

DETENTION FACILITIES IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

2019-20 Grand Jury Inspections

INTRODUCTION

Under *California Penal Code Section 919 (b)*, the Grand Jury is required to “inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.” The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury visited all detention facilities in the County, consisting of the two principal County jails, the Lompoc City jail, the various police, sheriff and Superior Court holding facilities, the two juvenile detention facilities, the County Coroner’s Bureau and the Sobering Center - a total of twenty facilities.

The Grand Jury was generally satisfied with the current management and condition of the detention facilities in Santa Barbara County. Many of the facilities were built 20 to 50 years ago, and while the Jury found them to be generally safe and serviceable, significant maintenance and renovation investments will likely be required in the future. The most noteworthy findings were the current overcrowding in the Main Jail, the significant schedule and cost overrun of the new Northern Branch Jail, a new proposed approach to inmate management for the new jail, the significant shortage of critical body scanning equipment in the facilities to address the drug contraband problem, the need for improved camera coverage, and serious Sheriff and police staff shortages directly impacting public safety.

OUTLINE

The facilities that the Grand Jury inspected are listed below.

- 1.0 Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Jails
 - 1.1 Main Jail
 - 1.2 Northern Branch Jail (under construction)
- 2.0 Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Substations
 - 2.1 Isla Vista Foot Patrol
 - 2.2 New Cuyama
 - 2.3 Solvang
 - 2.4 Lompoc Valley-Harris Grade
 - 2.5 Carpinteria
- 3.0 Santa Barbara County Probation Facilities
 - 3.1 Los Prietos Boys Camp
 - 3.2 Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center
- 4.0 County of Santa Barbara Superior Court Holding Facilities
 - 4.1 Santa Maria
 - 4.2 Santa Barbara

- 4.3 Lompoc
- 5.0 City Jails
 - 5.1 Lompoc City Jail
- 6.0 City Holding Facilities
 - 6.1 City of Santa Barbara Police Department
 - 6.2 City of Santa Maria Police Department
 - 6.3 City of Guadalupe Police Department
- 7.0 Santa Barbara Sobering Center

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury conducted onsite inspections of the conditions of each facility, examining the processes for handling the detainees and reviewing the staff professionalism. For each facility inspection, the Jury interviewed the custody staff, which included sheriff deputies, police officers, probation officers, and support staff. The safety, security, and humane treatment of inmates of each facility were examined. Previous Grand Jury reports were studied to provide a benchmark for comparison.

1.0 Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Jails

1.1 Santa Barbara County Main Jail

The Main Jail is located near the City of Santa Barbara and was originally built in 1971. It is state rated for 659 inmates with a separate Medium Security Facility which is rated for an additional 160 inmates, for a total of 819 inmates. During the Jury's visit in February 2020, there were 671 inmates in the Main Jail and 219 in the Medium Security Facility, totaling 890 inmates, resulting in an overcrowding of 71 inmates.

Since 1988, the County has been under a court order to reduce the daily jail population to an 819 approved bed capacity. However, the average population frequently exceeds the approved bed capacity. When the Northern Branch Jail is completed, it will have additional maximum bed count of 376. Therefore, when the new North County jail is operating, Santa Barbara County should have sufficient bed capacity. The overcrowding will be alleviated with the opening of the new jail. The construction was scheduled for completion in May 2020.

The cost to house an inmate for one day is \$115.00 to \$120.00, or \$43,000 per year as reported in February 2020.

At the time of the Grand Jury inspection, the Jail was 13 custody officers short of the 228 considered adequate for the three overlapping schedules. Currently, one shift consists of 23 custody deputies and 4 medical personnel. The Jail is understaffed, which results in higher safety risks to custodial deputies, costs associated with mandatory overtime, and heightened custody staff stress levels.

The Main Jail building is aging and several infrastructure deficiencies were noted. The Jury was told that the Main Jail is outdated and in serious need of seismic and ADA compliance updating. This represents a safety risk to both custody deputies and inmates.

The Sheriff will determine the priority of repairs and the implementation of reconfiguration and repurposing plans. This will be a challenge for the Sheriff, as construction cannot begin until the Northern Branch Jail opens, and Main Jail inmates can be moved.

The Sheriff's goal is to offer the same services at both the Main Jail and the new Northern Branch Jail. These services include medical, psychiatric, educational, and other rehabilitation support. This may mean closing some Main Jail beds, reconfiguring some areas, and repurposing others.

