

# DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTION

## *SUMMARY*

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Code of Regulations Title 15 and Title 24 and Penal Code §§919(b) and 921, the 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) inquired into conditions and operations of the various detention facilities in the County.

To fulfill this obligation, the Grand Jury schedules on-site visits with the facilities. The jurors conducting the inspections are provided a checklist of required issues to be addressed, with specialized material covering the operation of juvenile facilities.

A great deal of attention is paid to the physical plant to determine if it is clean and safe. Hallways and other common traffic areas are checked to assure there are no “slip and fall” hazards.

At all facilities, the Grand Jury viewed evidence that required safety inspections are carried out timely; weapons are stored in secure, locked containers, and emergency/disaster drills are conducted frequently.

The kitchen and bathroom areas are examined very closely. These areas must be kept clean and safe. When kitchen spills occurred, Grand Jury members noted they are, in most cases, cleaned up quickly. Although most meals are prepared away from the detention facilities, all kitchens are clean, food stored properly and inmate workers wear caps and gloves when required.

In most facilities, bathroom areas are maintained in good condition. Conditions at the older facilities (Juvenile Ranch-Campo, Camp Barrett, Las Colinas) need significant improvement with more attention paid to preventing mold in shower areas.

Members of the Grand Jury wish to take this opportunity to thank the personnel at all facilities for their cooperation and the drivers who provided comfortable transportation for the inspection visits.

The following facilities were inspected and their internet addresses are included below to assist anyone who desires additional information about any or all detention facilities.

San Diego Central Jail: Primary County intake facility, males only.

[www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/SDCJ.html](http://www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/SDCJ.html)

Las Colinas Detention Facility: All classification levels, females only.

[www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/LCDF.html](http://www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/LCDF.html)

South Bay Detention Facility: All classification levels, males only.  
[www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/SBDF.html](http://www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/SBDF.html)

Vista Detention Facility: Primary intake for North County, males and females.  
[www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/VDF.html](http://www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/VDF.html)

George Bailey Detention Facility: Maximum-security facility, males only.  
[www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/GBDF.html](http://www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/GBDF.html)

East Mesa Detention Facility: Medium-security facility, males only.  
[www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/EMDF.html](http://www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/EMDF.html)

Facility 8 Detention Facility: Medium-security facility, males only.  
[www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/FAC8.html](http://www.sdsheriff.net/detentionfacilities/FAC8.html)

Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility: males and females.  
[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile\\_halls.html](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile_halls.html)

Juvenile Ranch Facility (Campo): males only.  
[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile\\_halls.html](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile_halls.html)

Girls Rehabilitation Facility: females only.  
[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile\\_halls.html](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile_halls.html)

Camp Barrett: males only.  
[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile\\_halls.html](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/probation/juvenile_halls.html)

## **SAN DIEGO CENTRAL JAIL**

On August 6, 2010, the Grand Jury toured the San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ) located at 1173 Front Street, downtown San Diego. The visit began with an extensive briefing. A PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of detention facilities throughout San Diego County was shown and a copy was made available for viewing at the Grand Jury office.

The SDCJ operates under the Facility Commander with a sworn staff of 210. SDCJ has a Corrections Standards Authority (CSA)-rated capacity of 944 inmates, but currently averages a population of 778. The inmates are classified according to the severity of offense, and are identified by the color of their clothing and wristbands.

The Grand Jury reviewed medical, dental and mental health “quality of life” issues. Inmates have access to clergy and religious services and are permitted to have visitors under defined rules, although exceptions may be granted. Ample visitation space is provided, and accommodation is made for visitors’ work schedules. Rehabilitation programs available for inmates primarily focus on domestic violence, substance and alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS awareness. Because the average length of stay is a relatively short 77 days, educational programs, which operate under contract with

Grossmont Adult School, are limited. The Grand Jury did not observe classrooms or educational materials. During the tour, medical, mental health, food service and line staff members were observed and briefly interviewed. An inmate welfare fund receives the profits from the facility canteens that sell toiletries, snacks, etc. to inmates; rebate funds from the pay telephones inmates use also go into this fund. These funds may then be used to purchase recreation equipment, specialty clothing items, etc. that benefit inmates at all adult detention facilities at no cost to taxpayers.

Although the Grand Jury did not observe much staff/inmate interaction, the diverse staff appears to be sufficient to oversee the inmates. Inmates watch a daily video briefing in both English and Spanish, and most rules are posted in both languages. An inmate who was interviewed stated that rules are explained and understood; another told a juror he was treated fairly and respectfully.

