



**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
Adam Christianson, Sheriff-Coroner

**ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION**

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Jack M. Jacobson, Presiding Judge  
Stanislaus County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 3488  
Modesto, CA 95353

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report 10-47GJ

Dear Judge Jacobson:

The Sheriff's Department is in receipt of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury's completed 2009/2010 Correctional Facilities Inspections report (case 10-47GJ) as mandated by California Penal Code Section 919(b). Included in the report are findings and recommendations regarding three Sheriff's Department facilities: the Main Jail, Public Safety Center and Honor Farm.

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05 the following is our response to the 2010 Civil Grand Jury Report from the Adult Detention Division as it pertains to the three detention facilities.

**Stanislaus County Main Jail Findings:**

F1. This facility needs to be replaced.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

The updated Public Safety Center Jail Needs Assessment and Public Safety Service Master Plan submitted to the county Board of Supervisors on June 26, 2007 indicated there is a significant shortage of adult detention beds to meet today's public safety needs and demands. In addition to meeting growth demands, two of the three adult detention facilities, the Men's Jail and the Honor Farm, should be considered for replacement. The funding is not currently available to build more bed space, which could allow for closure of the facility.

F2. The humidity in the jail was overwhelming.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

The age and design of the facility make replacement of the air conditioning system prohibitive. Bids are currently being sought to make improvements to an outdated air conditioning system.

- F3. The video monitoring/recording system needs to be capable of recording continuously.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

California Government Code Section 34090.6 states that recordings of routine video monitoring must be retained for at least one year. With the large number of cameras inside the facility, the storage capacity required to retain all recordings for one year is cost prohibitive.

- F4. The medical and dental service appears to be adequate.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

**Stanislaus County Main Jail Recommendations:**

- R1. Replace the existing facility with a larger, more modern facility.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

The updated Public Safety Center Jail Needs Assessment and Public Safety Service Master Plan submitted to the Board of Supervisors on June 26, 2007 indicated that there is a significant shortage of adult detention beds to meet today's needs and demands. In addition to meeting growth demands, two of the three adult detention facilities, the Main Jail and the Honor Farm, should be considered for replacement. The funding is not currently available to build more bed space, which could allow for closure of the facility.

- R2. Upgrade the video monitoring/recording system.

**Response:** Improvements have been made to the monitoring system as a whole, including new monitors in Control and installation of some new cameras.

With regard to recording, California Government Code Section 34090.6 states that recordings of routine video monitoring must be retained for at least one year. With the large number of cameras inside the facility, the storage capacity required to retain all recordings for one year is cost prohibitive.

**Stanislaus County Public Safety Center Findings:**

- F.1. The Public Safety Center is a clean facility.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.2. The inmate grievance procedure is adequate.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.3. Inmates are separated and housed by appropriate classifications.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.4. The medical staff is adequate and appears to display a caring attitude.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.5. The use of closed circuit television for arraignments is both a cost-savings and safety benefit as it keeps more deputies available for security purposes at the Public Safety Center.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.6. The annual mental health training appears to be beneficial.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.7. The facility keeps appropriate records regarding any discharge of weapons.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.8. The video monitoring/recording system needs to be capable of recording continuously.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

**Stanislaus County Public Safety Center Recommendations:**

R1. The current level of staff should be maintained or increased.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

Currently, the Public Safety Center (PSC) is fully staffed with full-time employees and also with overtime hours, no positions are left vacant. The firm Crout & Sida conducted a staffing analysis in conjunction with the Needs Assessment for the expansion of the PSC. Their findings are in line with the Grand Jury's recommendation to increase staff. The

Sheriff's Department has submitted the report to the Board of Supervisors and the CEO's Office. No progress has been made on this issue due to the current economic climate.

R2. The annual mental health training should be maintained.

**Response:** The recommendation has been implemented.

This training will be maintained on a yearly basis for staff. In addition, the PSC continues to staff a mental health deputy who receives mental health training throughout the year.

R3. Upgrade the video monitoring/recording system.

**Response:** The recommendation has been implemented.

This past year, the cameras and monitors were repaired and upgraded. As part of the proposed expansion of the PSC, a new Control Center will be added which will have updated video monitoring and recording capabilities. The current Control Center is very outdated and not capable of recording. The current panel has no room for upgrades without a complete overhaul and replacement of the entire system; it is cost prohibitive.

**Stanislaus County Honor Farm Findings:**

F.1. The Honor Farms appears to be a well-organized, well-run facility.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.2. Closing or significantly reducing the population of inmates housed at the Honor Farm, may have significant negative effects on the community at large. Not the least of which will be fewer available workers to accomplish the duties of the three entities who rely on the road-work crews provided by the Honor Farm - the Department of Public Works the Department of Environmental Resources and the City of Modesto.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

F.3. Due to the remote location of the Honor Farm, cutting back on readily available medical services could result in a failure to timely treat emergent injuries.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

In an effort to avoid major medical issues, medical is implementing much stricter criteria for medically clearing inmates to be housed at the Honor Farm.

F4. The video monitoring/recording system needs to be capable of recording continuously.

**Response:** The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

The video system does continuously record to the hard drive. It holds approximately 2 weeks of data. Any permanent record that needs to be archived to d.v.d. can be captured during that two-week time frame.

**Stanislaus County Honor Farm Recommendations:**

- R1. The Sheriff's Department should endeavor to keep the Honor Farm fully staffed and all the barracks open. Justice will not be served if all arrestees, except those charged with a felony, are immediately released back into the general population.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts and a decrease in appropriations by the Board Of Supervisors, Adult Detention was forced to implement a reduction in force. With a reduction of custodial staff, mandated posts cannot be filled. Without proper supervision, inmates must be released.

- R2. The Sheriff's Department should attempt to continue providing road work crews to the Department of Public Works, the Department of Environmental Resources and the City of Modesto.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

We are making every effort to transfer this function to our Jail Alternatives Unit. It is not without challenges and will require much patience from our partners. Our hope is that once the current economic challenges improve; we will once again be providing the same level of service that our partners have come to expect.

- R3. The medical service should continue to provide treatment on 24 hours per day, 7 days per week basis.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

The provider is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

- R4. Upgrade the video monitoring/recording system.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

During the Grand Jury visit, our large Pelco Monitor was being replaced and we were using a smaller screen in the interim. It is still under warranty. We plan on installing more fixed

cameras, primarily focusing on the Waste Water Treatment Plant, as well as a couple of other locations.

We appreciate the time the Civil Grand Jury has devoted to inspecting our facilities and operations. Please extend my appreciation to the 2008/2009 Civil Grand Jury for their work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Christianson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ADAM CHRISTIANSON  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Supervisor Jeff Grover, Chairman  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Diane A. Sol, Foreperson  
Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury

Richard W. Robinson, Chief Executive Officer  
Stanislaus County