

CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF DETENTION FACILITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

SUMMARY

California Penal Code Section 919 requires each Grand Jury to inquire into the conditions and management of the detention facilities within its County. In compliance with the requirement, the 2003-2004 San Diego County Grand Jury visited seven detention facilities and six holding cells operated by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, four detention facilities operated by the San Diego County Probation Department, and eight holding cells operated by various police departments within San Diego County. This jury also visited Donovan State Prison and the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center.

PURPOSE

The Grand Jury is mandated to inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. The 2003-2004 San Diego County Grand Jury inspected the San Diego County Sheriff Department's detention facilities, the San Diego County Probation detention facilities and temporary holding cells in several incorporated cities within the San Diego County in order to gain an awareness of the conditions and management of each of these facilities.

PROCEDURES

Members of the Grand Jury reviewed documents from the Board of Corrections, California Code of Regulations Title 15 and Title 24, the Juvenile Justice Commission report and previous Grand Jury reports. In addition, the visiting members of the Grand Jury received and read information at various visitation sites. During visitations, the Grand Jury had the opportunity to observe the physical condition of sites, note programs available to inmates, interview staff and inmates and evaluate the overall conditions at each location.

The Grand Jury inspected the following detention facilities operated by the Sheriff:

- George F. Bailey Detention Facility
- San Diego Central Jail
- Descanso Detention Facility
- East Mesa Detention Facility
- Las Colinas Detention Facility
- South Bay Detention Facility
- Vista Detention Facility.

The following detention facilities are operated by the San Diego Probation Department and were also inspected:

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- Camp Barrett
- Juvenile Hall
- Girls' Rehabilitation Facility
- Juvenile Ranch Facility.

Members of the Grand Jury inspected fourteen temporary holding facilities throughout the county. The Jury also visited the Sheriff's food and laundry facility at the East Mesa Detention Facility.

SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

GEORGE F. BAILEY DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego County Grand Jury visited the George F. Bailey Detention Facility on August 15, 2003. The facility commander provided an orientation. This was followed by a tour and an opportunity to ask questions of the deputy leading the tour. His answers were complete and freely given.

The George F. Bailey Detention Facility is a maximum-security facility. It consists of six housing units, as well as administrative, processing and health services. Programs and services, including social visiting, office visiting, medical screening, counseling, meals and religious services are delivered to the inmates in the housing units.

The health care unit consists of medical offices and a clinic, as well as a twenty four-bed infirmary and contagious disease isolation cells. Medical care is available twenty-four hours a day. Dental and psychiatric services are available on site. Up to 25,000 individual counseling sessions are held each year with inmates.

The California State Board of Corrections¹ has rated the capacity of the facility at 1373. It has a court ordered² maximum capacity of 1696. On the day the Jury inspected the facility the population was 1519. The average daily population was 1500. The staff consists of 195 deputies and 124 civilians.

Inmates are segregated by the security rating assigned to them at intake. While contraband is a constant problem, the situation is controlled by searches of inmates' cells 2-3 times a week. Physical body searches are done as the deputies deem necessary.

¹ Recommended maximum number of prisoners per facility by State Board of Corrections

² Maximum number of prisoners allowed per facility by order of Superior Court of San Diego

Vocational training is provided in the construction trades, building maintenance and laundry services. However, since this is a maximum-security facility fewer inmate workers are employed than at other detention facilities in the county.

Staff from Grossmont Adult School District provides educational programs. Fifty to sixty inmates receive their GED certificates each quarter.

FACTS/FINDINGS

- Cameras in the housing units

The jury observed that the only cameras monitoring the maximum-security inmates in the housing units were portable video cameras on tripods in the control rooms. Due to crowded conditions, they can be accidentally moved or knocked over by control room personnel.

The Grand Jury finds that fixed cameras with recorders would be valuable to the deputies in resolving issues arising from disputes in the housing units. The tapes could document events occurring in the day use area and would be invaluable in protecting staff and inmates from frivolous lawsuits.

RECOMMENDATION

- 04-02-1** The Grand Jury recommends the San Diego County Sheriff investigate the need, and economic feasibility, of fixed video cameras and suitable equipment to videotape events in the housing units.

DESCANSO DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

On Friday, October 24, 2003 the San Diego County Grand Jury visited the Descanso Detention Facility. The Board of Corrections rated capacity is 225 and the court ordered capacity is 440. This is a medium security facility. On the day of the visit there were 234 inmates. The staff consisted of 57 deputies (58 authorized) and 5 sergeants plus approximately 20 civilian employees. There are also 1 drug and 3 tracking dogs working out of this facility.