A new inmate-issued electronic "iPad" device is being successfully used for education and inmate behavioral rewards, resulting in a reduction in jail violence. A more elaborate system is being planned for the Northern Branch Jail. The Sheriff envisions new classroom space in the Main Jail so that inmates are better prepared to rejoin society.

Surveillance camera positions need to be improved to provide more complete coverage of inmate cell activity. The Jury also noted the complete absence of body scanner systems to inspect and detect dangerous contraband (drugs primarily) that inmates routinely smuggle into the Jail. All inmates entering the Jail from whatever feeder points they originate from should also be scanned.

The transportation vehicle fleet used to transport the inmates is old. While well maintained, this fleet will require replacement for both safety and efficiency.

The custody deputies were extremely courteous, professional, and well-informed. The staff is well trained and maintains a positive attitude. They promptly provided the Grand Jury with all information requests.

Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

The Main Jail is outdated and in need of seismic and ADA compliance.

Finding 2

The Main Jail is overcrowded. This overcrowding situation may be partially alleviated by the opening of the Northern Branch Jail.

Finding 3

The Main Jail is understaffed.

Recommendation 3

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors allocate sufficient funding to the Sheriff's office specifically for the purpose of hiring additional custody deputies.

Finding 4

There are no body scanners to detect dangerous contraband.

Recommendation 4

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department purchase and install a body scanning system immediately to intercept contraband at the Main Jail.

Finding 5

Surveillance camera positions do not provide complete coverage of inmate cell activity.

Recommendation 5

That the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department review camera coverage to make sure that each camera is providing the custody deputies full views of the cells.

Finding 6

The inmate transportation fleet is old and unreliable.

Recommendation 6

That the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff consider funding for upgrade and replacement of the inmate transportation fleet within two years.

1.2 Santa Barbara County Northern Branch Jail

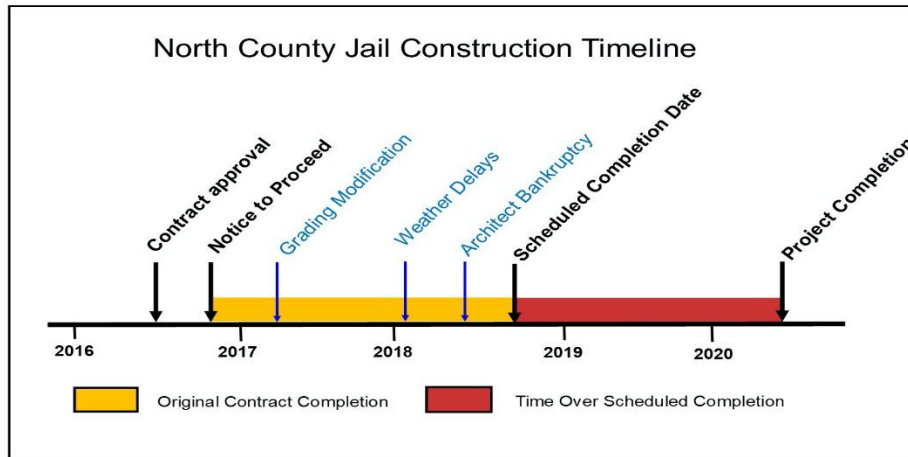
The Northern Branch Jail in Santa Maria is being built to alleviate the overcrowding of the Main Jail as well as improving transportation efficiency. The Northern Branch Jail is an improvement in the County's detention space, and the extra 376 beds should reduce the County's current inmate overcrowding. A staff of 90 custody deputies will monitor the inmates. It will provide an environment that addresses safety, promotes ADA compliance, and also provides enhanced medical and mental health facilities.

Construction of the new Jail was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2016. The Jail was originally scheduled to open in September 2018. At the time of this report the construction completion date was estimated to be May 2020, a 20-month delay. This significant delay was due to a combination of factors including a delay in the signing of the earth-moving contract, unusually wet weather, design and regulatory changes, the bankruptcy of the lead architectural firm, delays in contractor work execution, and quality deficiencies. Inmate occupancy must take place within 90 days of the facility opening. The facility is currently planned to accommodate 376 rated beds with a staff of 90 custody deputies. Once occupied, this additional inmate capacity should ease the Main Jail overcrowding problem.