The physical plant is clean and well maintained and safety precautions are observed, among them the appropriate locked storage for weapons. All required inspections were completed timely. Individual and dormitory cells are cool, well lighted, and toilets and drinking water are available. There is, however, a notable lack of sporting equipment for those inmates permitted to use the meager exercise area.

Contracted physicians, a dentist, vision specialists and mental health practitioners are available on the premises. Contract and staff registered nurses (RN) and/or licensed vocational nurses (LVN) provide direct care to inmates when needed. Nurses are available 24 hours a day and make rounds several times daily to assess whether ill or injured inmates require immediate attention. SDCJ has the only inmate hemodialysis unit available in San Diego County, and is staffed by RNs from UCSD Medical Center under a contract. The RNs and LVNs follow approved standardized nursing procedures and their license is verified annually. Prescribed medications are properly inventoried and distributed according to physician order. Narcotics are stored in a locked cabinet in a secured location. In the past year, SDJC reported one suicide, 23 suicide attempts and one death by natural causes.

Kitchen facilities are well-run and careful attention is paid to assure adequate health and sanitary conditions. Storage methods are particularly stringent, with different categories of foods stored in separate coolers. Food preparation areas are appropriately segregated. Inmate workers are very clean, wear gloves and caps and are medically cleared for work in a kitchen. Trustees are sufficiently trained in food-handling procedures to qualify them for possible employment in the food industry upon release.

Disciplinary action ranges from verbal admonition to loss of privileges, forfeiture of credits for "good time" and "work time," to isolation from the rest of the population. Discipline options are strictly defined and limited by the Penal Code. Sending and receiving some mail may be limited, but correspondence with legal authorities and counsel may not be curtailed. The grievance protocol is posted.

Overall, SDCJ is a well-run and well-maintained facility.

## ***RECOMMENDATION***

**The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:**

**11-54: While the San Diego Central Jail appears to be a well-appointed facility, it would be improved significantly by replacing the outdated surveillance equipment with a new digital video system at a projected cost of \$1.5 million when funding becomes available.**

## **VISTA DETENTION FACILITY**

The Vista Detention Facility (VDF) was inspected on August 20, 2010 by the Grand Jury. Although this facility was completed in 1978, it has a modern look and appears to be very well kept. It is quite attractive in an almost park-like setting.

The VDF is located at 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista. The VDF books and houses both male and female inmates, the only San Diego County detention facility to do so. Among the population are those awaiting transfer to other facilities and a large number of inmates who need special handling because of medical or psychiatric conditions. The average length of stay is 76 days. On the date inspected, 731 inmates were in custody, below the CSA-authorized capacity of 820 and the court-ordered capacity of 886: 673 male, 58 female.

Before the inspection tour began, several department heads explained their functions aided by a PowerPoint presentation, a hard copy of which was made available for reference and review. The Grand Jury reviewed documentation of all required inspections, such as fire and health; all had been completed in a timely fashion. All weapons were safely secured.

Staff/inmate interaction was minimal during the inspection tour, but the Grand Jury was told respect is reciprocal; that is, when the staff treats inmates respectfully, the converse is generally true. Several staff members are bilingual. There are currently some unfilled positions, and the Grand Jury believes additional female officers would improve diversity.

There was a general impression of neatness and cleanliness throughout the VDF. Housing areas were free of debris, inmates were clean and neat and sleeping areas were tidy. There is an open recreation area where inmates were observed playing basketball and handball. Inmates told us they appreciated the “fresh air” during their 90-minute exercise periods three times weekly.

The attention paid to the mental, dental and medical health of the inmates seems extraordinary. Medical and nursing staff is on-call all day, seven days a week. The medical staff is well trained and works in a well-equipped and maintained environment.

A North County branch of the Superior Court is adjacent to the detention center; inmates arrested in the North County generally have their cases adjudicated at this location and do not travel to downtown San Diego.

Because inmates are not usually housed for long periods, there are no long-term educational programs; however, anger management classes are available. Inmates who work in the kitchen and dining areas receive training in proper food handling and may use these skills to aid in an employment search upon release. Jurors who visited the kitchen found it clean and in compliance with health and safety ordinances.

Inmates are informed about established grievance procedures and do have recourse when disciplinary actions (limited by California Penal Code) are taken. Rules and regulations are clearly explained upon arrival.

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

**The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:**

**11-55: Consider enlarging the size of visiting area to enhance the otherwise excellent facilities.**

## **LAS COLINAS DETENTION FACILITY**

Las Colinas Detention Facility (LCDF) was inspected on September 3, 2010, by members of the Grand Jury.

