



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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



William D. Gore, Sheriff

Thomas J. Cooke, Undersheriff

June 9, 2010

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SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY GRAND JURY

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

Dear Judge Enright:

Response to the San Diego County Grand Jury's Report Dated May 18, 2010, "San Diego County Detention Facility Inspection Report"

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, the following is my response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations 10-36 and 10-37.

### *Las Colinas Women's Detention Facility*

#### **Grand Jury Finding #01:**

*"As a consequence of closing Descanso Detention Facility, its staff was dispersed throughout the remaining adult detention facilities in San Diego County. As a result, facilities are now staffed at an operational level which in turn allows them to run more smoothly and efficiently."*

#### **Our Response:**

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

#### **Grand Jury Finding #02:**

*"The County's General Services Construction Manager is expecting to issue a Request for Proposal in the Fall of 2010 for the contract to build a new woman's prison to replace Las Colinas."*

***Our Response:***

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

***RECOMMENDATION 10-36***

*The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:*

*"Expedite all phases involved in replacing Las Colinas Detention Facility."*

***Our Response:***

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but the Sheriff's Department is taking steps to move forward with the facility development.

The Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, is now preparing a solicitation package that will result in the selection of a design-build entity – a team that includes architects, a general contractor and subcontractors who will design and construct the new jail. Following authorization from the Board of Supervisors, the selection process will commence in 2010 and the design phase will likely continue through 2011. Pending Board approval of funding and State design approvals, construction on the project should begin in late 2011 or early 2012.

***Video Surveillance and Recording Systems***

***Grand Jury Finding #03:***

*"Although no official requests for funds have been made, the Grand Jury concludes that complimenting, supplementing, or augmenting video recording equipment will prevent further financial burden to taxpaying citizens of San Diego County. Some of the present deficiencies prohibiting sufficient surveillance in the facilities are:*

- Video equipment that does not run continuously*
- Video equipment that is not complimented with audio capabilities*
- Lack of cameras monitoring areas where inmates congregate, some of which are known volatile areas such as booking rooms, sober cells and dayrooms."*

***Our Response:***

The Sheriff's Department disagrees partially with the finding. We fully recognize the benefits of effective video surveillance and recording systems, and our recording capabilities can be improved by adding and/or upgrading cameras to newer technology. However, we disagree with some of the deficiencies noted in the finding above. Those deficiencies will be clarified below.

- All existing video equipment DOES run continuously. However, in some cases, the video is for monitoring only with no recording capability.
- Our video cameras do not currently have audio capability, nor do we have immediate plans to add audio to any of our video cameras. This feature would be cost prohibitive, and in most cases, would not provide any investigative benefits.
- While we agree some facilities could enhance their video surveillance by adding cameras, all sobering cells DO have video monitoring and recording capabilities.

***RECOMMENDATION 10-37***

*The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:*

*"Evaluate existing video recording equipment at every adult detention facility in the County, excluding George Bailey Detention Facility, and determine whether or not the existing equipment is adequate; and complete the appropriate upgrades or modifications for the purpose of ensuring the safety and well-being of staff, detainees, and visitors."*

***Our Response:***

The recommendation has not yet been fully implemented. The Sheriff's Department has completed an evaluation of the video recording equipment at all of the adult detention facilities in the county. As a result of the evaluation, the video monitoring and recording systems at the Vista Detention Facility, George Bailey Detention Facility, East Mesa Detention Facility, and the Las Colinas Detention Facility have been recently upgraded to enhance their monitoring and recording capabilities.

There are plans to replace or upgrade the video monitoring and recording equipment at the South Bay Detention Facility and Facility 8 during the 2010/2011 fiscal year. Due to the size and scope of the modifications necessary to upgrade or replace the video surveillance system at the San Diego Central Jail, it may be necessary to extend this project through fiscal year 2011/2012.

Honorable Kevin Enright

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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 Sergeant Jason Roland of our Detention Services Bureau at (858) 974-2091.

Sincerely,



*per* William D. Gore, Sheriff

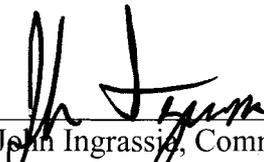
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Cc: Members, Board of Supervisors  
Walt F. Ekard, CAO  
Thomas Pastuszka, Director, Clerk of the Board  
Victoria Stubblefield, 2009-2010 San Diego County Grand Jury

Response to Grand Jury: San Diego County Detention Facility Inspection Report

June 9, 2010

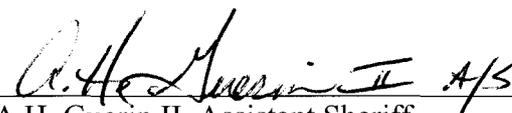
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John Ingrassia, Commander  
Detention Operations – Area 2

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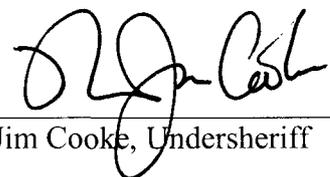
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A.H. Guerin II, Assistant Sheriff  
Detention Services Bureau

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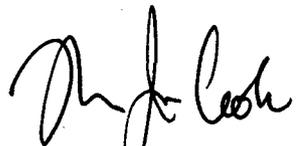
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Jim Cooke, Undersheriff

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\_\_\_\_\_  
for William D. Gore, Sheriff

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