaced. When this occurs, efforts are taken to remedy the issue as quickly as possible.
- F17. Clergy is available upon request for all religions.
- F18: There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. Outgoing mail to attorneys is inspected with inmate present, but not read.
- F19: The Committee was given the results of the Life Safety Inspection report conducted by the Deputy State Fire Marshall and the Fire Chief which took place March 10, 2015 through May 13, 2015. The inspection revealed multiple deficiencies. A corrective action plan was created and submitted to the office of the State Fire Marshall within 30 days of the deficiency notice. As of the date of our visit, all deficiencies had been corrected.
- F20. The California Correctional Health Care Services completed a third annual Operations Monitoring Audit at NKSP between March 2 and March 5, 2015 and received an overall compliance rating of 97.7%, compared to the 92.8 % received on the second Operations Monitoring Audit.
- F21. The Department of Public Health Survey for NKSP on December 8, 2015 resulted in a 90-day Corrective Action Plan (CAP) being requested by the Office of Audits and Court Compliance (OACC). This CAP was to be received at the OACC by March 21, 2016.

- F22. The annual evaluation by the Registered Dietitian of the standardized menus used by the 33 institutions in California determined that NKSP meals provide a wholesome, nutritionally balanced diet. Nutrition levels meet the Recommended Dietary Allowances and Dietary Reference Intakes as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Committee was impressed with its visit to the NKSP facility along with the knowledge and insight provided to the Committee by those that conducted the facility tour. The facility appears to be well run, in good condition, and the staff seemed to enjoy working there.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Committee recommends the kitchen crew use more “Wet Floor” warning signs while cleaning the kitchen and dining areas, and use squeegees instead of brooms to direct standing water towards the drains. (Finding 6)
- R2. Educate kitchen crews not to prepare food in the same area when cleaning the floors. (Finding 6)
- R3. Weed control should be modified for cold, wet, winter conditions. (Finding 13)
- R4. Yard cleanup should be increased to keep trash and other objects picked up. (Finding 13)

## **NOTES:**

The State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should be made 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

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**RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
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 W. Cecil Avenue  
PO Box 567  
Delano, California 93216

**COPY**

August 12, 2016

Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge John S. Somers:

The Law and Justice Committee of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury visited North Kern State Prison (NKSP) on Thursday, January 21, 2016, to inquire into the management and conditions of NKSP pursuant to California Penal Code Section 919(b).

The Grand Jury released the final report documenting their findings and recommendation on February 29, 2016. The following is the response to the findings and recommendations contained in the report:

**FINDING 1:** Inmates are housed in 26 single cells and 1690 multiple cells. With eight dormitories, the total inmate population is 4235. The age range of offenders is between 18-79 and all are males. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 2:** Total staffing is 1352. There are 771 custody personnel with 39 vacancies, 258 non-custody personnel with 43 vacancies, 304 health care professionals with 36 vacancies, and a total of 14 management personnel with no vacancies. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 3:** The NKSP has a total operating budget of \$190,910,875, with \$142,161,008 going to run the institution, \$46,363,439 for medical, and \$2,386,428 for educational training. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 4:** The NKSP maintains an onsite firehouse staffed by a Fire Chief, five Fire Captains and an Associate Hazardous Materials

Specialist. The Firehouse has the bed capacity for ten minimum custody inmate fire fighters. Currently, the firehouse has five inmate fire fighters



assigned. The prison is part of a mutual aid agreement with Kern Valley State Prison, City of Delano and the Kern County Fire Department.  
**RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 5:** Visitation is allowed on Saturday, Sunday and four holidays (New Year's, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas) between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Receiving family visits is a privilege, limited by the assignment of the inmate to a qualifying work/training incentive group. These visits can extend overnight commensurate with security, space availability and procedures/regulation. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 6:** The Food Service Department prepares over 12,000 meals per day in addition to kosher, religious meat alternative, vegetarian meal nourishment bags for diabetics, liquid nutrition supplements and therapeutic diets. The Food Service Department is allotted \$3.43 per day to feed each inmate. Lunch is served cold and breakfast and dinner are served hot. Inmates working in the kitchen are given a medical screening before joining one of the kitchen crews. The kitchen crew was observed working hard and diligently cleaning the floors and cooking surfaces while preparing food. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 7:** Dirty, damaged or worn laundry is exchanged in one of the three clothing rooms. All inmate clothing and linens are sent to Wasco State Prison-Reception Center for laundering. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 8:** Academic and vocational education consists of electrical works and small engine repair. Inmates can work to receive certifications from the National Center for Construction Education and research as well as Equipment and Engine Training Council. Adult Basic Education Begins at the middle school level through GED. Some Community College classes are offered that can lead towards an

