

EL DORADO COUNTY JAILS/JUVENILE HALLS

GJ05-060

Reason for the Report

Per Penal Code §919(b) members of the 2005-2006 Grand Jury inspected the correctional facilities located within the boundaries of the county.

Scope of the Inspection

Members of the Grand Jury made a physical visit to each facility. All accessible areas were toured.

- At the Jails and Juvenile Halls, Managers and Supervisory Staff briefed Grand Jury members on the operations and conducted tours.
- Explanations were given for:
 1. Staffing levels.
 2. Programs in each facility.
 3. Future expansion plans

Background

With the exception of the South Lake Tahoe Juvenile Hall all facilities are aging and, for the most part, are well maintained. (Exceptions noted under findings)

Outside agencies, such as U.S. Marshals, will house prisoners on as needed basis in the County Jails. Alpine County contracts with El Dorado County for jail services.

A contract nurse is on duty and a doctor is on call at all Jail and Juvenile Hall facilities. A contract dentist provides emergency dental care on premises.

Food at all facilities is provided by on premise kitchen staff as well as inmate workers. The menus are varied and provide necessary nutritional value. The facilities are inspected on a regular basis for compliance with applicable health codes. Staff receives periodic training to insure proper food handling.

Facts

1. Employees at each facility are well trained and appear to enjoy their jobs.
2. Supervisory staff at each facility encourages employee participation in resolving problems encountered in the workplace.
3. El Dorado County Jail in Placerville was visited April 3, 2006. No adverse conditions were observed.
4. El Dorado County Juvenile Hall in Placerville was visited March 13, 2006. No adverse conditions were observed.

5. El Dorado County Juvenile Hall in South Lake Tahoe was visited May 4, 2006. No adverse conditions observed.

Findings/Recommendations

1F. Finding: El Dorado County Jail in South Lake Tahoe was visited May 4, 2006. It was noted that the carpet in the control room is frayed.

1R. Recommendation: Inspect all carpeted areas and repair/replace carpeting as needed.

COMMENDATION

May 25, 2006, the Grand Jury toured the Growlersburg Conservation Camp located in Georgetown. This facility is to be commended for their on-site program. The facility is jointly run by the CA Department of Corrections and CA Department of Forestry.

A garden provides a large number of fresh vegetables for inmates throughout the growing season that saves a substantial amount of budget monies.

The wood shop constructs furniture for governmental agencies on a cost of materials basis. The quality of work is excellent. The wood shop manages to continue running despite recent budget cuts. This shows a dedication by staff to have a meaningful program in place for inmates.

A response is required by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors within ninety (90) days. See Table of Contents, “*Notice to Respondents.*”