



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Annual Inspection of the Holding Facilities in Placer County

Report Date: March 15, 2011

Annual Inspection of the Holding Facilities in Placer County

Summary

The 2010-2011 Placer County Grand Jury conducted annual inspections of all holding facilities in Placer County. The Grand Jury concludes the overall operations of the holding facilities within the County are clean, organized, and well maintained. However, the Grand Jury recommends a new motor be installed for the sally port gate at the historic Auburn Courthouse which can be electrically and manually operated, and replacement of the Sheriff's Substation at Burton Creek.

Background

California Penal Code Section 919(b) states: "The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county."

Investigation Methods

The 2010-2011 Grand Jury inspected all of the holding facilities within the County. Areas that were inspected at the facilities were booking, inmate housing, food preparation and handling, general maintenance, security and cleanliness of the facility, and general procedures of the handling of prisoners.

Facts

Lincoln Police Department Holding Facility

As of July 14, 2010, the Lincoln Police Department no longer has a holding facility and therefore an inspection was not conducted. All arrestees are now transported directly to the Placer County Main Jail or the Juvenile Detention Facility in Auburn. The Lincoln Police Department consolidated operational and administrative functions into one location.

Roseville Police Department Holding Facility

The Roseville Police Department (PD) has the capability of detaining prisoners in their holding facility for up to 96 hours prior to being transported to the Placer County Main Jail in Auburn. If a prisoner is transported to Auburn it can be approximately a 46 mile

round trip and officer time involved. When the Sheriff's Department completes construction of a jail at the Santucci Justice Center in 2012, the time involved in the transportation of prisoners to jail by the PD will drop. It is unknown at this time if the jail at the PD will be utilized for bookings when the new County jail is completed and operating.

The Roseville PD currently has a Sentenced Prisoner Program (SPP), which offers an alternative to serving their sentence in the Placer County Main Jail. It is an option for some convicted individuals to complete their sentence in 12-hour increments for a fee while still able to maintain employment. The SPP was estimated to have generated approximately \$100,000 in revenue for the 2010 calendar year.

Auburn Historic Courthouse Holding Facility

Prisoners are brought to the Courthouse by a law enforcement car or van for court appearances. They are led from the sally port, through the lobby, up the fire escape back stairs to the holding area before being taken to a courtroom.

In the sally port there is an electrically operated gate which is raised and lowered when the prisoners are brought to the courthouse by transport vehicles. At times this gate does not work and will stay in either the up or down position and cannot be operated either manually or electrically. The outdated gate motor is generally repaired on a temporary basis. Work orders have been submitted to address this issue.

Rocklin Police Department Holding Facility

The holding facility at the Rocklin Police Department is approximately five years old. The facility is modern and was designed with a 50-year plan for growth. It is spacious, clean and well maintained. The facility has been recognized as a "green" police department by the California Peace Officers' Association as an eco-friendly building.

The Rocklin Police Department received a commendation by the Governor's Office as having the best volunteer program for police departments in California.

Auburn Police Department Holding Facility

Jurors inspected the holding facility and found that it is secure, clean, and well maintained.

Chief Valerie Harris and Captain John Ruffcorn facilitated a question and answer session with the jurors on the workings of the police department. The department actively applies for and receives grant monies available which helps meet the needs of the department in areas of appropriating communication equipment, computers, and vehicle technology.

Placer County Main Jail and Minimum Security

The Placer County Main Jail and Minimum Security facility in Auburn have a combined capacity of 646 prisoners. The Grand Jury found that the facility is clean, secure, well maintained, and noted no significant problems.

Medical services are provided through a contract with the California Forensic Medical Group. Medical staff is present in the facility 24/7.

Minimum security facilities are located at 11441 F Avenue, Auburn, in the DeWitt Center, which is close to the Main Jail. The capacity of this facility is 160 prisoners. The prisoners in this facility work in the laundry, in the kitchen, and provide maintenance of County facilities and other California State agencies.

