

DETENTION FACILITIES REPORT

SUMMARY

Under *California Penal Code Section 919(b)*, county grand juries... “shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county”. This report contains results of inspections of the jails, detention, and coroner facilities, by the 2010-11 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury (Jury).

In the Jury’s opinion, all facilities are well-managed and the staff of each performs well with limited resources. This Jury’s observations concerning the manner in which these facilities are operated are all positive. Particularly worthy of praise is the Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy for its success in the academic aspects of its multifaceted approach to juvenile rehabilitation.

Numerous Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Juries filed reports on overcrowding at the main jail. This overcrowding condition still exists.

METHODOLOGY

Teams comprised of two or more jurors conducted evaluative inspections at the facilities listed below. Facilities are separated into three categories: (1) Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department (Sheriff) including the Coroner, (2) Santa Barbara County Probation Department (Probation), and (3) municipal police departments. Staff at all locations was interviewed, inquiries relevant to operations were made, and documents specific to organizational rules and procedures were reviewed. Juvenile wards of the court were also interviewed.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department

The Sheriff maintains and operates the adult detention facilities within the county, including the main jail. The Sheriff also oversees the Coroner’s Bureau.

Jury members visited the following facilities:

- Santa Barbara Main Jail
- Sheriff’s Department Coroner’s Bureau
- Sheriff’s Department Santa Maria Station
- Sheriff’s Department Isla Vista Foot Patrol Station
- Sheriff’s Department Santa Ynez Valley/Solvang Station
- Sheriff’s Department Lompoc Station
- Sheriff’s Department Carpinteria Station
- Sheriff’s Department New Cuyama Station
- Sheriff’s Court Holding Facility, Figueroa Street, Santa Barbara

DETENTION FACILITIES REPORT

- Sheriff's Court Holding Facility, Lompoc
- Sheriff's Court Holding Facility, Santa Maria

The Jury found each of these facilities well-managed and operated in a professional manner.

Santa Barbara County Probation Department

In addition to its other duties, the Probation Department is responsible for three juvenile detention facilities:

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

Youthful offenders placed in custody of Probation may be sent to one of the above facilities for varying periods of time. These youth are considered wards of the court. The Jury visited each of these facilities, interviewed staff, reviewed documents describing facility operations, and spoke with juvenile wards. The Jury found the condition and management of these facilities to be superior.

Of note is the Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy. The result of the staff's commitment to the ideals of the camp and the success of its wards is evident by the academic progress that many achieve. Working with Santa Barbara County Education Office, Los Robles High School (the camp school) this year maintained a significant increase in the number of diplomas awarded.

The juvenile hall facility in Santa Barbara is currently only used for booking of juveniles and those awaiting court appearances. This wait is usually for not more than six hours whereas the Susan Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center is used for the complete detention process for juveniles.

Municipal Police Departments

Members of the Jury inspected detention facilities in Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria. The Jury found that each of these municipal departments manages its jail operations in an exemplary manner:

- Lompoc City Jail
- Santa Barbara City Holding Facility
- Santa Maria Holding Facility

The 2010-11 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury commends the officials who manage and operate the various detention facilities in the county.