

DETENTION FACILITIES REPORT

SUMMARY

Under *California Penal Code Section 919(b)*, county grand juries...“shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county”. This report contains results of inspections of the jails, as well as the coroner’s bureau, detention and juvenile facilities by the 2011-12 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury (Jury).

The Jury's opinion is that all facilities are well-managed and the staff of each performs well with limited resources. The Jury's observations concerning the manner in which these facilities are operated are all positive. Particularly worthy of praise is the Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy for its success in the academic and vocational approach to juvenile rehabilitation.

More than 20 previous Santa Barbara County Grand Juries filed reports on overcrowding at the main jail. This overcrowding condition still exists, and its effects are increasingly obvious.

METHODOLOGY

Jurors conducted inspections at 17 facilities. Facilities are separated into three categories: Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department (Sheriff) including the Coroner Bureau; Santa Barbara County Probation Department (Probation); and municipal police departments. Staff at all locations were interviewed, inquiries relevant to operations were made, and documents specific to organizational rules and procedures were reviewed. Juvenile wards of the court were also interviewed.

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OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department



Santa Barbara Main Jail

The Sheriff's Department maintains and operates the adult detention facilities within the county's jurisdiction, including the main jail, which remains severely overcrowded. The additional beds being added on the lower level will not eliminate overcrowding. The Sheriff also oversees the Coroner's Bureau.

Jury members inspected the following facilities:

- Santa Barbara Main Jail
- Sheriff's Department Coroner's Bureau
- Sheriff's Department Santa Maria Station
- Sheriff's Department Isla Vista Foot Patrol Station
- Sheriff's Department Santa Ynez Valley/Solvang Station
- Sheriff's Department Lompoc Station
- Sheriff's Department Carpinteria Station
- Sheriff's Department New Cuyama Station
- Sheriff's Court Holding Facility, Figueroa Street, Santa Barbara
- Sheriff's Court Holding Facility, Lompoc
- Sheriff's Court Holding Facility, Santa Maria

The Jury found each of these facilities well-managed and operated in a professional manner.

Santa Barbara County Probation Department



Los Prietos Boys Camp

The Probation Department is responsible for three juvenile detention facilities:

- Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall
- Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center, Santa Maria
- Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy, Santa Barbara

The Jury visited each of these facilities, interviewed staff, reviewed documents describing facility operations, and spoke with juvenile wards. The Jury found the management of these facilities to be excellent.

Municipal Police Departments



Lompoc City Jail

Members of the Jury inspected detention facilities in Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria. The Jury found that each of these municipal departments manages its jail operations in an exemplary manner:

- Lompoc City Jail
- Santa Barbara City Holding Facility
- Santa Maria Holding Facility

CONCLUSION

The 2011-12 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury commends the officials who manage and operate the various detention facilities in the county.