The LCDF is located at 9000 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee. The facility's CSA-rated capacity is 432, a figure currently exceeded by almost 200. The overcrowding will cease to be an issue only when the long-proposed replacement facility is built. As of calendar year 2009, there were 146 sworn staff members. There are now five vacancies and it is hoped some will be filled by female deputies. Registered nurses are available 24 hours-a-day for a population that at this writing included 25 pregnant women. Inmates receive care as needed from physicians, psychiatrists, dentists, and medical specialists. The LCDF has a 16-bed psychiatric unit and a 12-bed infirmary on site.

The facility was converted from a juvenile detention center in 1979, and now houses only female inmates who are incarcerated for an average of 65 days. LCDF has been the subject of three recent Grand Jury reports, the most recent from the 2006/2007 San Diego County Grand Jury. This report and others may be viewed at:<http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/grandjury/reports.html>

Those on the Grand Jury who visited LCDF in the past were impressed by the improved conditions, although the facility still needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Stop-gap repairs have made the facility habitable, but stained and weakened floors, leaky faucets and deteriorating sinks were noted in the bathrooms and dormitory areas, among other deficiencies.

As expected, all required inspections have been carried out by their respective due dates. The kitchen is clean, the workers follow approved hygiene rules and food is stored properly. One refrigerator thermometer was not functioning, but in general, the kitchen appeared well managed. The weapons locker was inspected and found to be properly secured.

The LCDF is a sprawling, campus-like group of one-story buildings. This makes it a bit more difficult to monitor the inmates, while at the same time providing a freer, less restrictive environment. Indoor and outdoor exercise equipment is available. As is the case in all County detention centers, inmates are identified and to a great degree, housed according to the severity of their crimes.

Brief interviews of inmates revealed that most staff members treat them fairly, except for a few staff that are described as rude and unnecessarily gruff. Disciplinary actions follow approved and standard procedures, with a grievance plan clearly explained and followed.

There are quite a few opportunities for inmates to learn new and additional skills. The availability of classes will be improved when the new facility is erected, allowing more inmates to participate without the long wait that currently exists. LCDF inmates produce the clothing worn by inmates at all County detention facilities. Sewing skills and the discipline of a work schedule are taught to provide released inmates an increased opportunity to return productively to society.

The LCDF staff supports a strong volunteer program, with emphasis on religious/spiritual services and counseling.

Of particular note is a new program described in the January 3, 2011, edition of the *North County Times*. LCDF set aside an entire dormitory for inmates willing to participate in a strict addiction recovery program. The program guides those inmates to understand and change behaviors and thinking patterns that led them to turn to drug or alcohol abuse, which is the common denominator for most crimes committed by the inmates.

In general, LCDF does a credible job with limited and outdated resources and is commended for being well-run.

## **SOUTH BAY DETENTION FACILITY**

On September 24, 2010, the Grand Jury toured and inspected the South Bay Detention Facility (SBDF) located at 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. This is a small facility, currently housing 336 inmates, a figure fewer by 50 than the CSA-rated capacity and

fewer than the court-ordered maximum of 431. The current census is likely to change if plans are implemented to transfer some inmates from state facilities.

The SBDF is housed in an attractive modern building that is well screened by shrubbery and trees. The facility commander is aided by just a dozen deputies and a watch commander each for the three shifts. He has an able support staff and a medical team consisting of a nursing supervisor, charge nurse and two additional registered nurses. SBDF can handle inmates with stable medical conditions and holds nurse-managed sick calls six days weekly as well as regular doctor and dental calls.

The staff is primarily male and Caucasian. Deputies undergo constant training and seem genuinely happy to be working at SBDF. Since the inmates' average stay is approximately 35 days, the opportunity for inmates and staff to interact is minimal, but it was noted approximately 25% of the staff speaks Spanish. A repeated inmate grievance issue dealt with the commissary and it was reported that some officers talk of "sending you to Donovan" for alleged misconduct, dress or hygiene violations. (Note: "Donovan" refers to the state prison nearby with much stricter rules.) Inmates are warned if they breach rules, they could be placed in isolation for serious infractions.

Inmate morale appears to be improved as reflected in the significant decrease in inmate/inmate and inmate/staff assaults in recent years. No suicides, attempted suicides or deaths by other causes have occurred. There has not been an escape in more than five years.

The physical plant is in good condition: well lighted, clean and is maintained at a comfortable temperature.

Inmates are housed in cells containing three bunk beds; however, cells currently house only two occupants. Bedding is off the floor and clean sheets and towels are provided weekly by the facility's on-site inmate laundry workers. There are sufficient toilets and showers in the cells and the holding areas. Inmates are allotted three hours weekly for exercise and there is some equipment for their use. According to staff, basketballs were removed from the large gym because inmates were using them as weapons.

The kitchen is run in a safe and hygienic manner. Inmates are dressed appropriately to work with food and can learn the skills needed to take and pass the tests for food handling occupations. Mealtimes appeared to be rushed.

