

DETENTION FACILITIES REPORT

SUMMARY

Under California Penal Code, Section 919(b), The Civil Grand Jury is required to inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. This report constitutes a review of the facilities within Santa Barbara County which have the capability of detaining individuals who violate laws or ordinances.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Inspections were conducted of each location listed below by the 2007-2008 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury. Teams comprised of not fewer than two jurors conducted these evaluative reviews. For purposes of this report these detention facilities can be separated into three categories. They are Municipal Police Departments (of which there are 8), the Santa Barbara County Probation Department and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. In some instances on-site visits occurred more than once.

Staff at all locations were interviewed, inquiries were made relevant to operations, and documents specific to organizational rules and procedures were reviewed. Wards of the court, were interviewed.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Municipal Police Departments:

Members of the Grand Jury inspected holding facilities in the following cities:

- Lompoc
- Carpinteria
- Santa Maria
- Guadalupe
- Santa Barbara
- Solvang

The final impression of the Grand Jury is that each of these municipal departments manages its jail operations in an exemplary manner. There were no deficiencies worthy of note in any of these operations. In the Grand Jury's opinion, each facility managed its performance well with limited resources. This Grand Jury has only positive observations concerning the manner in which these agencies conduct their affairs.

Santa Barbara County Probation Department:

There are four juvenile detention facilities maintained in the County by the Probation Department:

- Juvenile Hall, Santa Barbara
- Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center, Santa Maria
- Los Prietos Boys Camp
- Los Prietos Boys Academy

Youthful offenders who come through the Juvenile Court System are placed in the custody of the Probation Department. They may be sent to one of these facilities for varying periods of time. They are classified as wards of the Court. Each of these facilities was visited by Grand Jury members who spoke with wards, interviewed staff and reviewed documents which describe how these facilities operate. In its evaluation and assessment, the Grand Jury determined that there were no defects or faults concerning the condition and management of these facilities.

The Grand Jury was particularly impressed with the quality and dedication of the staffs and faculties at these facilities. They provide both educational and vocational programs. Their focus is to instill the qualities of discipline and self esteem through education and accomplishments. Their success is best demonstrated by the 2007 Los Prietos Boys Camp graduation where, for the first time, 10 wards graduated at the same time.

In addition to the educational programs, the Los Prietos staff demonstrated its efficiency during the Zaca Fire, when it was forced to execute its evacuation plan. The emergency relocation of all 75 wards and staff to Susan Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center was successfully completed according to plan. It also should be noted that as a result of a recommendation from the 2006-2007 Grand Jury, the staff at Los Prietos completed its training on the general operation of the emergency evacuation bus, which was then used in the Zaca Fire evacuation.

Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department:

The Sheriff's Department maintains the major detention facilities within the county. It operates the primary jail for the detention of persons going through various phases of the judicial system within the county, as well as the primary holding facility for persons sentenced for misdemeanor offenses. In addition, the Sheriff's Department maintains sub-stations throughout the county. Members visited each of these facilities.

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| Main Jail, Santa Barbara | Coroners Bureau |
| Sheriff's Jail in Santa Maria | Sheriff's Sub-Station (Burton Mesa Road) |
| Sheriff's Sub-Station (I.V.) | Sheriff's Sub Station, Cuyama Valley |

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Sheriff's Sub-Station Solvang
Sheriff's Court Holding facility,
 Figueroa Street
Sheriff's Court Holding facility,
 Lompoc
Sheriff's Court Holding facility,
 Santa Maria

Sheriff's Sub Station, Santa Maria
Sheriff's Sub-Station, Santa Ynez

Sheriff's Aviation Bureau

In spite of severe overcrowding of the Mail Jail, the Grand Jury was impressed with how the Sheriff's Department has managed the facility.

The members of the Grand Jury who visited these facilities wish to express their appreciation for the professional and compassionate manner in which staff functions within the jail environment.