

DETENTION FACILITIES REPORT

SUMMARY

The 2008-2009 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury (Jury) conducted inspections of each detention facility pursuant to *California Penal Code Section 919(b)*, which requires the Civil Grand Jury to inquire into the condition and management of the “public prisons” within the County. While overcrowding is currently an issue at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail, steps are being taken by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to construct a North County facility to address that issue.

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with *California Penal Code 919(b)*, the 2008-2009 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury is required to inspect all detention facilities within Santa Barbara County annually. The Jury inspected each of the facilities listed below with teams of not fewer than two jurors. The Jury interviewed deputies, police officials, on-site staff and reviewed documents and procedures.

Representatives from oversight agencies such as the State Board of Corrections, the State Fire Marshal, and State and County health inspectors continually monitor these facilities. The Jury’s inspection and review included:

- Physical layout of the institutions
- Health services
- Visiting privileges
- Meals and nutrition
- Educational and vocational opportunities
- In-house monitoring systems
- Transportation

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Sheriff’s Facilities

- Aviation Bureau, Santa Ynez
- Coroner Bureau, Santa Barbara
- Court holding facility, Lompoc
- Court holding facility, Santa Barbara
- Court holding facility, Santa Maria
- Jail, Santa Maria
- Main Jail, Santa Barbara

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- Sub-station, Safety Center, Lompoc
- Sub-station, Cuyama Valley
- Sub-station, Isla Vista
- Sub-station, Solvang

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department maintains the largest and most populated detention facility in the County. Arrestees sentenced to one year or less and those awaiting trial, are housed at the Sheriff's Main Jail (Main Jail). The Sheriff's sub-stations act as holding facilities primarily for those waiting to be transferred to the Main Jail or for court appearances.

Jail overcrowding results in:

- increased medical costs
- increased assaults
- increased operational costs
- accelerated deterioration of facilities

The Sheriff's Department continues to try different solutions to mitigate overcrowding (e.g., early release for sentenced inmates, the electronic monitoring program and expanded citation release criteria). With the construction of a new North County jail and the recently approved funding for expansion of the Sheriff's Technical Services facility in Santa Barbara, many of these problems will be alleviated.

The Jury found the Main Jail and sub-station personnel operate and manage the facilities in a professional manner.

Municipal Facilities

The Jury inspected the holding facilities located in:

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

The Jury found no deficiencies in the operation and management of the holding facilities.

Juvenile Facilities

Juvenile offenders processed through the Juvenile Court system are placed in the custody of the Probation Department. Santa Barbara County Probation Department maintains the following juvenile detention facilities:

- Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall

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- Susan J.Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center, Santa Maria
- Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy, Los Padres National Forest

Members of the Jury commend the staff for their dedication and commitment to the juveniles in their charge.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1:

Overcrowding at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail continues to have negative impacts on jail operations.

Recommendation 1:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors implement appropriate financial measures in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 to allow construction of the North County Jail.

REQUEST FOR RESPONSE

In accordance with *California Penal Code Section 933.05*, each agency and government body affected by or named in this report is requested to respond in writing to the findings and recommendations in a timely manner. The following are the affected agencies for this report, with the mandated response period for each.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff – 60 days

Finding	1
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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors – 90 days

Finding	1
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Recommendation	1
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