Inmates may send confidential mail to legal counsel, but are aware out-going mail is screened by staff before mailing. There are adequate provisions for visiting with family, attorneys and clergy. Inmates may use pre-paid phone cards or make a collect call on the telephones provided.

Religious services are offered in English and Spanish, and a good-sized library and a small law library are available. Inmates are encouraged to attend Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous sessions; there is a strong emphasis on drug education.

Deserving of special mention is “United through Reading,” a twice-monthly program offered by volunteers who provide books for inmates to read to their children. They then record the inmate reading the book and make it available to the family.

Overall, the visiting jurors had a very favorable impression of this facility.

## **OTAY MESA DETENTION COMPOUND**

On October 9, 2010, members of the Grand Jury visited southern San Diego County and toured three detention facilities. Detention Facility 8 (DF8), East Mesa Detention Facility (EMDF) and George F. Bailey Detention Facility (GBDF). This provided a good opportunity to compare the similarities and differences among the institutions. While the basic rules and regulations are the same for each, there are marked differences in the programs offered and the level of comparative freedom the inmates enjoy.

Although each of the detention facilities has its own “footprint” on the eight-plus acre site on Otay Mesa, they all carry the address of 446 Alta Road, San Diego, 92158. A Captain commands all three facilities. The grounds are attractively landscaped by inmates and buildings and inmate housing are clean and free of debris. An on-site laundry provides inmates with fresh clothing and bedding. Bathroom facilities at all locations are well-maintained and inmates have access to drinking water.

Staff answered questions about required safety measures and emergency/disaster drills. All assured the Grand Jury the sites are in compliance. As expected, weapons are safely secured. Inmate/staff and inmate/inmate assaults are extremely low at all facilities.

A grievance procedure is in place and careful logs are kept of inmate complaints, most of which concern medical issues, such as having to wait too long to be seen by the nurse. Discipline is handled much the same at the three facilities. Depending on the seriousness of the infraction, punishment may include loss of privileges, short-term lockdown and disciplinary isolation. Some medical staff are shared among the three facilities.

## **DETENTION FACILITY 8**

This component of the three facilities was designed for maximum security, but only those inmates who can be housed in a low to medium security environment are incarcerated here. DF8 has three housing modules for a total of 300 beds. Some are triple occupancy, but when the population is low, only the double occupancy cells are in use. When San Diego County acquired this facility in 2006, it was renovated to bring it up to standards. At present, there are 178 inmates in custody. The CSA-rated capacity is 200. The average length of stay is 60 to 90 days, but some inmates may be kept here for as long as a year. Because offenders here are generally in for non-violent crimes, they enjoy more freedom and day room time. While sports equipment is limited, basketballs are permitted.

Sworn staff includes two sergeants, 26 deputies and a professional staff of three, such as mental health and registered nurse staff. There was some observation of staff/inmate interaction, which appeared to be mutually respectful. The staff is diverse; many speak Spanish and communicate easily with inmates.

DF8 does not have a kitchen; meals are delivered three times daily from the GBDF.

A daily nurse sick call and weekly doctor and psychiatrist visits handle routine medical needs. Those requiring dental services or more extensive medical care receive it at GBDF.

Because inmates are usually not in custody for a prolonged period, educational programs are somewhat limited, but a GED program is in place as are counseling and educational classes by volunteers are presented in English and Spanish.

### **EAST MESA DETENTION FACILITY**

A staff of 66 operates the medium-security facility known primarily for its Local Re-entry Program (LRP) that attempts to limit recidivism. The vocational training offered is wide-ranging and certainly can help inmates re-enter society with skills to make the transition from incarceration to freedom more successful. Additionally, classes in areas such as anger management and parenting help smooth the re-entry to society.

Here, too, the staff is adequate and diverse with many bilingual English/Spanish speakers. Two “special officers,” the remaining two of an elite canine unit, aid in patrol and drug detection.

The usual inmate privileges are offered, contingent on complying with the facility’s rules. Visitor facilities are “family friendly” and a covered outdoor area is available. General population inmates have at least a half-hour to visit; trustees are permitted twice as much time. Visiting is curtailed only if the inmate is disciplined. Those in the general population are allowed 14 hours weekly outdoors; trustees have 16 hours.

Educational opportunities at EMDF include training in computer graphics, print shop trades and industrial laundry. Additionally, there are counseling and probation programs and life skills classes. “Strive,” a re-entry transitional return to society program, is funded by the state and has the cooperation of more than 200 local employers.