The construction costs for the Northern Branch Jail were originally budgeted at \$67 million on March 31, 2016. Amoroso Construction was awarded the winning bid of \$77,720,000 on April 7, 2016.¹ In June 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved the current budget of \$110,857,243, to be offset with \$80.0 million from the State of California. Due to project delays, unanticipated change orders, and other issues, "the final total costs of the project are now estimated to increase from the original amount of \$110.8 million to a total ranging between \$119.0 million and \$121.0 million, which is an increase of \$8.2 million to \$10.2 million or 7% to 9% increase in overall project costs."²

¹ Kitchell – Construction Management and Commissioning, Northern Branch Jail Project - Bid Package 1, April 7, 2016

² Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Agenda, March 17, 2020, [D1\) Hearing](#) - Consider recommendations regarding Northern Branch Jail (NBJ) Construction Costs,



In May 2013, Rosser International, Inc. (Rosser) entered into a Professional Services Agreement with the County to provide architectural, engineering and related professional design services for the Northern Branch Jail Project. In June 2019, Rosser informed the County that it was going out of business, stopped working on the project, and ceased all performance of its contracted duties for the Northern Branch Jail Project. In July 2019, the County filed cost recovery litigation against Rosser to recover or mitigate the related added project costs.

Overall, the Grand Jury found the facility to be impressive, with a modern architectural plan taking advantage of current technologies. The Northern Branch Jail is designed with thermal and recycled water efficiencies. While the new Jail has adequate backup plans in the event of power failures, the facility does not have a solar system that could provide longer-term coverage and cost savings.

The building is designed to help normalize social relations by direct supervision. A custody deputy will be in the housing unit with the inmates. The deputy can model positive behavior and intervene quickly and effectively if there is trouble.

The Jury noted that the exercise facilities for cell modules were limited in size. Considering the potentially long sentences for some inmates, these small enclosures are inadequate.

The inmate entrance to the facility will have a body scanner system capability planned to reduce contraband. Personal visitations will be performed exclusively via video screens from booths. There will be larger rooms available for a family unification process planned to prepare inmates for reentry into society once sentences are completed.

When inmate sentences are completed and they are released, there is no transportation available to a Santa Maria city center location, which is more than ten miles away. This is important considering the 24-hour release schedule and the distance from the Northern Branch Jail to the Santa Maria city center.

The Sheriff's Office liaison, County General Services managers, and escort custody deputies were enthusiastic, well-informed, courteous, professional and optimistic about the positive impact this new state-of-the-art facility will make for the County.

Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

The Northern Branch Jail may not completely alleviate overcrowding problems at the Main Jail.

Finding 2

Family visitations will occur only with video screens from booths.

Recommendation 2

That the Sheriff consider making space available for face-to-face personal visits at the Northern Branch Jail.

Finding 3

The Northern Branch Jail will have a body scanner that will assist in the detection of contraband coming into the facility.

Recommendation 3

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department purchase a second body scanner system to provide additional screening coverage for inmates returning from outside appointments and court visits.

Finding 4

The facility has very small outside exercise areas for inmates.

Recommendation 4

That the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department consider additional outside exercise space to complement the limited yard space planned.

Finding 5

There is currently no solar electric power system budgeted for the facility.

Recommendation 5

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department obtain contractor bids to install a solar system to lower power costs.

Finding 6

There is no transportation available for newly released inmates to take them to Santa Maria.

Recommendation 6

That the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department develop a solution for transportation service to Santa Maria.

2.0 Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Substations

2.1 Isla Vista Sheriff's Foot Patrol (IVFP)

The Isla Vista Foot Patrol is a unique station in that Sheriff's deputies and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) police officers patrol the area on foot or bicycle. Approximately 24,000 people live in the 0.6 square mile area next to an ocean bluff. The IVFP station was built on land leased by the university. The Sheriff's office and UCSB police have built a mutually beneficial relationship to service the area from the same station. The community relationship is strong; there are proactive meetings and interactions with the community.

The IV Foot Patrol building is relatively new, well designed, clean, and well maintained. The location is central to the area serving Isla Vista and the UCSB campus.

Under normal operating conditions staffing is adequate. However, when large unsanctioned community events take place, such as Halloween and Deltopia gatherings, up to 100 extra officers from outside the area are called in to provide security. Creative modifications to normal operating practices have been developed to deal with the large number of intoxicated individuals and arrests. A portable booking station is set up in the IVFP parking lot and a Sheriff's van is used to transfer arrestees to the Main Jail. Usually detainees are held for less than two hours before being transferred.

The deputies were very courteous, professional, and attuned to the needs of the community.

2.2 New Cuyama

The New Cuyama Sheriff's substation is located in a rural area approximately 60 miles from Santa Maria. The three deputies are on call 24 hours a day and patrol a large unincorporated area which is sparsely populated. Radio communications for the deputies have many dead spots that impede calls for support and constitute a safety risk.