The people working here showed pride in the facility and a very positive attitude toward the inmates.

The inmate's average stay is 4 to 6 weeks. Inmates with ongoing psychological or medical problems are not assigned to this facility. Sick call is held daily and medical staff is available 10 hours a day. Prisoners with acute medical problems are transported to San Diego for medical treatment.

FACTS/FINDINGS

Inmates range in age from 19 to 60 years old. The emphasis here is to complete schooling first (either GED or high school diploma) and then learn some trade skills. This is the only adult facility that offers a high school diploma. Trade skills include landscaping, and various construction skills, such as electrical, plumbing and carpentry.

There are some 60 buildings on this property including 12 dormitory style buildings, several classrooms, and a greenhouse. There is a weapons firing range on the property. The inmates, through their vocational construction class, have been responsible for remodeling a number of rooms and buildings on the site.

Inmates have access to a written grievance form or a direct phone line to the Sheriff's internal affairs department for redress. Site administration noted that a new 2-part form is being developed in order to give the inmate a copy of the response to any lodged complaint.

Most hazardous warning and rules signs are in both English and Spanish. Religious services and Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous classes are also in both languages. Domestic violence, anger management, HIV education and parenting programs are also available.

Deputies entering the securely fenced portion of the detention facility locked their weapons in a wooden box. The box was secured by use of a key lock.

COMMENDATION

- The Grand Jury would like to commend the instructors and inmates in the vocational construction and landscaping classes for their work renovating various parts of the facility.
- The Grand Jury would like to commend the instructors and staff for providing inmates the opportunity to complete high school graduation requirements in addition to a GED. This is the only Sheriff's adult facility that offers the opportunity to complete a high school diploma, which will enhance the opportunity for the inmate's employment after release.
- The Grand Jury would like to commend the sworn and civilian staff for their obvious dedication to their jobs and pride in this facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

04-02-2 The Grand Jury recommends that the facility commander monitor and require all hazardous warning signs be in both English and Spanish.

04-02-3 The Grand Jury recommends that the facility commander follow through on developing a two-part grievance form, one for filing, and one to be returned to the inmate with outcome noted on it.

- 04-02-4** The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff replace the weapons security box with a more secure (metal) box.

EAST MESA DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego County Grand Jury visited the East Mesa Detention Facility on Friday August 15, 2003.

On August 13, 1991, the East Mesa Detention Facility, then a probation camp, was transferred to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff's personnel and inmates occupied the facility on October 26, 1991. The East Mesa Detention Facility is a Type II facility that has the State Board of Corrections rated capacity of 344 and a court ordered capacity of 512.

Presently the facility has 512 beds available, and occupancy of 489 on the day the Grand Jury visited the facility. While above the State Board of Corrections capacity, it is well below the court mandated number.

Extensive educational opportunities are available for the inmates. They include GED, introduction to computers, and English as a Second Language. There are also group-counseling programs in parenting, Alcoholics Anonymous, anger management and Narcotics Anonymous. In addition, there are monthly programs on AIDS/HIV education.

East Mesa Detention Facility operates a 12,000 square foot print shop, producing forms, business cards and other print material for the Sheriff's Department. Instructors from the Grossmont Adult School supervise the operation of the print shop. The inmates learn the operation of printing machinery while performing a service for the County of San Diego. Some inmates are trained in landscaping and perform all of the landscaping and maintenance of the grounds. In addition, a well-equipped shop is maintained to teach inmates cabinet making and other woodworking skills. These skills are then put to use by the Sheriff's Department to meet their needs for cabinets, bookcases and other objects.

Of the 489 inmates housed at the East Mesa Detention Facility, 269 are inmate workers. Inmate workers are required to work 8 hours a day in various jobs inside as well as outside the facility. The inmate workers prepare food, clean clothes, manufacture mattresses and perform a number of labor intensive tasks that save the County of San Diego a million dollars or more each year.

The following statistics were provided to the Grand Jury:

- Of the 489 inmates, 428 were serving their sentences and 61 were awaiting trial.
- The inmate population consisted of 70 black inmates, 142 white inmates, 238 Hispanic inmates and 39 inmates classified as other.

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- The staff for this facility consisted of one Sheriff's lieutenant, 6 sergeants and 75 deputies.
- The civilian staff consisted of four people.

