



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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



William D. Gore, Sheriff

June 26, 2013

Honorable Robert J. Trentacosta
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County Courthouse
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Trentacosta:

Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report: "Detention Facilities Report" Dated May 13, 2013

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, the following is my response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations 13-38, 13-39, 13-40, 13-41, 13-42, 13-43, 13-44, 13-45, 13-46, 13-47, 13-48 and 13-49.

SAN DIEGO CENTRAL JAIL

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"SDCJ is a well run facility."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

"AB109 has caused increased length of stay with increased daily resident population that will likely weaken the ability of existing sworn staff to manage the inmate population."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees with the finding. Although there has been an increase in the inmate population at SDCJ, AB109 is not the attributing cause. SDCJ is an intake facility with a very transitional population. The increases in the population are attributed to a change in the facility housing plan to accommodate more pre-arraignment inmates at the facility. In FY 2011-2012 the inmate Average Daily Population (ADP) at SDCJ was 761; yet nearing the end of FY 2012-2013, the ADP is at 824. The staffing at SDCJ is based on a rated capacity of 944 inmates.

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Since SDCJ does not house many inmates that would fall under AB109, the Sheriff's Department does not feel the changes in the inmate population at SDCJ will "weaken" the ability of existing sworn staff to manage the inmate population; this is the same population they are accustomed to managing on a daily basis. Recommendations for additional staffing to meet the work demands related to the increase in the inmate population will be made when required.

RECOMMENDATION 13-38:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Hire additional sworn staff to maintain staff to inmate ratio as anticipated inmate population increases.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The staffing at the San Diego Central Jail is not based upon a staff to inmate ratio. Over the past six months, the staffing levels at the San Diego Central Jail have been increased to meet the work demands placed on the staff. Twelve relief positions have been converted to required minimum staffing positions to provide a third deputy on housing floors 5, 6 and 7. Additionally, eight relief positions were converted to required minimum staffing positions to provide staffing to cover inmates while housed at the hospital. The Sheriff's Department regularly assesses the staffing needs at each facility to ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained for the safety of the inmates and staff. The Sheriff's Department will continue to monitor staffing levels as the inmate population increases and will request additional staffing as deemed necessary.

SOUTH BAY DETENTION FACILITY

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"The electrical crowd control shields need to be repaired or replaced to protect both the staff and the inmates."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees with the finding. The South Bay Detention Facility administrative staff has conducted an operational test of each ICE Shield at the facility on May 15, 2013. Both ICE Shields were found to be fully operational.

RECOMMENDATION 13-39:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:
Repair or purchase two electrical crowd shields by December 31, 2013.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Operational tests were conducted of each shield and they were found to be fully operational.

LAS COLINAS DETENTION FACILITY

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"Construction of the new detention facility will improve living conditions at LCDF with new additional housing, classrooms, visiting rooms, medical facilities and other needed rooms."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

"One objective of the educational program is to teach useful business office and computer skills. Using outdated computers and software is counterproductive."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION 13-40:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Acquire newer computers and software for the computer lab by June 30, 2014 and network them for monitoring purposes.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. With the opening of the new San Diego County Women's Detention Facility in January 2015, the computer lab will be equipped with newer computers and updated software. The computers will be networked to allow the instructor to monitor the use and progress of the individual inmates. It is not reasonable to acquire newer computers and software by the date set prior to the opening of the new facility.

EAST MESA DETENTION FACILITY

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"Additional classrooms are needed to facilitate the number of inmates and to allow for more program offerings."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

"To protect staff and inmates, EMDF needs updated video cameras.

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION 13-41:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Prepare a plan and build additional classrooms by June 30, 2014 to facilitate the increase in inmate population and to allow for more program offerings.

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The East Mesa Detention Facility is currently being expanded, adding 400 beds and increasing the capacity to 962. Construction of the new housing will include the addition of four 25-seat classrooms; anticipated completion date is May 2014.

RECOMMENDATION 13-42:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Hire additional teachers as programs expand.

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented when future programming is added. With the addition of any future inmate programs, instruction hours will be added to ensure adequate coverage.

RECOMMENDATION 13-43:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Purchase and install a new video camera system to cover the blind spots in each section. Cameras that zoom in and sweep all areas provide the best protection. These additional cameras should be added to all buildings, both existing and new by June 30, 2014.

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The East Mesa Detention Facility expansion project includes a new camera system. Additionally, all current inmate areas will have cameras installed and integrated into the new system. The cameras selected will not be pan, tilt, zoom

cameras, but will be placed in locations as to offer the greatest overall view of specified areas. The entire camera system will be installed and operational by the projected expansion completion date of May 2014.