Inmates have meals in a central chow hall and have 15 minutes to consume each meal. Kitchen facilities were inspected and found in compliance, except for the lack of posted County Health Department grade cards. These were available, but in a file drawer rather than displayed.

As of this writing, 404 men are in custody. The CSA-rated capacity is 562.

## **GEORGE F. BAILEY DETENTION FACILITY**

This maximum-security facility is the largest in San Diego. The facility is supervised by five lieutenants, 14 sergeants and 200 deputies comprise the correctional staff, aided by a wide spectrum of other professional staff in a variety of capacities. Facility officials said 20 to 24 sworn staff positions are vacant due to budget constraints. Many deputies speak Spanish; Hispanics are the majority of the inmate population.

The inmate population is 1563 (of which 23 are medical bed occupants), more than the 1380 CSA-rated capacity. Inmates can be held from one to five years.

Medical, dental and mental health care provided by GBDF is at a high professional level. Inmates suffering from sleep apnea currently occupy eight of the 16 beds set aside in the medical unit that can be used for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure treatment, also known as C-PAP. Medications are stored in a locked room and are dispensed and documented carefully by the two pharmacists.

Inmates are permitted outdoor recreation from one-and-a-half to three hours weekly, and there is equipment for basketball, softball and other sports.

Educational programs are managed by Grossmont Union School District, with vocational certificates awarded through Grossmont Adult School. The programs include GED, janitorial, landscaping and culinary arts classes. In addition, several volunteer “enrichment” programs are offered, such as drug education and parenting classes. GBDF also offers the popular “United through Reading” program and participates in the “Strive” program mentioned above.

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

**The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff take the following action at the George F. Bailey Detention Center:**

**11-56: Consider purchasing rather than renting Continuous Positive Airway Pressure units and supplies.**

## **EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY**

On the tour date, 258 boys were in custody at EMJDF, 32 fewer than the court-mandated maximum. More than 60% of the boys are Hispanic, 20% are African-American, with Caucasian and “other” comprising the remainder of the population. Records indicate many of the boys have been detained here three or more times. Other studies show at least one boy out of three is likely to commit other infractions and be returned to custody. The average length of stay is three weeks, although some boys can be held for six to nine months. The sworn staff numbers 139. In addition, teachers, including special education teachers, nursing staff and other healthcare professionals are either on site or on-call. Boys in the general population wear blue t-shirts, those with a history of violent behavior wear orange.

As expected, all required inspections were completed on time. In addition, the facility recently held a mock disaster drill. Staff are permitted to carry pepper spray. Other staff weapons are secured.

Staffing is adequate to monitor the population, and surveillance cameras are installed throughout the facility. A video conference system via the internet will soon be in place to facilitate visits with family and legal counsel. Communication with the inmates is excellent as more than 25% of the staff speaks Spanish. The excellent educational programs include credits equivalent to a high school diploma; all inmates are required to be enrolled in school. In addition, this facility offers a "Second Chance Program" to help the inmate return to society upon release. Approximately a third of the boys need special education to attain literacy in English and/or Spanish.

The Grand Jury noted that while rules and regulations are generally enforced, a lack of consistency compared to the other juvenile facilities is apparent. For example, the boys are given a half-hour for meals, twice as much as at the other facilities. There is also increased time set aside for outdoor exercise. Rules governing behavior are posted and a fair grievance policy is in place.

Nursing services are available 24 hours-a-day. Emergencies are handled quickly and a crisis action team is available to deal with psychological and psychiatric needs.

The Grand Jury singled out the kitchen for positive comments. They remarked on the cleanliness and adherence to hygienic standards.

The facility director often dines with the boys and eats the same meals. If a meal does not come up to standards, which is rare, the director does not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the kitchen staff. Jurors were served a well-balanced lunch.

This facility is well-run, well-maintained and highly regarded by staff and inmates alike.

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

**The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Chief Probation Officer:**

**11-57: Consider adding Saturday as a visiting day, when more parents and/or guardians might be available, replacing a weekday.**

## **KEARNY MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY**

This is a no-nonsense facility with strict rules governing both the young inmates and their visitors. The Grand Jury visited the facility at 2801 Meadowlark Drive, San Diego on October 15, 2010 following the strictest visitation procedure they encountered for all inspections.

A Deputy Chief who is in charge of all five of the County's juvenile detention centers commands the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (KMJDF). There are 178 sworn staff and 16 support staff. Two classes of inmates are housed at KMJDF, those with criminal charges and those with other charges. On the day of the visit, 225 juveniles were in custody.

Inmates are identified by the color of their shirt, with orange designating those with a high-risk for violent or other prohibited behavior. The average length of stay is a bit more than two weeks, with some youths in custody for more than a year. Ages range from 12 to 17½, but occasionally, younger inmates have been in custody. Intake procedures, which include a medical assessment, are completed in less than six hours. These assessments have revealed that 15%-20% of incoming juvenile inmates are on psychotropic drugs.