The grievance procedure at this facility consists of a printed form which is filled out by the inmate and then put into a locked box located in each of the dormitories. Deputies check the boxes daily, and attempt to resolve the grievance. All grievances that cannot be settled at the deputy level are referred to the next higher level until the matter is resolved.

FACTS/FINDINGS

- Maintenance

The Grand Jury observed that two out of three urinals were out of order in one dormitory. Since approximately 64 men are housed in this unit it is important that urinals be repaired in a timely manner.

- Monitoring Inmate Access to Tools

The Grand Jury finds that the Sheriff should be required to have a system through which inmate access to tools can be monitored to reduce the risk to the deputies and other inmates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

04-02-5 The Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff examine the maintenance policy to be sure that tasks are prioritized and completed in a timely manner.

04-02-6 The Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff should devise a system through which the tools available to inmates are more closely managed/inventoried to reduce risk to both deputies and inmates.

EAST MESA FOOD AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES

DISCUSSION

On Thursday, November 6, 2003, the San Diego County Grand Jury visited the East Mesa Food Processing and Laundry Facilities. This program prepares 28,000–31,000 meals a day using a staff of 45 plus additional help from 50 prisoners. Meals are provided for the Sheriff's jails and probation facilities and over a 1000 meals a day for Meals on Wheels.

The average meal cost is \$.70 per day. The use of this centralized food preparation facility allows the Sheriff to save over a million dollars a year in food costs for prisoners, compared to the estimated costs of localized food services. By using prime vendors, buying in large quantities and taking advantage of special sales, the cost of food for meals has remained nearly the same for 10 years. We were shown the area for storage of dry,

frozen and fresh foods. These large storage areas allow for purchasing power otherwise not possible.

By using modern computerized cooking equipment and large refrigerator/freezer areas, food is prepared in large quantities with little waste. With the physical plant layout and carefully monitored procedures, there is little chance of cross contamination of foods.

A large variety of special dietary meals are prepared for those needing them for health or religious reasons. Special holiday meals and eating times are also provided as the occasion may call for.

FACTS/FINDINGS

The food production program is extremely efficient and saves the county a great deal of money. This facility also provides a service to Meals on Wheels at very low cost. The food produced here is healthy (there is a dietitian on site), economical and provides a service to the community.

This facility is a model for many other sites in the United States and abroad that are trying to offer similar services.

The use of computerized technology has made uniformity in production and quality monitoring an additional bonus. Data regarding cooking times, temperatures and other details are stored in a database, printed out and saved for a year. This is done for all the food that is prepared.

COMMENDATION

The San Diego County Grand Jury commends Louise E. Mathews and her staff at the food service facility adjoining the East Mesa Detention Facility for their outstanding programs. The food service program provides excellent service, saves the county money and is an asset to the community.

LAUNDRY

Equipment for handling 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of laundry per day is located in a large open building. The washing machines have a capacity of 400 pounds per load

There are a total of 50 inmate workers who work in two 6-hour shifts washing, drying, ironing and folding laundry. The facility is set up for maximum efficiency and produces a large volume of work each day, while offering job training for inmates.

SAN DIEGO CENTRAL JAIL

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury visited San Diego Central Jail on July 27, 2003.

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The San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ) is located in central downtown San Diego near the San Diego County Courthouse. The facility is under the management of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The SDCJ handles an average of 77,000 bookings a year. Officers from the Police departments of surrounding cities and most Sheriff's stations bring male arrestees to this facility. Part of the booking process determines the inmate's health and security classifications. Referral is then made to one of seven detention facilities.

On the date of the Grand Jury visit, the inmate count was 826, which is below the Board of Corrections rated capacity of 944. There were only 205 sworn staff supervising the inmates and an additional 196 support staff. There were 12 in training for the custody staff, and 9 on temporary assignment elsewhere. Three were on light duty at the time of the visitation. This understaffing is a continuing problem that is being dealt with by the use of overtime.

Medical facilities and psychiatric services are available to all inmates. Additionally, on-site dialysis machines are available. Meals and other services are taken to the inmates in the housing units in order to minimize the movement of inmates.

There were 10 special programs offered at Central Jail. Several classes were offered in both English and Spanish. For example, classes in HIV prevention and Alcoholics Anonymous programs are available. An especially noteworthy program is called Family Literature, that allows an inmate to be video taped reading a book to his child. Then the tape is made available to his family to watch at home.