AA degree. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 9:** General population and Reception Center inmates have access to a Law Library and regular Library where they have access to recreational reading materials as well as legal materials. Library book carts are located in the housing units. The book cars contain recreation reading materials and academic consumable workbooks that are available free of charge to the inmates. Book cars are available seven days a week between the hours



of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 10:** Medical needs are managed via a triage method. Medical needs request slips are picked up daily and evaluated. The Correctional Treatment Center is a 16 bed facility with ten mental health beds and six medical beds. One additional safety cell and one observation cell is designated to provide professionally supervised health care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Approximately 40% of the urgent care treatments are sent to outside hospitals. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 11:** Dental health services are provided Monday through Friday between 6:00 AM and 4:00 PM. A dentist is available 24/7 for urgent needs outside normal office hours. Regular services provided are restorative treatments (fillings, extractions, root canals) and oral surgery. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 12:** Self-Help and inmate leisure time activity groups include:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- 18 week Passages course
- Incarcerated Veterans
- Dads Against Drugs
- Center for Counselling
- Malachi Dads
- Quest for Personal Change
- AA/NA Spanish Celebrate Recovery Inside

Religious Community Programs are sponsored by five staff chaplains and 60 volunteers. Various religious services include:

- Christian
- Jewish
- Protestant (English/Spanish)
- Catholic
- Adventist
- First Assembly of God
- Native American
- Jehovah's Witness
- Apostolic
- Mormon



- Buddhist
- Muslim

Contract Services sponsored by Contract Employees include:

- Anger Management
- Conflict Resolution
- Parenting Skills

**RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 13:** The grounds around the buildings were green because of recent rainfall, however most of it was weeds. The Committee noticed small amounts of litter and towels in the exercise yard. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 14:** Inmates in Facility A general population have access to exercise yard and dayroom activities from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, seven days a week. Inmates in the Reception Center are allowed access to the exercise yard two hours a day, two days a week and dayroom activities three hours a day, five days a week. It was discovered that the inmates tend to segregate themselves around various parts of the exercise yard. This is in part for security and social reasons. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 15:** Inmate appearance looked good. Clothing looked to be in good shape and appropriate for the season. Inmates are limited to 3 showers per week to help conserve water. Inmates are allowed to purchase light grey and blue clothing augment their prison issued clothing. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 16:** Loss of property is the most common complaint from inmates. Much of this stems from the fact that NKSP is a reception center and processes a large volume of inmates; inmates are in transit from other facilities and at times property is misplaced. When this occurs, efforts are taken to remedy the issue as quickly as possible. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 17:** Clergy is available upon request for all religions. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 18:** There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. Outgoing mail to attorneys is inspected with inmate present, but not read. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**



**FINDING 19:** The Committee was given the results of the Life Safety Inspection report conducted by the Deputy State Fire Marshall and the Fire Chief which took place March 10, 2015 through May 13, 2015. The inspections revealed multiple deficiencies. A corrective action plan was created and submitted to the office of the State Fire Marshall within 30 days of the deficiency notice. As of the date of our visit, all deficiencies had been corrected. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 20:** The California Correctional Health Care Services completed a third annual Operations Monitoring Audit at NKSP between March 2 and March 5, 2015 and received an overall compliance rating of 97.7%, compared to the 92.8% received on the second Operations Monitoring Audit. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 21:** The Department of Public Health Survey for NKSP on December 8, 2015 resulted in a 90-day Corrective Action Plan (CAP) being requested by the Office of Audits and Court Compliance (OACC). This CAP was to be received at the OACC by March 21, 2016. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**FINDING 22:** The annual evaluation by the Registered Dietitian of the standardized menus used by the 33 institutions in California determined that NKSP meals provide a wholesome, nutritionally balanced diet. Nutrition levels meet the Recommended Dietary Allowances and Dietary Reference Intakes as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science. **RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.**

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** The Committee recommends the kitchen crew use more "Wet Floor" warning signs while cleaning the kitchen and dining areas, and use squeegees instead of brooms to direct standing water towards the drains. (Finding 6) **RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented. Additional "Wet Floor" warning signs have been placed in the kitchen and dining areas. Each area was given instructions to utilize squeegees to direct water to the drains.**