The kitchen facilities are run by the Probation Department under the direction of Food Service Manager Renee Harvey. Prisoners from the Minimum Security Facility and civilian employees produce thousands of meals a day for the inmates at the Main Jail, Minimum Security Facility, and the Juvenile Detention Facility. Procedures are in place to prevent food-borne illness outbreaks; samples of each day's meals are frozen. In the event of an outbreak of a food-borne illness, these samples can be tested. Meals are well balanced and special diet meals are available.

Santucci Justice Center Holding Facility

The holding facility is located within the Santucci Justice Center which opened in July 2008. This facility is modern, clean, secure, and well maintained. There is sufficient camera coverage in the holding facility and courtrooms, which are monitored by deputies. Elevators are used to move prisoners between the holding facility and courtrooms.

Sheriff's Tahoe Substation at Burton Creek

On October 11, 2010, the Grand Jury inspected the Sheriff's Tahoe Substation at Burton Creek. Sgt. Helen Thompson led the inspection. This building houses the Sheriff's Department, the Tahoe Justice Center, and the District Attorney's satellite office. The inspection included the holding facility, sally port, and kitchen area. Meals are provided for the prisoners by the kitchen facility operated by the Placer County Probation Department in Auburn.

Deputies are cross-trained in search and rescue. The employees at this facility take pride in their work and the services they provide to the public.

The Substation was constructed in 1959. Grand Jury reports since 1999 have made recommendations to replace this facility. See Final Reports and Responses at: www.placergrandjury.org

The Grand Jury of 2010-2011 concurs with all prior Placer County Grand Juries' recommendations for the replacement of this facility.

Findings

F1. The Grand Jury concludes the overall operations of the holding facilities within the County are clean, organized, and well maintained.

F2. **Lincoln Police Department Holding Facility**

The Lincoln Police Department no longer has a holding facility.

F3. **Roseville Police Department**

The Grand Jury commends the Roseville Police Department for offering the Sentenced Prisoner Program.

F4. **Auburn Historic Courthouse Holding Facility**

- The motor operating the sally port gate is unreliable.
- There is no way to manually control the gate.

F5. **Rocklin Police Department Holding Facility**

The Grand Jury commends the Rocklin Police Department for their continued effort to maintain an efficient “green” and professional facility.

F6. **Auburn Police Department Holding Facility**

The Grand Jury commends the Auburn Police Department for obtaining funds through grants available to law enforcement agencies.

F7. **Placer County Main Jail and Minimum Security**

The Grand Jury commends Food Service Manager Renee Harvey for doing an outstanding job. Using local products helps to keep costs down.

F8. **Santucci Justice Center Holding Facility**

This facility is modern, clean, secure, and well maintained.

F9. **Sheriff's Tahoe Substation at Burton Creek**

- Deputies at this facility are cross-trained in search and rescue.
- The employees at this facility take pride in their work and the services they provide to the public.
- The Substation was constructed in 1959. Grand Jury reports since 1999 have made recommendations to replace this facility.

Conclusion

The Grand Jury concludes the overall operations of the holding facilities within Placer County are clean, organized, and well maintained.

Recommendations

The 2010-2011 Placer County Grand Jury recommends:

R1. A new motor be installed for the sally port gate at the Historic Auburn Courthouse which can be electrically and manually operated.

R2. Replacement of the Sheriff's Substation at Burton Creek.

Request For Responses

Edward Bonner, Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal
Placer County Sheriff Department
#R1, R2
2929 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Due by May 15, 2011

Placer County Board Of Supervisors
#R1, R2
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Due by May 15, 2011

Thomas Miller
Placer County Executive Officer
#R2
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Due by June 15, 2011

Jim Durfee, Director
Placer County Facility Services
#R1, R2
11476 C Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Due by June 15, 2011

Copies Sent To

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Roseville Police Department
1051 Junction Blvd.
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4080 Rocklin Road
Rocklin, CA 95677

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1215 Lincoln Way
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