



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Post Office Box 939062 • San Diego, California 92193-9062



William B. Kolender, Sheriff

William D. Gore, Undersheriff

May 27, 2009

RECEIVED

JUN 2 2009

SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

Honorable Kenneth So
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County Courthouse
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge So:

Response to the San Diego County Grand Jury's Report Dated May 7, 2009, "Condition and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County"

On May 5, 2009, Undersheriff William Gore and Assistant Sheriff Alfred Guerin met with the 2008-2009 Grand Jury to discuss their findings and recommendations. The meeting proved to be extremely beneficial for both parties; the Undersheriff and Assistant Sheriff conveyed their sincerest appreciation to the Grand Jury for taking the time to personally review their report in such great detail.

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, the following is my response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations for 09-15 and 09-16.

Las Colinas Women's Detention Facility

Grand Jury Finding #01:

"Immediate replacement of Las Colinas Detention Facility is necessary to provide a facility for female prisoners that meets modern correctional standards and does not exceed its capacity."

Our Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

The problematic conditions of the Las Colinas Detention Facility have been clearly recognized and documented. The construction of a new women's detention facility has been established as one of the Sheriff's Department's highest priorities.

"Keeping the Peace Since 1850"

Honorable Kenneth So
May 27, 2009
Page 2

Recommendation 09-15

“Replace Las Colinas Detention Facility with a facility that meets modern correctional standards.”

Our Response:

This recommendation not been implemented at the time of this report, but steps have been taken to begin the process.

The Sheriff’s Department has been diligently working to develop plans for the construction of a larger and more modern women’s detention facility. Planning and facility development efforts have been initiated and the Sheriff’s Department is fully committed to utilizing all available resources to ensure the new facility is constructed as soon as possible.

Countywide Facilities and Video Surveillance Systems

Grand Jury Finding #02:

“There are not enough effective video surveillance systems currently available in all San Diego County jails and detention facilities to promote security, protect staff and inmates from false claims of misconduct, and reduce resources expended to address unjustified claims and litigation.”

Our Response:

The Sheriff’s Department agrees with this finding.

Our department fully recognizes the benefits of an effective surveillance system in operating a safe, secure and humane detention system. Currently, all facilities (except the South Bay Detention Facility) maintain recordable video surveillance systems; the South Bay Detention Facility has a closed-circuit camera system which greatly assists deputies in the monitoring of inmate activities, but the system lacks the ability to record.

Recommendation 09-16

“Provide effective video surveillance systems, including active monitoring and recording equipment with the capacity to maintain recordings for one year, for all jails and detention facilities under its jurisdiction.

Our Response:

This recommendation has not been fully implemented at this time. However, affirmative steps by the Department have been taken to accomplish this recommendation.

Honorable Kenneth So
May 27, 2009
Page 3

In order to remain current with technological advances, each detention facility has developed proposals to upgrade their video systems and included the project proposals in their future major maintenance goals. As with any significant system upgrade, financial review and prioritization will determine when these video projects are completed. Our department understands the importance of enhancing these systems and is committed to completing the projects as soon as feasible.

In closing, I would like to thank the Grand Jury for their efforts in working with the Sheriff's Department through this investigation.

If further clarification or additional discussion is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Dan Pena of our Detention Services Bureau at (858) 974-2179.

Sincerely,



Jo William B. Kolender, Sheriff

WBK/djp

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Walt F. Ekard, CAO
Thomas Pastuszka, Director, Clerk of the Board
Leonard D. Martin, 2008-2009 San Diego County Grand Jury