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Educate kitchen crews not to prepare food in the same area when cleaning the floors. (Finding 6) **RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented. Food Services Staff and kitchen crews were provided with**



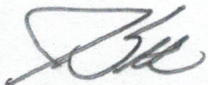
**training/instruction with expectations to ensure cleaning is not conducted during food preparation.**

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Weed control should be modified for cold, wet, winter conditions. (Finding 13) **RESPONSE:** The recommendation has been implemented. NKSP Groundskeepers Staff conduct preventative maintenance on a daily or weekly basis.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** Yard cleanup should be increased to keep trash and other objects picked up. (Finding 13) **RESPONSE:** The recommendation has been implemented. Inmate yard crews maintain cleanliness of the exercise yard throughout the day.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lt. Jose M. Martinez, Administrative Assistant/ Public Information Officer at (661) 721-2345 ext. 5007.

Sincerely,



JOHN SUTTON  
Warden (A)

C/c: Dwayne Ardis, Foreperson, 2016-2017 Kern County Grand Jury

# **SHAFTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On March 3, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (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 Lieutenant from the Department and the Shafter City Manager. 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:**

- A. The Department is located at 201 Central Valley Highway, Shafter, CA 93263.
- B. Both interview rooms inside the Department have audio and visual equipment installed.
- C. There is a conference/auditorium designed for multiple uses; e.g. in-service training and community use.
- D. The staffing level of the Department is:
  - Police Chief
  - Chief's Staff Assistant
  - One Captain
  - One Lieutenant
  - Four Sergeants
  - Five Senior Officers
  - 11 Officers with two more attending the training academy in April
  - Two Reserve Officers
  - Seven Dispatchers
  - Two Animal Control Officers
  - Two Kennel Attendants
  - Four Police Chaplains
- E. The Department has a shooting range located behind Animal Control. The range has four pistol bays and a long rifle bay.

- F. The Department has a gym with all the usual equipment on site that is available to all city employees.

## **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 is booked into the Kern County Sheriff's Department Central Receiving Facility.
- F2. The Committee found the city of Shafter has a city wide video surveillance system that has been useful multiple times in assisting officers in responding to service calls.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Police Captain and Lieutenant, as well as the Shafter City Manager for their courtesy and professionalism they extended to us 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.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: [www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

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## **NO RESPONSE REQUIRED**



# **TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On March 10, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Taft 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 Taft Police Chief. A question and answer session was held in the Police Chief's office. After the question and answer session, a brief tour of the Department was conducted where the Committee met with other staff and Law Enforcement Officers.

## **BACKGROUND/FACTS:**

- A. The Department is located at 330 Commerce Way in Taft, CA 93268.
- B. The staffing level of the Department is:
  - Police Chief
  - One Lieutenant
  - Three Sergeants
  - Three School Resources Officers
  - 12 Officers
  - Five Dispatchers
  - One Community Service Officer
  - One Animal Control Officer
  - One Shelter Tech
  - One Code Enforcement Officer
  - One Administrative Assistant
- C. The Department has a small gym with a few treadmills.
- D. The property room is well organized and is undergoing some renovations. The property room is managed using a Report Management System to track property and location of all evidence collected by the Department. Only the property room clerk has access to the property room and has sole responsibility for all contents. Property and squad room renovations are scheduled to be completed by mid-July 2016.
- E. Video surveillance recordings are retained between four and six months.

- F. The Department has eight holding cells for men and four cells for women.
- G. The City of Taft has their own 911 call center with mapping and computer aided dispatch.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. In the Department's jail section, prisoners are constantly monitored by the Police Dispatcher and once an hour by a Corrections Officer from the Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility next door. Prisoners may be held up to 72 hours before the Kern County Sheriff's Department picks them up for transportation to the Kern County Central Receiving Facility for arraignment.
- F2. The Committee learned that in 2011, the Department installed a 24,000 watt solar system. The solar system not only provides power to the Department but it also provides shade for the parking lot. This solar system will be paid for over 20 years.
- F3. The Police Chief reported that the community has had no graffiti or gang problems or homicides over the past year. The Department received over 10,000 calls for service this past year.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Police Chief and his staff for their courtesy and professionalism they extended to us during the visit and tour. Keep up the good work.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

NONE

## **NOTES:**

The Taft 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury). Sign up for early releases.

