

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

El Dorado County Jail, Placerville

Reason for the Report

California Penal Code authorizes and directs Grand Juries to inspect and report annually on operations of all public prisons located within the boundaries of each county.

Scope of the Inspection

Members of the Grand Jury made a comprehensive inspection of the Placerville Jail facility on February 28, 2003.

- The Jail Commander briefed jury members on Jail operations;
- The Jail Commander conducted a comprehensive tour of the facilities;
- Staffing levels were explained and discussed;
- Inspection Reports were reviewed;
- Recommendations of previous Grand Juries were discussed;
- Implementation of those recommendations was explained to and reviewed by the inspecting members;
- Grand Jury Reports for 2000/01 and 2001/02 were reviewed.

Background

The Placerville Jail facility was built in 1988 as a “direct supervision” jail wherein inmates have direct contact with staff. Original plans allow for the future expansion of a second wing.

Staffing for the facility totals 103.5. The total is comprised of a Captain responsible for both Placerville and South Lake Tahoe facilities, a Lieutenant in charge of the facility, Correctional Officers, Sheriff Assistants, and Cooks. The staff provides the coverage of the jail facility, the Work Program, Transportation, and the Bailiff/Court Security.

The jail facility is adequate and has an oversized booking area and kitchen in anticipating future expansion. The central control booth floor showed excessive wear. The original floor is old, worn and cannot be cleaned. In the main hall an antenna wire was exposed.

The jail holds a maximum of 243 inmates and is rarely filled to capacity. When this Grand Jury inspected the facilities, there were 185 inmates comprising of 160 males and 25 females. Of these

inmates, 180 were from El Dorado County, four were from Amador County, and one from the U.S. Marshall. Two additional Placerville inmates were being housed in Amador County Jail. In addition there were 23 inmates on the Electronic Monitoring Program.

The Work Program assists individuals convicted of drunk driving, driving with suspended license, white-collar crimes, or misdemeanor whose sentences require jail time of ten to fifteen days. The individuals are allowed to continue their jobs, live at home, and not be on the Electronic Monitoring Program. In exchange, individuals work off the sentence by performing grounds and maintenance work at the fairgrounds, El Dorado High School, Consumes Community College, Veterans Hall or other local places and pay \$20 for each day worked. Payments to participate in this program totaled \$56,580 for the fiscal year 2001/2002 and \$57,100 for the first nine months of the current fiscal year. The funds received are credited to the General Fund of the County.

Space is rented to the U.S. Marshall and other counties. If necessary for security needs, for example to separate gang members, inmates are sent to other county jails. The jail has housed no minors in the past three years.

The kitchen staff is comprised of one supervising cook and three cooks with several inmates assisting. A part-time dietician reviews the meal plans for nutritional value. During the inspection of the kitchen it was noted that some vegetables appeared to be old and need to be discarded. Two food containers lids are cracked. Similar conditions have been reported in the previous Grand Jury report.

Medical and dental needs are provided on site. Full time contract nursing services are available with a doctor on call. A contract dentist provides emergency dental care on premises.

Findings

F1. The central control booth needs new floor covering.

Response to F1: The respondent agrees with the finding

F2. The antenna wire was exposed in the main hallway.

Response to F2: The respondent agrees with the finding

F3. Some produce was old and needed to be discarded.

Response to F3: The respondent agrees with the finding. The response is qualified by noting that policy directs that food inspections are to be conducted regularly, and in the past no produce or leftovers have ever been found to be old or out of date. Respondent has no information to disagree with the particular conditions noted at the time of the finding except past experience.

F4. Two food storage bins had cracked lids.

Response to F4: Respondent agrees with the Finding.

Recommendations

R1. The central control booth floor covering should be replaced.

Response to R1: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. General Services will contract with outside vendor to make the necessary replacement or repair. Completion is anticipated by August 31, 2003.

R2. The antenna wire in the main hall should be put in a conduit.

Response to R2: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. General Services Department issued a service order on July 11, 2003 to cover the wire with conduit. Anticipated completion date is no later than October 30, 2003.

R3. Produce should be checked regularly.

Response to R3: The recommendation has been implemented. Produce is checked regularly, in addition to inspections by the Environmental Management Department and quarterly dietician inspections. These inspections have never found produce or leftovers to be old or out of date.

R4. Cracked food storage lids should be replaced.

Response to R4: The recommendation has been implemented. The cracked food storage lids have been replaced.

Responses Required for Findings

F1 through F4
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County Sheriff

Responses Required for Recommendations

R1 through R4
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County Sheriff