

August 28, 2001

Honorable Judge Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara County
Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara CA 93121

Judge Melville:

**Grand Jury Report - DETENTION FACILITIES & SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
ISSUES – June 6, 2001**

Attached is an updated response to the above referenced Grand Jury report. In the original response General Services responded to Recommendation 32, not the requested Finding 32.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Cortez
General Services Director

skm

Attachment

C: Michael Brown, County Administrator
William L. Cathey, Grand Jury Foreperson



Finding 14a: Restating the finding of the 1999-2000 Grand Jury, the roof of the latrine at the Male Honor Farm is termite-infested and has dry rot.

Agree:

The County is currently doing a total remodel of the shower/washroom wing for \$530,000 which is targeted for completion 8/8/01.

Finding 14b: There is frequent and heavy condensation on the interior of windows of the Male Honor Farm.

Agree:

The County is currently doing a total remodel of the shower/washroom wing for \$530,000 which is targeted for completion 8/8/01.

Finding 14c: The tunnel between the Male Honor Farm and the Main Jail is inadequately ventilated.

Agree:

The ventilation fan in the tunnel was not working properly and was fixed as soon as notice was given to General Services.

Finding 14d: The passive solar panels used to heat water at the Male Honor Farm are in need of restoration or replacement.

Agree:

The County does not own these solar panels; they are on a 20-year lease/purchase contract which has 5 years remaining to be fully paid off. The panels are checked monthly by the vendor and the contract includes free maintenance. Any problems with these panels are reported to the vendor for immediate repair. At the end of the lease/purchase the panels will be evaluated for adequacy of continued use and abandoned or replaced.

Recommendation 14: Correct by repair, retrofitting, or replacement all of the facility problems listed in Findings 14a, 14b, 14c, and 14d.

The recommendation is being partially implemented

As indicated above Findings 14a and 14b are under construction; Finding 14c needs further analysis to evaluate the problem and Finding 14d will be evaluated and repaired by the vendor.

Recommendation 20b: Once the Female Honor Farm is moved to the Main Jail campus, the La Morada facility should be rededicated to serve the therapeutic needs of women diverted from jail using the funding of Proposition 36. As with any County



program, the effectiveness of the programming should be assessed based on County performance measurements, using appropriate behavior modification criteria.

The recommendation requires further analysis

General Services will provide support to the Sheriff's Department for any work to be done on the La Morada facility. The Sheriff's Department is the lead for determining the best use of the facility as well success of the program.

Finding 32a: This facility, directly above the District Attorney's Office, is well-located, well-built, and has striking architectural features.

Agree

Finding 32b: The cost to convert this space would be less than the cost to purchase and build a new downtown office facility.

Agree

The Sheriff's Department is still actively using some of this jail facility as a court staging area for inmates. Any project to renovate the wing would require an appropriate relocation of this function. The County CIP (Capital Improvement Projects Plan) contains an unfunded project to expand and renovate the Santa Barbara Street wing of the Courthouse to provide needed office space. The estimate in the CIP of \$2,850,000 does not include relocation of the Sheriff's court staging function.

Finding 38: Few visitors come to the facility to identify bodies. For those who have cause to visit the center, however, there is no private room or space for consolation.

Do not agree or disagree

The General Services Department concurs with the response from the Sheriff's Department. General Services does not have knowledge of the day-to-day use of this facility.

Recommendation 38: Build a reception area at the Coroner's office.

The recommendation requires further analysis

The General Services Department concurs with the response from the Sheriff's Department. General Services is available to provide support to the Sheriff's Department should they request a facility modification.