



# County of San Diego

David E. Cranford  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER (Acting)  
(858) 514-3148  
FAX: (858) 514-3121

DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 23597, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, 92193-3597

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RECEIVED  
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SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY GRAND JURY

David R. Higgins, Foreman  
County of San Diego Grand Jury  
Hall of Justice  
Mail Stop C-44  
330 West Broadway, Suite 477  
San Diego, CA. 92101-2830

Dear Mr. Higgins:

**Re: Grand Jury Report "Conditions and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County"**

I am writing in response to your letter dated May 18, 2007, regarding the Grand Jury's recent tours of Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility on September 13<sup>th</sup>, East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility on September 27<sup>th</sup>, Camp Barrett on November 15<sup>th</sup>, Girls' Rehabilitation Facility on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and Juvenile Ranch Facility on November 1, 2006.

I appreciate your positive comments regarding our directors and their staff and the manner in which they conducted their facility orientation and tours. Attach is the department's response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations regarding specific areas of concern.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact Ann Sasaki-Madigan, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Institutional Services at 858-514-3108.

Sincerely,

DAVID E. CRANFORD  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER (Acting)

Attachment

cc: Ann Sasaki-Madigan, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Institutional Services  
Yvette D. Klepin, Director, Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility  
James A. Seal, Director, Camp Barrett  
Rosario Rull, Manager, Probation Management Services  
Heather Dauler, CAO Project Manager

**County of San Diego Response to Grand Jury Report on  
“Conditions and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County”  
Released May 29, 2007**

**FINDINGS:**

**Finding:** Examine current recruitment policies and recruitment plan to address the understaffing.

**Response:** Agree

**Finding:** The Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility is showing its age. Several areas need painting, floor tiles need replacing and stained ceiling tiles are proof of a leaking roof or leaking pipes. The building has an unmistakable odor caused by more than 50 years of occupancy by detainees.

**Response:** Agree

**Finding:** Although an exercise work-out area is well supplied, the wards' recreation opportunities are less than adequate due to a substandard condition of the athletic field.

**Response:** Agree

**Finding:** The Grand Jury found that available transportation is by a 1980's era bus which has difficulty negotiating the hill and the distance to be traveled through rural countryside. Maintenance is costly and parts are difficult to obtain.

**Response:** Agree

**RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS: The San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Probation:**

**Recommendation 07-81:** Continue the ongoing recruitment efforts and establish a task force or consider hiring a consultant to examine current recruitment policies and formulate a comprehensive recruitment plan to address the understaffing referred to in several individual detention facility reports.

**Response:** **The recommendation has been implemented.** The Probation Department will continue recruitment efforts that include:

- Identified one Deputy Probation Officer position for full-time Recruitment Officer.
- Incentive for staff to refer sworn officer candidates (24 hours Comp Time Off per Fiscal Year).
- Posting of job information on college websites and HirePatriots.com, in and out of county job fairs.
- Vehicle wrapping with employment information.
- Variable entry salary for advanced education/experience.
- 40% discount at National University.
- Flexible work schedules (9/80, telecommuting, 4/10 Pilot Program).

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**RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS: The San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Probation: (Continued)**

**Recommendation 07-81 Response (Continued):**

- Correctional Senior Probation Officer job study (promotional ladder for institutional staff).
- Mentor Program.

A Probation Department task force has been established to address the overpopulation at the juvenile detention facilities and determine staffing needs. As a related issue, the task force will review recruitment and retention practices and develop recommendations for improving department initiatives in these areas. The department will also consider using a consultant, in conjunction with the Sheriff’s Department and the Public Safety Group, to examine current recruitment policies and formulate a comprehensive recruitment plan to address the understaffing in detention facilities.

**Recommendation 07-88:** Allocated funding to recondition the athletic field.

**Response: The recommendation is in the process of being implemented.** This area has been leveled and is currently being used, but reseeded, irrigation, and seating will be explored. The department will use the Building/Grounds Maintenance Regional Occupational Program (ROP) to assist with the upgrading, and explore additional funding to make these improvements.

**Recommendation 07-89:** Replace the approximately 25 year old bus currently in use at Camp Barrett

**Response: The recommendation is in the process of being implemented.** The Probation Department is reviewing the vehicle fleet at Camp Barrett to obtain additional or replacement vehicles. A new mini-bus for camp is being researched with possible delivery in approximately one year.

**Recommendation: 07-90:** Establish a priority for building a new main juvenile detention facility

**Response: This recommendation will not be implemented.** The Probation Department agrees that the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility is old and in need of constant maintenance. Through the Department of General Services, the County has established the Capital Improvements Needs Assessment (CINA) and the Major Maintenance Improvement Plan (MMIP) for conducting facility needs assessments and providing facilities maintenance. The Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility is in both the CINA and MMIP. In addition, the following repairs have been made to enhance the current structure:

- Replaced detainee door windows.
- Increased lighting in detainee rooms by installing new fixtures.

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**Recommendation 07-90 Response (*Continued*):**

- Replaced shower stalls and toilet doors in living units.
- Replaced toilets and sinks.
- Repaired/painted walls in living units.

**The following areas are being researched for approval:**

- Professional vent cleaning throughout facility.
- Steam cleaning of detainee rooms.
- Painting, replacing floor tiles and stained ceiling tiles.
- Inspection of possible roof or pipe leaks.