



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Adam Christianson, Sheriff-Coroner

ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION

July 14, 2008

The Honorable Donald E. Shaver, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Stanislaus County
P.O. Box 3488
Modesto, CA 95353

DES 7/16/08

Re: Response to Report – Civil Grand Jury Case #08-25

Dear Judge Shaver:

The Sheriff's Department is in receipt of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury's completed 2007/2008 Correctional Facilities Inspections report (case #08-25), as mandated by California Penal Code Section 919(b). Included in the report are findings and recommendations regarding three Sheriff's Department facilities, the Main Jail, Public Safety Center and Honor Farm.

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05 the following is our response.

Findings and Recommendations for Main Jail Facility (page 65)

As noted in the Civil Grand Jury report, this facility is outdated and crowded. Although the jail is kept clean, the building leaks (causing standing water), is in a constant state of repair, and lacks space for staff, inmates, and property. The Civil Grand Jury has recommended the following:

1. Proceed with the design and construction of a new facility with larger work areas, larger storage areas, and larger inmate housing areas.
2. Improve housekeeping to eliminate standing water on floors.
3. Use cable spools for loose cables, remove or repair severed cables.
4. Digitize records to save storage space.
5. Conduct a staffing analysis and increase staffing.

Response

We concur with the findings of the Civil Grand Jury. All of the above recommendations are currently moving ahead and showing progress.

Findings and Recommendations for Public Safety Center (page 69)

The Civil Grand Jury reports that this newer facility is in overall excellent condition and appears clean and well maintained. The Civil Grand Jury recommends the following regarding the Public Safety Center:

1. Expand the Video Arraignment program to reduce staffing needs and security needs.
2. Evaluate placing mentally unstable inmates in this facility.
3. Conduct a staffing analysis.
4. Continue good housekeeping.

Response

We concur with the findings of the Civil Grand Jury. All of the recommendations are in place including the current Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) grant, which focuses on mentally ill offenders and their well being.

Findings for Sheriff's Honor Farm (page 75)

The Civil Grand Jury reports that the Honor Farm is crowded, in poor to fair condition, and because of its age when built, is not ADA compliant. In addition, the facility lacks a backup generator and has serious sewer problems. As with the Main Jail, the Honor Farm has been recommended for replacement in the 1988 Needs Assessment and Master Plan.

The Civil Grand Jury recommends the following regarding the Honor farm:

1. Conduct a staffing analysis and increase staffing.
2. Immediately obtain and install a backup generator.
3. Expand vocational skills programs for inmates.
4. Replace or rebuild buildings (entire facility replacement recommended).
5. Seek partnerships with community regarding inmate programs.

Response

We concur with the findings of the Civil Grand Jury. All of these recommendations are currently moving forward including the acquisition of a backup generator and program expansion such as the newly implemented tree-planting program in partnership with the City of Modesto Parks Department.

Conclusion

The Sheriff's Department completed a new and current Needs Assessment in 2007, and we are currently entering the programming phase for the build out of the Public Safety Center, which will include a staffing analysis.

We appreciate the time the Civil Civil Grand Jury has devoted to inspecting our facilities and operations, and providing recommendations that help to improve our overall operations. As with prior inspections and recommendations, the appropriate improvements will be completed as soon as practical.

If I can be of further assistance or answer any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

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

ADAM CHRISTIANSON
Sheriff- Coroner
Stanislaus County

cc: Richard Robinson,
Chief Executive Officer
Stanislaus County