The building is basic. It contains an office, a kitchen, and a cell for short-time holding of prisoners. The cell, while adequate in terms of size, has a problem with the water connection to the toilet. The building is clean, functional, and with the exception of needed repair for the water problem, is in good overall condition.

The building, while used only when a deputy is present, has no external cameras to monitor unauthorized entry. Prisoners are cited and released or transported to the nearest Santa Barbara County Jail facility.

The deputies were courteous, professional, and demonstrated a high level of commitment to the community.

Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

The building lacks an external security camera system.

Recommendation 1

That the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department add an external security camera monitoring system.

Finding 2

The communication system used by the deputies is deficient and does not allow coverage in many parts of their jurisdiction.

Recommendation 2

That the Sheriff's Office upgrade the communication system provided to the deputies.

2.3 Solvang

The Solvang Substation has one cell which is used until detainees can be transported to the Main Jail. A second interview room is available and can be used as another holding area if necessary. There is no camera within the cell; however, the interior is visible from the office. The cell appeared well maintained. The facility is clean, functional, and in good overall repair.

The deputies serve as the police departments for the Cities of Solvang and Buellton. The Sheriff's Deputy interviewed was courteous, professional, knowledgeable, and committed to the community.

2.4 Lompoc (Harris Grade)

This is the newest substation in the County. There are two interview/holding rooms that are secure and clean. Both rooms have cameras. The Sheriff maintains an office in this facility. The County Fire Department shares the facility and maintains resources to keep the substation operating in the event of a long-term power shut off or a disaster such as an earthquake. This is one of the better facilities of the Sheriff's Department substations. It is in good condition and well maintained.

The substation is located in the rural northwest corner of 121 square miles surrounding the City of Lompoc. The area is adjacent to Vandenberg Air Force Base and the Lompoc Federal Prison. Enforcement duties include all of the unincorporated areas bordering the City of Lompoc. The deputies coordinate with California Parks and Recreation with respect to off-road vehicles.

The Sheriff's Deputies were courteous and professional, and the substation has a pleasant atmosphere.

2.5 Carpinteria

This facility, originally built in 1999, is located adjacent to the City Hall, which was once the Carpinteria City Police Department. Previously, there were two holding cells. The Carpinteria City Hall and Police Department underwent renovations in 2018 due to the detection of asbestos and mold. The facility was reopened in January 2020 and the new floor plan eliminated the two cells.

Detainees are held at this facility only while paperwork is completed and then transported to the Main Jail.

3.0 Santa Barbara County Probation Department

3.1 Los Prietos Boys Camp

The Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) is a county-owned residential correctional treatment facility for 13 to 18-year-old male wards of the Juvenile Court administered by the Probation Department. The facility is located on 17 tranquil acres in the Los Padres National Forest, centrally positioned in the County. There were 20 wards present at the time of the Jury's visit; however, the facility capacity could be as high as 96 with minimal changes. One of the dorms is currently empty. The LPBC is significantly underutilized with a declining population trend.

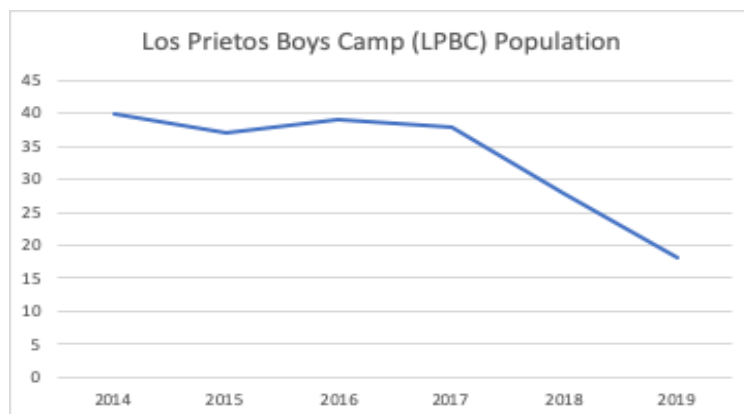
Los Robles High School is located at the LPBC. It is run by the Santa Barbara County Education Office and ensures the wards of the court receive continuing education. While the usual stay at LPBC is 120 or 180 days, individualized education programs (including trade programs) are tailored with a focus on getting the youth prepared for transition back to their home education programs. Trade programs include culinary, computer repair, small engine repair, and woodworking. However, the wood shop vocational area appeared to lack safety standards. The Probation and high school staff have created a solid, stable, and caring environment that seems ideal for the rehabilitation goal of the Camp. The staff, counselors and teachers appear to be doing an excellent job supporting the youth.