Young people incarcerated for extended periods are required to attend school five days a week and can earn credits towards a high school diploma or GED.

During our visit, we noted several wings being painted and remaining unsafe bunk beds are being replaced by safer, cement-based beds fixed to the floor. Overall, the physical plant is in good condition. The kitchen complies with all health and safety rules and is clean and safe.

Required inspections, including earthquake drills, are carried out according to the various schedules of rules and regulations. The staff is permitted to carry pepper spray; safe storage is provided for the weapons of staff and visiting law enforcement personnel.

The cost to house and care for the inmates is \$146 per inmate per day. Parents/guardians are billed \$31 for each day a child is in custody, an amount many cannot pay.

Staff advised the Grand Jury of an especially distressing fact. Although the juvenile facilities are located conveniently in central San Diego, fewer than a quarter of the parents, especially those from outlying locations, visit their incarcerated children.

## **GIRLS' REHABILITATION FACILITY**

The Grand Jury toured the Girls' Rehabilitation Facility (GRF) at 2861 Meadowlark Drive, San Diego, on October 15, 2010. A supervising probation officer in charge of the Girls' Rehabilitation Facility (GRF) at 2861 Meadowlark Drive, San Diego, adjacent to the main Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility. Her staff includes three senior probation officers, 15 correctional deputy probation officers, a detention information assistant, a full-time psychologist, a part-time psychiatrist, a full-time alcohol and drug counselor, a full-time program facilitator and numerous volunteers. Because of the intensive nature of the programs offered, this facility has a very high ratio of staff to detainees. There were 36 girls in custody, and all were attending classes in a variety of

subjects and educational levels. Homework is assigned daily, and tutors are available to help the girls with the assignments.

When a girl enters this facility, she is given a rulebook that explains the expectations for behavior and an outline of the five-phase program she must pass through before being released. Each of the phases is based on the needs of the individual participant who works with several members of the professional staff to determine her long-term goals. As each phase is completed, additional privileges are earned. The program is called “A Passport to Life,” and begins with “Boarding,” followed by “Departure,” “Journey,” “Arrival” and “Destination.”

Family visiting includes arrangements for the girls who have small children to participate in “baby visitation.” An important factor in this program is the availability of family counseling. This can assist the parents and the girls when the girls return home. Follow-up programs are often arranged to monitor the girls after release.

Because of its success in helping female juveniles turn their lives around, the British Broadcasting Company is producing a documentary on the GRF Program.

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

**The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Chief Probation Officer:**

**11-58:            Replace the carpet throughout the building when funding becomes available.**

## **JUVENILE RANCH DETENTION FACILITY-CAMPO**

On November 19, 2010, the Grand Jury visited the Juvenile Ranch Detention Facility (JRDF) at 757 Forest Gate Road, Campo. The JRDF is located about 65 miles east of downtown San Diego. This isolated, minimum-security camp is far enough from San Diego to make escape attempts rare and unsuccessful.

The camp, part of which is designated a San Diego County historical landmark, currently houses 135 boys from age 13 to the day before the inmate reaches the age of 18. It is divided into three sections—Rayo 1, Campo 1 and Campo 3. Rayo 1 and Campo 3 are 84-day programs that focus on substance abuse rehabilitation, anger management, self-responsibility and setting life goals. Campo 1 lasts from three weeks to 40 days and focuses on behavior modification. Delinquent boys can be held here for up to one year. Although its history goes back much further, many of the buildings are part of what was the U.S. Army’s Camp Lockett, the last headquarters of the famed African-American cavalymen, the Buffalo Soldiers. During World War II, Camp Lockett housed German and Italian prisoners of war.

Because of its historical status, it is very difficult to properly maintain the old buildings. Strict rules covering what can be repaired and how the repair is done must be followed to retain the look of the original construction. Nevertheless, a repair program will be underway soon to improve the shabby and somewhat unsafe conditions of many buildings. Removal of asbestos-based siding and shingles is a high priority. Lavatories are in poor condition, some with leaks and heavy rust in the toilets.

The kitchen was clean and in good condition. The food was tasty and it was noted the boys ate almost all food served. Thermometers to monitor refrigerator temperatures are small and difficult to read.

All required inspections and emergency drills have been completed. Staff members do not carry weapons; however, weapons brought in by other law enforcement personnel are properly secured.

The Director is aided by a dedicated staff that seems to sincerely care about the boys. One of the principals of the juvenile court and community schools and the psychologist described their programs. A juror described the energy shown by special education and technology instructors as “terrific.”