FACTS/FINDINGS

There were 12 in training for the custody staff, 9 on temporary assignment. Three were on light duty at the time of the visitation.

Lack of nearby parking remains a problem for most of the staff working here. There are parking spaces for senior staff, county vehicles, maintenance vehicles, "Employee of the Month", and contract physicians. Current reimbursement does not adequately cover the cost of off site parking. This lack of parking negatively impacts staff morale and may discourage professional staff from considering work at this facility.

The building was clean and appeared to be well maintained. The staff acted in a professional manner and was open to our queries. The facility operation appeared to be well organized and well managed.

Staff shortages due to unfilled vacancies are a problem in terms of morale, overtime usage and scheduling in some areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

04-02-7 Continue to research ways to provide parking for all facility staff at a nearby location or provide a shuttle service or carpool service from a designated parking lot or facility to and from the San Diego Central Jail Facility.

- 04-02-8** As soon as fiscally feasible, fill the vacant staffing positions to bring the custody staff and support staff positions up to the recommended Board of Corrections levels.

LAS COLINAS DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury visited Las Colinas Detention facility on August 1, 2003. Las Colinas Detention Facility for women is located in Santee in San Diego's East County. The inmate count on the day of the Grand Jury visit was 437, which is below the court ordered capacity of 500 but over the Board of Corrections rated capacity of 400. This facility is in non-compliance with the Board of Corrections standard. These buildings were not designed to be a detention facility. Several modular units serve as housing for inmates. Due to the age of the facility and the need for constant repair, maintenance is an area of concern.

The facility does provide an area for inmates to have contact visits with their children, which is apart from the regular visiting unit.

Las Colinas processed nearly 16,000 female inmates last fiscal year. This represents the third highest total for processing women inmates in the nation.

Medical services are available 24 hours a day by an in-house dispensary staff. Visits may be scheduled with registered nurses, board certified physicians, a dentist, as well as clinical and administrative support personnel. There were 30 pregnant inmates on the day of the Grand Jury visit. Availability of a wide variety of medical services takes on an even greater significance due to the pregnant inmates.

At the time of the visit 44% of the inmates were sentenced and 56% were not adjudicated.

FACTS/FINDINGS

The facility offers high school education classes/GED programs. Vocational training is available in the areas of nursery and landscaping, sewing production, laundry services and graphic arts and embroidery.

Female inmates from the Vista Detention Facility were transferred to Las Colinas while renovations were being done in Vista. This raised the Las Colinas inmate population even higher.

The correctional staff and the building maintenance engineer's staff are working hard to maintain the facility. However due to the age and overuse, this is more than they can accomplish satisfactorily.

While court mandated capacity is in compliance, additional inmates from Vista added to overcrowding and non-compliance with Board of Corrections Title 24 requirements.

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The facility requires constant maintenance due to age and overcrowding.

An adjacent parcel of land is available for future expansion or a new facility.

Vocational programs are limited to four areas (nursery and landscaping, sewing production, laundry services, and graphic arts).

It should be noted that Las Colinas makes all the prisoner uniforms for all the Sheriff's prisoners.

Staff felt the number one area for improvement is in the area of maintenance.

In spite of the problems caused by working in an ageing facility, staff morale and professionalism was very high.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 04-02-9** The Grand Jury recommends if construction of a new facility cannot proceed, then a major renovation effort should take place at the Las Colinas Detention Facility.
- 04-02-10** The Grand Jury recommends expansion of all existing vocational programs having to do with any form of rehabilitation. This could provide skills enhancing the ability of inmates who complete their sentences to successfully obtain and hold jobs.
- 04-02-11** The Grand Jury recommends investigation into creating a tape, or DVD library containing information on career path options or training videos, i.e. how to get a Regional Occupational Program training at their local high schools upon release or how to write a resume.

SOUTH BAY DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego Grand Jury visited the South Bay Detention Facility on August 8, 2003. This is a non-booking facility for adult male inmates located on the lower level of the South County Division Courthouse in Chula Vista that opened in 1982. On the day of the Grand Jury visit the inmate population was 431. This number meets the court ordered capacity of 431, but is over the State Board of Corrections recommended capacity of 390.

The facility has eight modules for housing prisoners, 24 three-person cells in each module plus 4 cells for disciplinary or administrative segregation. There is an indoor gym with only 3 fitness machines. The inmate population is generally low risk, healthy and incarcerated here for one year or less.