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## **NO RESPONSE REQUIRED**

# **WASCO STATE PRISON RECEPTION CENTER**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On February 4, 2016, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Wasco State Prison-Reception Center (WSP-RC) pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b). WSP-RC is a general population medium custody facility with a minimum support facility and a six-bed firehouse staffed with Level I inmates.

## **PROCESS:**

The Committee met with the PIO/Administrative Assistant and the Chief Deputy Warden. An extensive tour was provided throughout the kitchen, Level I Housing Unit, the medical clinic and the Fire House. The Committee was not able to inspect the Level III Housing Units because of an unannounced drug and weapons sweep being conducted with drug detection dogs.

## **BACKGROUND:**

WSP-RC is located at 701 Scofield Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280. WSP-RC received its first inmates in January 1991 as the first Reception Center in Kern County. The Prison is situated on 634 acres. WSP-RC was originally designed to house 6,213 inmates and was designed in a “wing-nut” configuration which required less space. Inmates are housed at the Reception Center from 80 to 100 days. During that time, each inmate receives a medical, dental and mental health evaluation. A staff of approximately 47 Correctional Counselors then review the inmate’s specific case factors to determine his appropriate housing. An extensive review of the inmates past and current offenses and medical history are factors which are used to make a housing recommendation and subsequently, the inmate is endorsed for a transfer to an appropriate general population or restrictive institution. WSP-RC processes approximately 14,000 to 17,000 inmates each year from 12 different counties after being sentenced to state prison by the courts.

## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. The WSP-RC Fire Department is staffed by six Level I inmates, four Fire Captains (three male and one female), a Fire Chief and an Associate Hazardous Materials Specialist (AHMS). Inmates work eight hour shifts but are on call 24/7. Each Fire Captain works nine 24 hour shifts in a 28 day work period (which requires a 24 hour overlap of schedules seven times a month), the Fire Chief and AHMS work a normal 8 hour shift, five days a week. The Fire Department also provides mutual aid to the local community of Wasco. Inmates receive Fire Fighter Level I training which will help them seek employment as Fire Fighters once they leave prison.



- F2. There are 111 inmates currently housed in a single Level I Housing unit, 928 inmates are housed in five Level III Housing units and 3,950 inmates are housed in six Reception Center housing. All housing units are eligible for Developmental Disabled inmates, however, American with Disabilities Act wheelchair users are accommodated in Facility "B" Buildings 1, 5 and 6 and Facility "H" 1, 2, and 3. Additionally, 116 inmates are housed in the Administrative Segregation unit for maximum custody, protective custody and high notoriety inmates. At the time of the Committee's visit, WSP-RC inmate population was 4,989.
- F3. Visitation is allowed on Saturday, Sunday and four holidays (New Year's, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas) between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Receiving family visits is a privilege, limited by the assignment of the inmate to a qualifying work/training incentive group. These visits can extend to two overnight stays commensurate with security, space availability and procedures/regulations. Additionally, family visits occur on a regular basis all year with new attendees being admitted every Tuesday and Saturday.
- F4. The Food Service Department prepares over 15,000 meals per day from predetermined menus, in addition to kosher, religious meat alternative, vegetarian meal nourishment bags for diabetics, liquid nutrition supplements and therapeutic diets. The Food Service Department is allotted \$3.43 per day to feed each inmate. Lunch is served cold and breakfast and dinner are served hot. Inmates working in the kitchen are given a medical screening before joining one of the kitchen work crews.
- F5. All inmate clothing and linens from North Kern State Prison and Kern Valley State Prison are sent to WSP-RC for laundering. In cases of emergency, Corcoran and California Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities' laundry will also be processed at WSP-RC. Dirty and clean clothing/linens are collected and distributed at each housing unit.
- F6. WSP-RC provides educational services to the inmate population under the name Valley Rose Adult School (VRAS). VRAS is a K-14 adult school offering four Voluntary Education Program Teachers who serve a total of 480 inmates in basic literacy instruction. Curriculum is personalized to each student's individual learning needs with a focus on completion of the GED exam. College courses from Coastline Community College are also available for inmates to earn an Associate of Arts degree. Other students may participate in one of the Career Technical Education programs to learn vocational skills needed in the workforce. These programs serve a total of 54 inmates when fully staffed. The Office Services and Related Technologies program offers students Microsoft Office productivity so that inmates who will be paroled have competency in industry required computer skills.

