

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RESPONSE
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 2004-2005 GRAND JURY
NO VACANCY – THE NEED FOR A NORTH COUNTY JAIL**

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDING 1

The Main Jail, located in the South County, is overcrowded.

Response to Finding 1

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding with respect to the Main Jail.

The Sheriff's Department has been under court order to reduce overcrowding in the Main Jail since August 2, 1988. The Sheriff's Department has attempted various remedies to alleviate overcrowding conditions at the Main Jail facility. While extensive, to date these remedies have had no significant impact on the overcrowding conditions mentioned in this report. In fact, we now must look to measures that are more stringent in an effort to reduce recent increases in the inmate population at the Main Jail.

FINDING 2

In 2004, 55% percent of the jail population was from the northern part of the county.

Response to Finding 2

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding. In 2004, the average daily population in the Main Jail and Honor Farm was 924 inmates, 502 of those housed in Santa Barbara were from the northern part of the county.

FINDING 3

An estimated 1,575 beds will be needed to house inmates in this county by the year 2020.

Response to Finding 3

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding. In 1999, Rosser Justice Systems conducted a needs assessment for the Sheriff's Department, the results of which project a need for 1,575 beds by the year 2020 throughout our custody system.