There were only 2 vacancies on the staff on the date of visit. Current staff members have been at this facility for an average of 9 years. The staff puts in fewer overtime hours compared to staff at other facilities.

Although inmates here cannot complete their GED, due to short length of stay, there are a number of other educational programs available throughout the week. A few examples are, Adult Basic Education, Parenting, Domestic Violence, Narcotics Anonymous and Substance Abuse counseling groups.

FACTS/FINDINGS

- The staff indicated that the number one problem is an ageing facility. When it rains, water seeps into parts of the ceiling.
- The air conditioning system in the segregation cells has no means of regulation and makes the inmates cold. They stuff the vents with toilet paper to cut off the cold airflow.
- The floor tiles containing asbestos need to be repaired or replaced.

COMMENDATION

The entire staff is to be commended for their positive attitude in having to do “more with less” in an ageing facility. The facility appeared clean, well organized and professionally run.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 04-02-12** The Grand Jury recommends that the facility management continue to seek a solution for the water seepage problem in the building.
- 04-02-13** The Grand Jury recommends that as soon as fiscally possible, the air conditioning unit be overhauled to allow temperature control in the segregation cells.
- 04-02-14** The Grand Jury recommends occupants of the segregation cells be provided with something other than toilet paper to control the airflow.
- 04-02-15** The Grand Jury recommends, as soon as fiscally possible, asbestos floor tiles be replaced.

VISTA DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego Grand Jury visited the Vista Detention Facility on August 22, 2003. The Vista Detention Facility was opened in 1978 and expanded in 1979 and 1989. This facility books both male and female inmates for cities and unincorporated areas of north San

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Diego County. In addition, prisoners with special holding circumstances, former police officers, sex offenders, etc. are housed at the Vista facility.

The Board of Corrections maximum occupancy is 820 and the Court mandated capacity is 886. The average length of stay for a prisoner was reported to be from 7 to 26 days. Inmate security ratings range from low to high risk.

FACTS/FINDINGS

- The prisoner population on the day of our visit was 604 males and 175 females. On the weekends they also intake thirty to fifty “Weekender” prisoners. “Weekenders” are detainees assigned to the jail from Friday night until Sunday by court order. The Board of Corrections maximum occupancy is 820 and the Court mandated capacity is 886.
- The authorized staffing level is 114 sworn officers. However there were only 105 assigned at this time. Additionally there were 105 professional staff assigned here. The staff reported that their most serious concern, at this time, is understaffing.
- Other staff comments noted the lack of video cameras in the day room areas of the inmate housing modules.
- The staff’s most positive comments were about the people who work there, the facility location relative to their housing, and the diversity of both staff and inmates.
- Since the 2002 visit of the Grand Jury, some maintenance problems have been corrected. A leak in the ceiling of the food service area had been fixed.
- In 2003, this facility had some major renovation. Some of the areas refurbished were the fire alarm system and leaking walls near the women’s recreation area. During this time, the female prisoners were transferred to the Las Colinas Detention Facility.
- Space in the medical facilities area is at a premium with little possibility of expansion.
- Female inmates do not have the same work opportunities as males because the male and female inmates are not permitted to work in any given area at the same time.
- The understaffing of both the medical staff and sworn officers creates pressures of trying to cover assigned duties.
- Intake of “weekender” inmates and normal increased bookings on Friday evenings creates delays and a backlog at the intake area of the facility.
- The lack of storage space is a concern in the medical area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 04-02-16** The Grand Jury recommends, as soon as possible, the number of sworn officers should be increased to the authorized staffing level.
- 04-02-17** The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff, with concurrence of the Court, should alter “Weekender” intake time to alleviate the delays of Friday night bookings at the intake area.
- 04-02-18** The Grand Jury recommends that when finances permit, permanently mounted video cameras be installed in the dayroom areas of the inmate housing units.
- 04-02-19** The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff study to see if any area could be expanded or changed to increase the space available for Medical staff usage.
- 04-02-20** The Grand Jury recommends that the staff look for ways to give female inmates more work opportunities.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

CAMP BARRETT

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury visited Camp Barrett Detention Facility on Friday October 10, 2003. This facility is over 50 years old, with some new buildings in the school area.