In addition to a structured daily routine, the program includes tailored educational programs. Community service and vocational education are offered to those youth demonstrating good behavior and interest. There are a number of off-site work and on-site physical work programs in support of the existing vocational training programs, but due to the limited number of wards at the Camp, they are unable to fulfill all the requests from the community.

There are minimal mentoring programs for the juveniles as they leave the LPBC and transition back to the community. There is a need for additional qualified volunteers to make such a program effective. More offsite service organizations could provide mentors who will stay in contact with the wards once back in their communities.

Los Prietos offers on-site medical and psychiatric care. Behavioral wellness programs are offered weekly. Medical support is available Monday through Friday, and on call on weekends. The overall atmosphere is one of positive rehabilitation, one which the staff work hard to create, and one appreciated by the wards. However, evidence of the effectiveness of the LPBC in reducing recidivism is lacking because juvenile records are sealed after the probation period terminates.

The facility, established in 1944, is clean, quiet, and rustic. The Camp is well maintained and adequately staffed. The Probation officers and staff were courteous, professional, and demonstrated a high level of care.



Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

Los Prietos Boys Camps is underutilized.

Recommendation 1

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Probation Department explore options to increase utilization of the facility.

Finding 2

There is limited transitional mentoring.

Recommendation 2

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Probation Department develop a transitional mentoring program with the assistance of outside service organizations.

3.2 Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Hall, Santa Maria (SMJH)

The Juvenile Hall is managed by the Santa Barbara Probation Department and is the only 24-hour maximum security facility for juvenile offenders in Santa Barbara County. It is located adjacent to the Juvenile Court building, making it efficient for the youth to attend court. Juveniles housed at the SMJH include both males and females ranging from 12 to 18 years of age, with an average age of 16. They are directed to the facility from the juvenile justice system.

The facility has a total capacity of 160, but the total population was 42 at the time of the Jury's visit. The average length of stay is one year. The number of wards has steadily been declining, down 35% from its peak in 2016 (see graph below). In the same time period, there has been a significant legislative policy shift in the percentage of juveniles detained for felony charges, increasing from 38% to 83%, and misdemeanors decreasing from 63% to 15%. SMJH is underutilized with several vacant block units. One block unit is coed and houses females and vulnerable males, two blocks house only male youth who are completing the adjudication process, and another block serves as the primary housing unit for long term male detainees.

The SMJH offers the juveniles many services. The Santa Barbara County Education Office ensures that the wards receive continuing education through the Camino Segundo School. All juveniles are medically cared for and go through a Behavioral Wellness Health screening within 96 hours of entry. Physical and mental health care continue during their stay. Yet there are limited transitional mentoring programs for the juveniles as they leave the SMJH and transition back to the community.

Work has been done by the mental health staff to address the special needs of female wards that have been victimized and are experiencing emotional trauma. Eligible female wards can meet in a Trust Unit and have access to personal items and closer contact with each other, which is important in their rehabilitation.

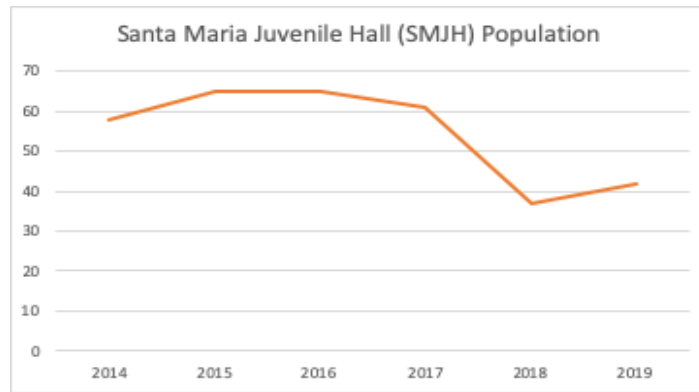
The staff administers an effective discipline program based upon rewards for good behavior.

Surveillance cameras are placed throughout the hall, although they do not face the cells. A staff member watches the videos from central monitoring room. While the surveillance cameras were well-positioned to provide good coverage, the picture quality was inadequate.

The outdoor exercise facilities are available and are adequate.

There are limited recidivism statistics due to the confidential nature of juvenile files and information. Evidence of the effectiveness of the SMJH in reducing recidivism is lacking because juvenile records are sealed after the probation period terminates.

The SMJH is clean and well-maintained. The staff was extremely courteous, professional, and demonstrated a high level of dedication toward the juveniles.



Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall is significantly underutilized with a declining population trend.