- F7. General population and Reception Center inmates have access to a Law Library and regular Library with recreational reading materials as well as legal materials. Library book carts are located in the housing units. The book carts contain recreational reading materials and academic consumable workbooks that are available free of charge to the inmates. Book carts are available seven days a week between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM.
- F8. Medical needs are managed via a triage method. Medical request slips are picked up daily and evaluated. The Correctional Treatment Center is a 16 bed facility with one additional safety cell designated to provide professionally supervised health care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Specialty Services provide diagnostic and specialty services in Radiology, Optometry, Podiatry, Orthopedics, Audiology, Orthotics and Physical Therapy. Dialysis Services provide advanced hemodialysis services to inmate patients with Renal Disease utilizing six dialysis stations. Video-conferencing technology allows off-site physicians to provide services to clinics at distant locations.
- F9. Dental health services are provided Monday through Friday between 6:00 AM and 4:00 PM. A Dentist is available 24/7 for urgent needs outside normal office hours. Regular services provided are restorative treatments (fillings, extractions, root canals) and oral surgery.
- F10. Inmate appearance looked good. Clothing appeared to be in good shape and appropriate for the season. Inmates without job assignments are limited to three showers per week to help conserve water. Inmates with job assignments are allowed to shower daily.
- F11. There is limited free postage for inmates without money. All incoming and outgoing mail is screened. Mail to and from attorneys is inspected with inmate present, but not read.
- F12. Total staffing is 1,552. There are 828 custody personnel with 49 vacancies, 284 non-custody personnel with 55 vacancies, 265 health care professionals with 57 vacancies, and a total of 14 management personnel with no vacancies.
- F13. A wide variety of religious programs are offered. Congregational services, religious education programs and counseling services are provided through institution chaplains, with support provided through various community volunteers. Currently there are Protestant, Catholic and Muslim chaplains and a part time Native American spiritual leader.

- F14. Currently there are five Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups:
- Alcoholics Anonymous
  - Narcotics Anonymous
  - Criminals and Gang Members Anonymous
  - Getting Out by Going In
  - Essentials to Effective Communications
- F15. Pursuant to Penal Code §5008.1, the Inmate Peer Education Program (IPEP) was developed to help the inmate avoid behavior that would expose him to the risk of contracting hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, or other blood borne pathogens. Each IPEP class provides training to an average of 60 to 80 inmates per class.
- F16. WSP-RC staff is actively involved with the local community by contributing to the following fundraisers:
- Relay for Life
  - Blood Drives
  - Annual Keith McDermott, Correctional Officer Back to School Back Pack Program
  - Coat/Jacket Drives
  - Annual Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive
  - Annual Thanksgiving dinner provided to the Allensworth Community
  - Annual Warden's Christmas Toy Drive
- F17: Loss of property is the most common complaint from inmates. Much of this stems from the fact that WSP-RC is a Reception Center and processes a large volume of inmates. Inmates are in transit from other facilities and at times property is misplaced. When this occurs, efforts are taken to remedy the issue as quickly as possible.
- F18: It was reported that there have been 29 suicide attempts, but none were successful.
- F19. There was one successful escape from the level one detention area when an inmate jumped the fence. He was quickly apprehended.

## **COMMENTS:**

The Committee was impressed with its visit to the WSP-RC facility along with the knowledge and insight provided to the Committee by the Chief Deputy Warden, PIO/Administrative Assistant and staff we interviewed. The facility appears to be well run, in good condition, and the staff appeared to enjoy working there.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. The Grand Jury recommends a small travel trailer be made available to accommodate the Fire Captain's overlapping work shifts, particularly since one Fire Captain is female. (Finding 1)

## **NOTES:**

The State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should be made available for public review.

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Note: 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](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury).

## **RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:**

**PRESIDING JUDGE  
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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

**DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS**

P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



August 9, 2016

The Honorable John Somers, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 212  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Sir:

This letter is in response to the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury final report on Wasco State Prison-Reception Center released on March 1, 2016.

In regards to "Responses of Findings", the respondent agrees.

In regards to "Findings and Recommendations", the respondent disagrees and the recommendations will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

As such, the cost associated with purchasing a small travel trailer and all of the related costs, (e.g., pouring concrete pad, electrical and plumbing connections and any potential permits, etc.) would not be fiscally prudent. The institution has since provided alternative housing arrangements and will pursue physical plant alterations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Salgado".

**P. SALGADO**, Lieutenant  
Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer  
Wasco State Prison- Reception Center