The boys appeared clean and neatly dressed. Dormitories are spartan; however, bedding was in acceptable condition and extra blankets are available for the cold nights in Campo.

A great deal of time is spent explaining the rules and regulations to inmates. An appropriate grievance procedure is in place. Juveniles are encouraged to “ask the staff” if questions arise.

RNs handle routine medical needs and dispense strictly monitored and prescribed medications. When juveniles are released, parents or guardians are advised about any medications the boy is taking and encouraged to follow-up with recommended medical treatment. Because of its remote location, staff call 911 to deal with emergencies.

Juveniles have the usual privileges at JRDF. A great deal of space is set aside for exercise, including basketball, soccer, football and baseball.

Telephones are available in the dorm rooms. Outgoing and incoming mail, except for correspondence with legal counsel, is scanned. Provisions are made for visits by parents, grandparents and guardians, legal counsel and clergy. Visitation rights depend on the inmate complying with the rules and regulations.

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

**The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Chief Probation Officer:**

**11-59: Purchase larger thermometers to monitor refrigerator temperatures.**

## **CAMP BARRETT JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY**

The Grand Jury completed its evaluation of the County's juvenile detention facilities when jurors inspected Camp Barrett near Alpine on December 3, 2010. Camp Barrett can house 156 inmates, and has a current population of 135. Of the 135, approximately 15%-20% are on prescribed, strictly monitored psychotropic medications. Approximately 50-60% of the inmates are Hispanic and 20% are African-American. The remainder are Caucasian, Asian or "other." The length of stay can be as long as a year. Inmates are housed in well-lighted, uncluttered dormitories.

This visit resulted in both positive and negative observations.

On the positive side, all jurors were impressed by the quality and quantity of educational opportunities available to the boys and young men in custody who are from 16-and-a-half to 18-years-old. Classrooms were well appointed and the ratio of instructor to student is remarkably high. Some boys may receive individual tutoring and the likelihood of academic success is quite good. Facility staff discussed the impressive numbers of detainees who earn a high school diploma or complete requirements for a GED. The facility has a pass rate of more than 90% for those working towards the GED or high school diploma. Staff described the graduation ceremonies and the positive effects they seem to have on inmates and their families.

Field trips to activities such as air shows, theater and career work-readiness programs are earned by proper behavior.

Vocational education is a large part of the curricula offered at Camp Barrett. Classes are available in graphic arts and design, fire fighting, parenting and in culinary arts, which can lead to a food handler's card.

All members of the professional staff are interested in helping the inmates turn their lives around. Psychological services and healthcare support by registered nurses or by referral to other medical personnel is provided. An array of educational programs designed for the individual are also offered to the inmates. The programs include the Lindamood-Bell literacy method. According to the <http://www.lindamood-bell.com> website, this method teaches students "to read, spell, comprehend, think critically and express language." Camp Barrett also offers "United through Reading," a program designed to help inmates keep in touch with family members, including their own children.

An adequate number of staff, many of whom are bilingual in English and Spanish, provides constant supervision. During the day, the ratio of staff to inmate is one to five; overnight, it is one to 30.

As is the case for all detention facilities visited, the Grand Jury determined required inspections were carried out appropriately, and any weapons (usually those of visiting law enforcement) are kept secure.

Inmates are issued a rule book upon arrival, discipline options are explained and grievance logs are maintained in the housing units. The most common complaints of inmates are being accused of an infraction they claim they did not commit, and that visitors are limited to parents and/or guardians, excluding siblings or their own children. Inmates have adequate access to telephones, and inmate mail, except to and from legal counsel, is screened for content.

Several areas of the facility require immediate attention to improve cleanliness. For example, grease and spilled food around kitchen appliances revealed these areas have not been cleaned regularly. Flex lines connecting large appliances were exposed to potential damage by persons passing behind the large stovetop. The insect traps were dirty, crumbs and liquid residue were noted on windowsills, chair rails and walls in the dining room, and all floors needed a thorough cleaning.

An incorrectly sized floor drain is a “trip and fall” hazard in a dorm shower room where algae and mold were discovered. These issues were brought to the attention of the staff who stated the conditions would be corrected by the end of the day.

### ***UNANNOUNCED VISIT***

The Grand Jury made an unannounced, return visit to Camp Barrett on April 8, 2011 to determine if deficiencies noted above have been corrected. Many have not.

Some of the kitchen workers were wearing heavily soiled jackets. The jurors were informed these jackets are changed three times weekly; more frequent changes are needed. Although the kitchen holds an “A” rating from the County Health Department, several areas need better cleaning, specifically to remove grease. Spills need to be better monitored and cleaned up promptly to prevent falls.