Recommendation 1

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Probation Department explore options to optimize the utilization of the facility.

Finding 2

Picture quality from the surveillance cameras is inadequate.

Recommendation 2

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Probation Department replace the cameras and monitors with a higher quality system.

Finding 3

Programs that help the wards transition back to the community are limited.

Recommendation 3

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Probation Department create a transitional mentoring program with the assistance of outside service organizations.

4.0 Superior Court Holding Facilities

4.1 Santa Maria

This facility is located in the basement of the courthouse which was built in 1989. There are 12 holding cells, four temporary cells or “cages” (approximately 3’ x 3’ x 6’), and three private conversation booths. Fifty to sixty arrestees can be held here while waiting for their court appearances and transportation back to the Main Jail.

Located immediately adjacent to the courtrooms are two cells, managed by the Sheriff’s Department, for inmates being escorted into the courtroom. If the custody deputy is required to provide support to a bailiff in a courtroom trial, the two cells just outside the courtroom would go unobserved and unattended, creating a safety risk in the event of a disturbance in one of the cells.

There does not appear to be adequate coordination between the Court Administration scheduling and the Sheriff’s Department. Frequently, many inmates are transported to the court holding facility and never reach the courtroom. This results in a significant cost and safety risk associated with transportation, as well as unnecessary deputy staffing, and cell overcrowding.

The Jury learned that Santa Barbara Superior Court is working with the District Attorney and Public Defender to implement video appearances to reduce the number of in-custody defendants being transported between the jail and the courts. A video arraignment program could reduce bus transportation issues, holding cell overcrowding, court appearance scheduling, and eliminate the use of “cages.”

The facility has a planned staff of 20 deputies but was understaffed by two deputies at the time of the Jury’s inspection. However, the security process seemed very good and well organized.

The Grand Jury was impressed with the Sheriff Deputies’ professionalism and the processes for handling the inmates.

Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

A video arraignment program would expedite the processing of inmates through the court system and reduce holding cell overcrowding.

Recommendation 1

That Santa Barbara County District Attorney in partnership with the Public Defender develop and implement a video arraignment program.

4.2 Santa Barbara County Courthouse

The Santa Barbara County Court Building located on Figueroa Street was constructed in 1953 and originally served as a separate municipal court. The building has been remodeled several times over the years, but the entire building still does not meet minimum safety standards. The aging building does not comply with seismic standards, nor is it ADA compliant. The building does not contain a comprehensive fire suppression system which presents a safety risk for the administrative staff, custody staff, inmates and the public

The holding facility is located in the basement of the Figueroa Court Building. Detainees are regularly walked across a busy downtown Santa Barbara street from the holding facility to the main courthouse, through civilian pedestrians and traffic.

The holding facility consists of eight holding cells that hold six detainees each and eight overflow “cages” that can house one prisoner each, for an official total of 56 detainees; however, the facility has held as many as 80 detainees at a time. The facility is often overcrowded, exceeding the rated capacity by a significant margin; the court dockets can request a number of detainees that almost doubles that rated capacity. The overcrowding can be compounded by the need to isolate certain inmates into their own cells for safety reasons. The eight individual holding “cages” are extremely small (approximately 3’ x 3’ x 6’), would not accommodate a medium or larger person, are inhumane, and are being used regularly to deal with the overcrowding situation.

A video arraignment program could reduce bus transportation issues, holding cell overcrowding, court appearance scheduling, and eliminate the use of “cages.”

There is a lack of air-conditioning and sufficient ventilation in the holding area. Also, a small staff video room is cramped and the only air movement is from two fans that circulate air.

The holding facility meets acceptable standards of cleanliness and routine maintenance. The custody staff is well trained and professional. They demonstrated a positive attitude and concern for the inmates.

Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

The Santa Barbara Court Holding Facility does not meet safety standards.

Finding 2

The Santa Barbara Court Holding Facility is often overcrowded and uses “cages” that are inhumane.

Recommendation 2

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff’s Department develop and implement a video arraignment program to reduce overcrowding and the use of “cages.”

Finding 3

Inmates are walked across a public street between the holding facility on Figueroa Street and the historic Courthouse.

Recommendation 3

That the Santa Barbara County Sheriffs’ Department transfer inmates in vehicles to the historic Courthouse for greater safety.

4.3 Lompoc

This facility was built in 1999 and is conveniently located adjacent to the Lompoc Courthouse and Lompoc Police Department. There are five cells, three of which are used to separate inmates who cannot be housed with others due to gender, medical or other reasons, for a total rated capacity of 30. Additionally, there are three holding “cages” for inmates that require separation or for overflow. The

three holding “cages” are extremely small and inhumane. The facility is routinely overcrowded when court is in session. There is video monitoring of the cells, but no recording capability.

