



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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William D. Gore, Sheriff

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JUN 25 2013
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

June 20, 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 the San Diego County Grand Jury Report: "Impact of Public Safety Realignment on Rural Firefighting" Dated May 2, 2013

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, the following is my response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendation 13-21.

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"California Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 (AB109) brought significant change to the sentencing, processing and detention assignment for court ordered-incarceration of convicted felons."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

"An unintended consequence of AB109 implementation is that over time a lower number of State prison inmates will be eligible for assignment to fire camps as volunteer firefighters."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 03:

"If sufficient inmate firefighters cannot be drawn from the State prison population they could be drawn from eligible County inmate population."

Keeping the Peace Since 1850

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 04:

"Given the fire danger inherent in San Diego County wild lands, the fire camps within San Diego County should be kept open."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 05:

"There are clear and competing priorities for assignment of County inmates to fire camps over the next several years that must be thoughtfully resolved."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 06:

"There is a compelling requirement that the services of trained inmate firefighters be ready and available, especially during the wildfire season. The valuable support provided by these inmate volunteers of essential firefighting services should be a top priority."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 07:

"The \$46 per day per inmate cost for those inmates housed in fire camps will increase future operational budgets of County detention facilities."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 08:

"There are additional costs incurred by the Sheriff in connection with providing of medical services and associated transportation for County inmates housed in fire camps."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding 09:

"A compelling argument can be made that the State should subsidize counties for the detainment costs of those County inmates assigned to fire camps including necessary medical support services."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION 13-21

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

Develop an action plan for County inmate detention relative to potentially qualified inmate firefighters to specifically address the need for inmate firefighting availability. This action plan should be completed and accepted by the Board of Supervisors by June 1, 2014.

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The Sheriff's Department is actively involved in contract negotiations with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for the housing of 100 qualified inmates to participate in the CDCR firefighting program. The final contract should be signed within the next 60 to 90 days.

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/fcc

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