There were 126 male juvenile wards in camp and 5 more temporarily located at Juvenile Hall. The Board of Corrections rated capacity is 125 and the court mandated capacity is 144. The offenders here range in age from 16 to 18 years. No one convicted of arson or sexual offences may be assigned here. Sentences range from 270-547 days with a minimum sentence of 120. Inmates live in dormitories that house up to 40 people. There are also 20 rooms available for staff to use if they choose to stay overnight.

Any inmate who has not completed high school or who does not have a GED is required to attend school. They attend classes two weeks out of three and take part in work programs the third week. Students, with very low reading skills, attend Linda Mood Bell literacy classes 3 hours a day.

Sworn staff included 4 supervisors, 6 senior Deputy Probation Officers, 48-52 Probation Officers. There were 9 civilian staff plus 5 to 6 teachers. Additionally, there are two nurses who each work three days a week from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. and trade off coverage on Sundays.

Physical health care is provided by California Medical Forensic Group. Nurses dispense medications three times a day and offer daily sick call clinic. A physician visits the camp weekly. Mental health care is provided by the county Health and Human Services

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Agency at Juvenile Hall. Wards are transported to Juvenile Hall monthly for mental health reviews or if they require more intensive medical care.

FACTS/FINDINGS

- There are forms available for inmates to request services or lodge grievances. It was noted that grievance forms are filed away after they are resolved. However, no control log of these grievances and their disposition is maintained.
- Youth being released from Barrett to go home are given a two-week supply of the medications they are currently prescribed. However, no written information is given to the parent explaining what medications are being given or any medical condition the youth is or was being treated for while incarcerated. All the records for the person being released are sent back to Juvenile Hall for storage.
- Many of the buildings are showing wear. In many areas electrical wires are exposed. Many extension cords are being used to connect power to permanently installed equipment.
- Signs for warning notices and rules are mainly in English. Posters for character education are in both Spanish and English.

COMMENDATION

Low literacy skill is one of the greatest blocks to educational success faced by a large number of the youth in this facility. The literacy program is to be commended and continued. The Linda Mood Bell program shows growth of four grade levels or more in 8 to 10 weeks time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 04-02-21** The Grand Jury recommends that the staff begin keeping a grievance log, noting the date of the grievance, person filing it, disposition/by whom and date of closure. This log should be prepared, updated and checked daily by a supervising Probation Officer.
- 04-02-22** The Grand Jury recommends the repair of unsafe electrical wiring and addition of outlets to eliminate the use of extension cords for powering permanently installed equipment.
- 04-02-23** The Grand Jury recommends that warning signs and signs for rules should be displayed in both English and Spanish.
- 04-02-24** The Grand Jury recommends that the parents of wards being released be given written information about the current medical condition and or medical needs of the juvenile.

JUVENILE HALL

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury visited this facility on August 29, 2003. This juvenile detention center was built in 1954 with the latest addition having been completed in 2000. Two sections are assigned to females and 8 sections are set-aside for males. The average stay for both males and females is 27 days. The State Board of Corrections rated capacity is 359 and the court ordered capacity is 517. There were 400 detainees on the day of the Grand Jury visit. Some of the detainees were being held for the I.N.S. and others on federal criminal charges. An average of 25 detainees are processed daily. Sworn officers number 250 with additional support staff to assist.

A new male Juvenile facility is being built in East Mesa and is scheduled to open in 2004. This will help with some overcrowding problems of the past.

We were informed that almost 25% of the detainees are prescribed psychotropic drugs.

There are some 80 video cameras being used throughout the facility. The tapes from the cameras are checked weekly in a random pattern to monitor the accuracy of staff reported safety checks. This is a policy that was instituted in response to a previous Grand Jury report that highlighted inaccurate written time checks.

Members of the Grand Jury were impressed with the “Wall of Culture” display and the “Character Counts” program used by the staff. The wall display showed important contributions made by people of various cultures. The character program teaches positive character principals and promotes pro-social behavior and sound ethical conduct.

FACTS/FINDINGS

While visiting a math classroom we noted that the textbooks were, in some cases, over 20 years old. These books were also so filled with graffiti, they were almost unreadable.

We were informed that the exercise area has been enlarged. However, the nets were in disrepair and need to be replaced. We found the physical plant to be old and worn but clean and orderly.

The staff reported that one major problem is the lack of toilet facilities in each cell. This then requires a great deal of staff time escorting detainees from their cells to the toilet and back to their cells.