Although the holding facility meets acceptable standards of cleanliness, the facility shows signs of needed maintenance. For example, there is graffiti etched in doors, painted surfaces and interview room windows, and cement benches in the cells are cracked.

There are three staffing deputies, two full-time and one part-time. Staff are well trained and maintain a positive attitude, including professional concern for inmates.

Findings and Recommendations:

Finding 1

The Lompoc Facility needs maintenance.

Recommendation 1

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors correct building maintenance deficiencies.

Finding 2

Overcrowding often forces use of holding “cages.”

Recommendation 2

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff’s Department explore other options for holding the overflow inmates and remove the “cages.”

Finding 3

The camera video surveillance system does not record and the images are of poor quality.

Recommendation 3

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff’s Department upgrade the cameras for recording capability and high definition imagery.

5.0 CITY JAILS

5.1 Lompoc City Jail

The Lompoc Jail is in the Police Department building which was built in 1959. The building is in the Lompoc Government Civic Center with other County and Municipal buildings. It is adjacent to the County Courthouse. There are seven cells with a capacity for 19 detainees, and cameras are throughout the area. Detainees are held for a maximum of 96 hours before being transported to the Main Jail. The facility appears to be clean and well-maintained but needs maintenance in some areas.

There are two full-time custody staff on day shift and one full-time at night. When a female is arrested, a female dispatcher is pulled from duties for searches. There are no special documented procedures for handling cases where the detainee has medical or mental problems.

The Lompoc City Jail has been used for holding of detainees from Lompoc, Santa Maria and New Cuyama. This has eased the long drive to the Main Jail in Santa Barbara, which takes officers off the streets for multiple hours. Once the Northern Branch Jail is open, other law enforcement officers will no longer use the Lompoc City Jail in this manner.

Finding and Recommendation:

Finding 1

The facility is understaffed particularly when there are numerous detainees and only a single officer on duty.

Recommendation 1

That the Lompoc City Council direct the Police Chief to ensure that at least two officers are on duty when multiple detainees are in custody.

6.0 City Holding Facilities

6.1 Santa Barbara Police Department

The building was built in 1960 and there are many maintenance concerns. The need for a new building has been well documented for many years. The facilities have not been earthquake retrofitted (as required by California's Essential Services Buildings Seismic Safety Act of 1986) and the building is not ADA compliant. This presents a safety risk for the police administrative staff, custodial staff, and detainees. A new site has been identified and construction is scheduled to begin in 2020. Final completion of the long anticipated new Santa Barbara Police Department building will resolve the identified maintenance and safety issues.

The building was originally designed to accommodate 80 staff and currently over 220 people work in the facility. The two holding cells are located in the main building and have a maximum capacity of four detainees but seldom hold more than one detainee each. The two holding cells appeared clean and well maintained. The interview room, reserved for confidential discussions, is cramped and so close to the holding cells as to cause privacy and/or security concerns. Every effort is made to make each detention as short as possible.

The staff is well trained and demonstrated a positive attitude.

Finding 1

The aging facility lacks seismic retrofitting and ADA compliance.

6.2 City of Santa Maria Police Department

The Jury found the Santa Maria Police Department building and holding facilities to be well organized, clean and well maintained. The facility can house up to 28 inmates in the holding area, which has four interview rooms and one restroom. There is a four-hour maximum hold before the arrestee is transported to the Main Jail or the Lompoc Jail.

Santa Maria has a state-of-the-art radio system which has the capacity to include multiple county agencies and the ability to communicate with all emergency agencies in the State of California.

The police personnel were very courteous and professional.

6.3 City of Guadalupe Police Department

At this facility the police only book and transport arrestees. There is a bench where arrestees are secured while being processed. There are security cameras throughout the department. The facility is clean and well maintained.

7.0 Santa Barbara Sobering Center

The Santa Barbara Sobering Center is located in downtown Santa Barbara, in close proximity to the night life district. It is used by the City of Santa Barbara Police Department as an alternative holding facility for members of the public who are intoxicated or driving under the influence of alcohol. Detainees must stay for at least four hours. The City of Santa Barbara Police Department has contracted with Threshold to Recovery for the past ten years. Funds to support the facility come from the City contract, grants, and donations.

By placing someone who is under the influence of alcohol in the Sobering Center, the Santa Barbara Police Department saves significant booking expenses, a total of \$300,000 in 2019. The Center also helps prevent some jail overcrowding and improves public safety by allowing police officers to return quickly to their patrol duties.