RECOMMENDATION 13-44:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Hire additional sworn staff to maintain staff to inmate ratio as anticipated inmate population increases.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The staffing at the East Mesa Detention Facility is not based upon a staff to inmate ratio. The staffing plan for East Mesa Detention Facility includes the addition of approximately 70 sworn staff. This additional staffing will provide coverage for the additional beds and programming that is being added.

EAST MESA FOOD CENTER

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"Food Center Inmate Workers have access to delivery vehicles in an inadequately fenced area."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION 13-45:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Add fencing and additional surveillance cameras to the delivery area to reduce the potential for a dangerous situation by December 31, 2013.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The fencing and additional cameras for this area are listed on the major maintenance project list. Once appropriate funding is identified for this project, it will be completed. Given a lack of funding source, this recommendation will not be completed before the recommended deadline of December 31, 2013.

GEORGE BAILEY DETENTION FACILITY

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"Additional staff is needed to manage the increased inmate population."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with finding.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

"Additional classrooms and expanded programs are required to meet the needs of inmates with longer sentences."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 03:

"Support staff will be needed to develop expanding programs."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 04:

"Response time with only one armory creates a safety issue for both staff and inmates."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees with this finding. Each housing unit at GBDF has less lethal weapons within the housing unit to be used for rapid deployment. The tactical response room is utilized for the staging of staff and secondary deployment to the incident, after gathering of information and a tactical response plan for the incident, is fully developed. Having an additional tactical room could create staff confusion during a critical incident and delay the response time creating a greater safety issue for staff and inmates.

RECOMMENDATION 13-46:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Hire additional sworn staff to maintain staff to inmate ratio as anticipated inmate population increases.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The staffing at the George Bailey Detention Facility is not based upon a staff to inmate ratio. The Sheriff's Department will continue to monitor staffing levels in relation to the anticipated increases in the inmate population. Recommendations for additional staffing to meet the work demands related to the increase in the inmate population will be made when required.

RECOMMENDATION 13-47:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Add additional classrooms by December 31, 2013 to facilitate the increase in inmate population and allow for more program offerings for longer-serving inmates.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented. With the expansion of the East Mesa Detention Facility and the acquisition of the CCA Facility in 2016, there are plans to utilize these facilities for additional inmate programming; and for lowering the inmate population at the George Bailey Detention Facility.

RECOMMENDATION 13-48:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Prepare a plan, by December 31, 2013, to add a second fully equipped armory at the other side of the facility to expedite response time in an emergency.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented. The location of the tactical response room is within reasonable distance to both sides of the facility and is used as the secondary response to an incident and is not time sensitive. Currently, each housing unit has a less lethal weapons locker containing a single shot 40mm less lethal launcher with ten 40mm rounds, a pepperball launcher with a full hopper and extra tube of pepperballs, a less-lethal shotgun with five bean bag rounds, and a taser with two taser cartridges. These weapons are utilized for the primary response to an incident while the tactical team is assembled to respond.

FACILITY 8

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"The distance between Facility 8 and GBDF dictates the need for an armory located on-site."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees with the finding. Facility 8 has less lethal weapons within the housing unit to be used for rapid deployment. The secondary response to an incident is provided by staffing assigned at GBDF. It is quicker for staff to respond to the tactical response room at GBDF to gather necessary weapons and information, develop a tactical plan, and deploy to the incident at Facility 8. An uncontrolled response of staff from the tactical response room to an incident would only create greater safety issues for staff and inmates.

RECOMMENDATION 13-49:

The 2012-2013 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff:

Provide a fully equipped armory by December 31, 2013 for the protection of both staff and inmates.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented. The location of the tactical response room is within reasonable distance to both sides of the facility and is used as the secondary response to an incident and is not time sensitive. The housing unit has a less lethal weapons locker containing a single-shot 40mm less lethal launcher with 24 40mm rounds, a multi-shot 40mm less launcher, a pepperball launcher with a full hopper and extra tube of pepperballs, a less lethal shotgun with five bean bag rounds, and a taser with two taser cartridges. These weapons are utilized for the primary response to an incident while the tactical team is assembled and responds from George Bailey Detention Facility.

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 Capt. Frank Clamser of the Detention Support Division at (858) 974-2105.

Sincerely,



William D. Gore, Sheriff

WDG/fc

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Helen Robbins-Meyer, CAO
Thomas J. Pastuszka, Director, Clerk of the Board
Paul C. Christian, Foreman, San Diego County Grand Jury