

The 2015-2016 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury

For Immediate Release

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For more information contact:

Maria Millsaps, Grand Jury Foreperson

805-568-2291

News Release

Detention Facilities Report

This report highlights the 2015-2016 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury's (Jury) inquiries into the conditions and management of detention facilities within the County of Santa Barbara, as mandated by California Penal Code Section 919(b), and as part of the Jury's role as the public's "watchdog" over the affairs of local government. The Jury's inquiries included: inspections of detention facilities operated by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, Santa Barbara County Probation Department, municipal police departments, and the Coroner's Office.

The Jury found that some of the issues identified in past years continue to be unresolved. Overcrowding at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail still exists with 75 percent of the inmates identified as pre-trial detainees. Because of the poor conditions at the Coroner's Office, the Jury has again recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the facility be replaced. In addition, there were several new areas identified by this year's Jury that need improvement, such as the police department facility in Lompoc and the Lompoc Court holding facility.

The Jury has written a report on its investigation in which it lists five findings and recommendations directed to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff, and the City of Lompoc City Council.

The complete report may be found on the Grand Jury's website at www.sbcgj.org.

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury is a basic part of government within the judicial branch. The Grand Jury acts independently, yet is under the general control of the Superior Court Presiding Judge to assure that it acts in accordance with the Penal Code of the State of California

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