While effective, the Center is extremely small and can only hold up to five individuals at a time; however, it seems to be serving the current demonstrated need. The facility is run by Threshold to Recovery, a not-for-profit organization. The Center has a paid staff of seven people providing coverage 24 hours a day every day. They are committed to their work and consider it a service to their community. The building is clean and well maintained.

The Sobering Center is not a recovery program; rather, it is an alternative to jail. The Center offers referral services for people with long term drug and alcohol dependencies. It offers people a safe place when rendered defenseless by alcohol or drugs. Detainees are allowed to sober up in the Center, but do not avoid citation or prosecution if warranted. Detainees are placed in the Center by police officers and, under certain circumstances, by Cottage Hospital staff. There are also a small number of walk-ins who use the Center. Most of the users are male, and the Center does not have separate accommodations for women.

The Grand Jury found the Sobering Center to be innovative, successful and cost effective. The County opened another Sobering Center on the County Campus just outside the City of Santa Barbara in February 2020.

Finding and Recommendation

Finding 1

There are no separate accommodations for women.

Recommendation 1

That the City of Santa Barbara provide separate accommodations for women at the Center.

CONCLUSION

The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury was impressed overall by the professionalism and dedication of the detention facility teams interviewed. These individuals play a critical role in keeping our communities safe. While a number of findings and recommendations were identified, none of these related to any deficiency in the way these professionals are performing their responsibilities.

The Jury is encouraged by the construction of the Northern Branch Jail and the relief it will make to the overcrowding in the Main Jail and added safety improvements. The Jury is also encouraged about the prospect of state funding for a new Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse. The Jury was impressed with

the County employees' creativity in making improvements above-and-beyond, and the dedication of volunteer organizations that are making a big difference, particularly in youth programs.

The majority of the findings and recommendations stem from the lack of funding, funding that is essential to add staff where needed, funding to upgrade older and dangerous buildings, and funding to add new mission-critical technical systems for safer management.

The investigation by the Grand Jury predates the introduction of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has caused inmates to be released early thus reducing the inmate population at the Main Jail. In addition, once the pandemic began the court took aggressive action to implement the use of video conferencing.

REQUEST FOR RESPONSE

Pursuant to *California Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05*, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury requests each entity or individual named below to respond to the enumerated Findings and Recommendations within the specified statutory time limit:

Responses to Findings shall be either:

- Agree
- Disagree wholly
- Disagree partially with an explanation

Responses to Recommendations shall be one of the following:

- Has been implemented, with brief summary of implementation actions taken
- Will be implemented, with an implementation schedule
- Requires further analysis, with a completion date of no more than six months after the issuance of this report
- Will not be implemented, with an explanation of why

Report 1.1 Main Jail

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - 90 days

Findings: 3, 4, 6

Recommendations: 1, 3, 4, 6

Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner - 60 days

Findings: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Recommendations: 4, 5, 6

Report 1.2 Northern Branch Jail

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - 90 days

Findings: 3, 5

Recommendation: 3, 5

Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner - 60 days

Findings: 2, 4, 6

Recommendations: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Report 2.2 New Cuyama Sheriff Substation

Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner - 60 days

Findings: 1,2

Recommendations: 1, 2

Report 3.1 Los Prietos Boys Camp

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - 90 days

Finding: 1

Recommendation: 1, 2

Report 3.2 Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Hall

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - 90 days

Recommendation: 1, 2, 3

Report 4.1 Santa Maria Superior Court Holding Facility

Santa Barbara County District Attorney - 60 days

Finding: 1

Recommendation: 1

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - 90 days

Finding: 1

Recommendation: 1

Report 4.2 Santa Barbara County Superior Court Holding Facility

Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner - 60 days

Finding: 1, 2, 3

Recommendation: 3

Santa Barbara County District Attorney - 60 days

Finding: 1, 2

Recommendation: 2

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - 90 days

Finding: 1, 2

Recommendation: 2

Report 4.3 Lompoc Courthouse Holding Facility

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - 90 days

Findings: 1, 3

Recommendations: 1, 2, 3

Santa Barbara County Sheriff - Coroner - 60 days

Findings: 2, 3

Recommendations: 2, 3

Report 5.1 City of Lompoc Jail

Lompoc City Council - 90 days

Finding: 1

Recommendation: 1

Report 7.0 Santa Barbara Sobering Center

Santa Barbara City Council – 90 days

Finding: 1

Recommendation: 1