The dorm bathrooms still have significant visible mold and spilled toothpaste is evident on the sinks and floors.

Despite what was described as an active horticulture program, uncontrolled weed growth remains around the facility.

Other deficiencies noted in this report remain, and in some cases appear to be worse than when noted during the original visit in December 2010.

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

**The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Chief Probation Officer:**

**11-60: Conduct a thorough inspection of the kitchen, dorm toilet and shower areas, floors and grounds accompanied by Camp Barrett staff and Probation Department management. Stringent cleaning and grounds maintenance schedules should be established immediately that will address the problem areas on a routine basis before they become worse. Consideration should be given to instituting a trained, volunteer inmate crew who would receive “good behavior” or similar credits to perform a deep cleaning regimen on a monthly or more frequent basis. This regimen should focus particularly on the kitchen and dorm bathrooms and showers.**

## **EAST MESA FOOD AND LAUNDRY**

Have you ever complained about being in the slowest line in a supermarket?

Imagine how slowly the line would move if the staff at the East Mesa Food facility were shopping in front of you!

On December 10, 2010, the Grand Jury toured and inspected the East Mesa Food and Laundry facility. The jurors wore a head covering and vinyl gloves similar to those worn by staff and inmates as required by state and County to protect the food from contamination.

This facility uses 577,000 pounds of potatoes, 670,000 pounds of lettuce and approximately a million pounds of various meats each year. The bakery produces 4.5 million cookies and 1.7 million dinner rolls annually, and that’s just the short list of the foodstuffs needed to prepare meals for San Diego County’s eight detention and four probation facilities daily in the state-of-the-art facility that uses the cook/chill centralization process.

In addition, this very busy, mammoth kitchen provides the local Meals-on-Wheels organization with holiday meals and is on-call to feed official personnel and volunteers when disasters occur, such as fire or flood. This facility helps the county save considerable money by catering special events and department functions. It is also involved with the National School Lunch program.

The kitchen is staffed by 40 inmate workers who work two shifts. They are paid \$.50 per day and are supervised by a civilian staff. The workers are well-trained, and many attend food-handling classes where they can earn Serve Safe certification in less than a year. In addition to regular meals that run on a four-week rotation schedule, special diets, such as vegetarian, kosher, diabetic, renal or other medically-required diets, are prepared. The cost is approximately \$3 per inmate for three meals a day.

Of all the equipment seen, the Grand Jury was most impressed by a 200-gallon vat in which soups, sauces, and some meals such as chili, are made. The Grand Jury paid

particular attention to food safety rules. Refrigerators were at correct temperatures, all food is stored properly, and inmates are clean and neat. Some of the floors were quite damp and slippery, but inmates appeared to be working hard to correct this.

Next on the tour was a visit to the laundry where a daily load of wash can be as much as eight to ten-thousand pounds. The facility is completely automated to handle clothing, bedding and towels used in all County adult and juvenile detention centers. The 55 inmates who work there are trained in laundry services and can earn certification from Grossmont Adult School that can be helpful in obtaining employment when they are released. The daily pay is \$.50.

On the day the Grand Jury inspected the facility, the temperature inside the laundry room was comfortably cool. When the weather is hot, inmates have a shady outdoor area where they can take a break. Drinking water supplies are ample, staff ensure inmates are well hydrated and encourage water breaks.

The inmates are constantly busy and all appeared to know how to use the various machines, including the 480-pound capacity washer and 400-pound tumble dryers. A special apparatus dries and folds the bed sheets.

By centralizing the food and laundry facilities, the County saves money and avoids duplication of services.

### ***REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS***

The California Penal Code §933(c) requires any public agency which the Grand Jury has reviewed, and about which it has issued a final report, to comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the agency. Such comment shall be made *no later than 90 days* after the Grand Jury publishes its report (filed with the Clerk of the Court); except that in the case of a report containing findings and recommendations pertaining to a department or agency headed by an elected County official (e.g. District Attorney, Sheriff, etc.), such comment shall be made *within 60 days* to the Presiding Judge with an information copy sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Furthermore, California Penal Code §933.05(a), (b), (c), details, as follows, the manner in which such comment(s) are to be made:

- (a) As to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:
  - (1) The respondent agrees with the finding
  - (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.
- (b) As to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
  - (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
  - (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
  - (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.
- (c) If a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.

Comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in compliance with the Penal Code §933.05 are required from the:

<b><u>Responding Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<b>Sheriff, County of San Diego</b>	<b>11-54, 11-55, 11-56</b>	<b>7/26/11</b>
<b>Probation Department, County of San Diego</b>	<b>11-57, 11-58, 11-59 and 11-60</b>	<b>8/25/11</b>