COMMENDATIONS:

The staff is to be commended for their support and use of the “Character Counts” program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 04-02-25** The Grand Jury recommends that the books in the classroom be monitored for wear and condition. Books covered with graffiti should be replaced as soon as practical.
- 04-02-26** The Grand Jury recommends that the condition of recreational equipment should be monitored. Torn or improperly hung nets should be repaired, replaced or re-hung.

GIRLS REHABILITATION CENTER

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury visited this facility on August 29, 2003. The Girls Rehabilitation Center is connected to the Boys and Girls Juvenile Hall. Part of the Rehabilitation Center is new, while some parts are part of the old Juvenile Hall. Girls assigned to this area are in a separate program from the girls in Juvenile Hall. The total area will accommodate 50 girls. The young women here are assigned by the court or selected by the staff for inclusion in this program. The average stay here is 10-12 weeks.

A new section of the rehabilitation center recently opened with 4 rooms housing 5 girls each. These areas have new furniture and are more like college dorm rooms than jail accommodations.

The girls have a very structured “Breaking Cycles” program designed to stop the cycle of offense and incarceration. Each girl is assigned a staff counselor who is responsible for monitoring her progress.

A program of note is parenting and baby bonding. Wards, who are pregnant or already have children, meet weekly (their children may visit at this time) and learn about various child-rearing skills. Staff members supervise this program and a certificate of completion may be earned.

There are some 20 educational or personal development programs that are offered in this unit.

COMMENDATION

The Grand Jury feels this is a worthwhile rehabilitation program that should be continued and expanded in the future.

JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego County Grand Jury visited the Juvenile Ranch Facility on October 17, 2003. This is a four-part facility for juvenile males aged 12 to 18. It is located in East County near Campo, about one mile from the Mexican border. This is a minimum-security facility located near a large Border Patrol office. Originally this was the location of an army cavalry camp dating back to the early 1900's.

The California Board of Corrections rated capacity is 250. On the day of the visit there were 160 youthful offenders assigned here. There are 76 sworn employees allotted to the ranch with 60-70 actually assigned. Additionally there were 25-30 civilian employees as support staff.

The detainees are housed in one of four dorms. Rayo I is for ages 12-16 ½ and focuses on substance abuse and breaking the cycle of addictive thinking and behavior. Rayo II is for ages 16 ½ to 18. Here the focus is on substance abuse, anger management, self-responsibility, and goal setting. The programs at Rayo I and Rayo II include 6 hours of schooling daily, include AA/NA meetings, 12 weeks of drug counseling, and McAlister Institute for Treatment and Education and Aggression replacement therapy.

Campo I dorm is for delinquent wards ages 12 to 18 with minor or no history of substance abuse. Juveniles must pass a minimum of a 56-day "Breaking Cycles" program before being considered for release. Campo II is for ages 13-18 focusing on relapses from the "Breaking Cycles" and Drug Court program. Also, they focus on the "STOP Program" of 21-40 days depending upon their behavior and participation. STOP refers to the Short-Term Offenders Program. Along with 6 hours of schooling daily, wards may receive psychological counseling, take part in the Modified Attitude Adjustment Program, and the Thinking for a Change, and or the Criminal Conduct programs. Some detainees take part in the Donovan State Prison Convicts Reaching Out to People program.

FACTS/FINDINGS

- Two classrooms have been out of use since before last March due to rodent infestation. The rooms are being renovated, however they are still unusable.
- Students coming to school here are tested and placed into classes based upon their ability, not their age. This method of placement is something the staff promoted, and it helps the students be more successful.
- Additional help in promoting literacy is being addressed with the Linda Mood Bell reading program for some of the students.
- Due to various lengths of stay, sometimes as short as a few days, getting school records is sometimes a problem.

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- Due to the high number of special education students, the school has 3 mainstream classes and 3 special education classes.

Approximately 50% of the students here are Hispanic, 23% African American and 20% Caucasian. Notices to parents are available in both English and Spanish. However, most posted rules and warning signs on site are in English only.

Due to the proximity to the Border Patrol Station, drug dogs are available for searches for contraband. If a detainee goes AWOL, the Border Patrol is notified and has been helpful in returning some detainees to the Ranch Facility.

Due to budget cuts, maintenance and upkeep of the facility has been reduced. Although some of the buildings are very new, the older buildings need paint and some siding replaced. The perimeter fence needs repair.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 04-02-27** The San Diego Grand Jury recommends the repair of closed classrooms and ridding them of rodents as soon as possible.
- 04-02-28** The San Diego Grand Jury recommends the repair of the perimeter fence as soon as possible for both security and safety reasons.
- 04-02-29** The San Diego Grand Jury recommends making posted warning and rules signs in both English and Spanish.

TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITIES

Temporary holding facilities are used to house detainees while arranging for their transportation to a booking facility, while continuing an investigation, or pending the detainee's release. All holding facility officers are knowledgeable of minimum jail standards, jail operation liability, gender and juvenile segregation requirements, emergency procedures and suicide prevention. Safety checks, intermittent direct visual and some audio supervision are routine. Phones are available for detainee's use in all facilities

The following recommendations refer to recommendations and notes in appendix A.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 04-02-30** The Grand Jury recommends the City of El Cajon increase lighting in the holding cells.
- 04-02-31** The Grand Jury recommends the City of La Mesa increase lighting in the holding cells.

04-02-32 The Grand Jury recommends the City of La Mesa provide a mattress for each cot/bench in the holding cells.

REQUIREMENT 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 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

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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 by the date indicated:

<u>RESPONDING AGENCY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
San Diego County Sheriff	04-02-1 through 04-02-20	5/17/04
San Diego County Board of Supervisors	04-02-9	6/16/04
San Diego County Probation Dept.	04-02-21 through 04-02-29	6/16/04
San Diego County Board Of Education	04-02-25, 04-02-26	6/16/04
El Cajon Police Department	04-02-30	6/16/04
La Mesa Police Department	04-02-31, 04-02-32	6/16/04

Appendix A

TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITIES

Operated Under Contract by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department

LOCATION	CLEAN-LINESS	OPEN	CELLS	MONITOR	STAY	FEMALE	JUVENILE	SPECIAL EQUIP.	RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTES
ENCINITAS	Excellent	1974	3	Video	2 ½ hours maximum	Separate from males	Kept on bench	Intoximeter	
IMPERIAL BEACH	Good	1983-Sheriff	2	Visual every 15 minutes	1 hour	Separate cell	Kept in office 1-2 hours	Intoxilizer Live Scan	Hand held video available
LEMON GROVE	Good	1994	4	Cameras 15 minute check	1 hour	Separate cell	Kept in deputy report area, 6 hr. maximum	Live Scan Breathalyzer Urine collect. Blood drawn	
POWAY	Good	1998	3	Audio and Visual	2 hours	Separate cell	Holding / Interview room	Photo Live Scan	
SANTEE	Good	1972	2	Video	Under 1 hour	Separate from males	Remains with deputy	Live Scan Video camera	People mainly kept on bench rather than cell
SAN MARCOS	Good	2001	6	Video	Under 1 hour	Separate cell	Separate holding room	Cameras Live Scan Intoximeter	Special Alzheimer's program Full time Children Protective Services Full time Adult Protective Services

**TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITIES
Operated by City Police Departments**

LOCATION	CLEAN-LINESS	OPEN	CELLS	MONITOR	STAY	FEMALE	JUVENILE	SPECIAL EQUIP.	RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTES
CARLSBAD	Excellent	1986	3	Video	Less than 4 hours	Separate from males	Kept on bench	Intoximeter Defibrillator	
CHULA VISTA	Fair	1971	3 beds 1 holding	Video	6-8 hours	Separate cells	Kept in report room	24 hr. audio and video	Pro strength restraining chairs
CORONADO	Good	1996	4	Video	Usually under 1 hour	Separate cell with curtain	Report room with supervision	Live Scan Intoxilizer Blood tests	
EL CAJON	Fair	1967	2	Visual only	4 hours maximum	Not placed in cell	Kept in interview room	Blood, breath, tox. Screen	Poor lighting Shows lots of wear
ESCONDIDO	Good	1979	5	Cameras	2-3 hours	Separate cell sides	Separate area	Security camera Prostrength chair	Card release door locks Bi-lingual signs Phlebotomist on call
LA MESA	Fair	1986	3	Cameras	2 hours maximum	Separate cell placement	Kept in booking area	Live Scan Breathalyzer	Need mattresses in cells Poor lighting
NATIONAL CITY	Excellent	1993	4 cells Drunk tank	15 minute visual check	3 hours	Separate not in cell area	Kept in separate area	Breathalyzer Video	They have secured interview area
OCEANSIDE	Excellent	1999	2 adult 1 safety cell	Video	4 hours maximum	Separate from males	Kept on a bench	Blood drawn Intoxilizer Security cameras	Prisoners transported by private security, 24 hour live phone answering