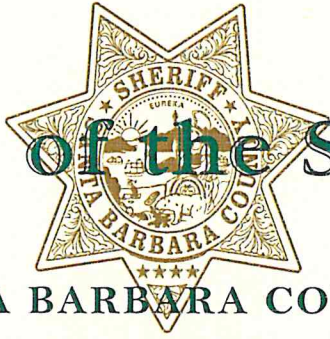


Office of the Sheriff



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

HEADQUARTERS

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July 31, 2024

BILL BROWN

Sheriff - Coroner

CRAIG BONNER

Undersheriff

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Eva Macias
Foreman, SBC Grand Jury
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
emacias@sbcourts.org

Re: Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report Entitled "*Detention Facilities in Santa Barbara County*"

Dear Foreperson Macias,

Enclosed is the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response to the 2023 – 2024 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled "*Detention Facilities in Santa Barbara County.*"

As requested in the report, the Sheriff's Office responds to Findings 1, 2, and 3 and Recommendations 1, 2, and 3.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 681-4290.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Brown".

BILL BROWN
Sheriff-Coroner

Enclosure: The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response to the 2023 – 2024 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled "*Detention Facilities in Santa Barbara County*"

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2023-2024 Report
"Detention Facilities in Santa Barbara County"

Findings and Recommendations

Santa Barbara County Sheriff: 60 Days

Finding(s): 1, 2, and 3

Recommendation(s): 1, 2, and 3

FINDING 1

The new Cuyama Sheriff's Substation / Holding Facility cell is unable to get certified due to an incorrect installation of the cell door.

Sheriff's Office Response:

Disagree

The holding cell was certified during a pre-opening inspection on July 13, 2023. Changing the door's swing direction, while considered a best practice to prevent barricading would be cost-prohibitive. Since all furnishings in the holding cell are bolted to the floor, any barricading of the door would be unlikely. The door's functionality does not impact operations, nor is it a regulatory requirement.

Recommendation 1

The Sheriff's Office should request the repair of the cell door so it will meet the certification standard.

Sheriff's Office Response:

It will not be implemented, with an explanation of why

The Cuyama Sheriff's substation/holding facility cell is certified. The current door configuration was in place on July 13, 2023 when the cell was inspected by the BSCC.

FINDING 2

The Santa Barbara Superior Court Figueroa Building holding facility's metal cells in the entrance hallway are used only when overflow conditions require it.

Sheriff's Office Response:

Agree.

The Sheriff's Office acknowledges that the holding cells referred to in this report are used primarily during overflow conditions. However, these cells also serve a critical role as temporary holding spaces to separate different classifications of incarcerated individuals and to isolate those who are actively disruptive or exhibiting inappropriate behavior that could pose a security risk to others in congregate areas. Before installing these holding cells, the Sheriff's Office thoroughly reviewed multiple options and ultimately adopted the current configuration. This configuration

mirrors holding cells used by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), which was determined to be the best solution for our specific needs.

Recommendation 2

The Sheriff's Office should remove the metal cells.

Sheriff's Office Response:

Requires further analysis, with an analysis complete date of fewer than 6 months after the issuance of the report

The Sheriff's Office acknowledges the recommendation to remove the temporary metal holding cells. While we recognize the potential benefits of improving foot traffic flow in the area currently occupied by these cells, we believe that a comprehensive analysis is necessary before making any decisions. In collaboration with Santa Barbara County General Services, we will conduct a thorough analysis to assess the operational impact and determine the optimal number of holding cells to remove. This analysis will be completed within six months of the issuance of this report. Following this analysis, we will develop an implementation plan to complete the project by January 1, 2025. This approach ensures that any changes made will be both effective and mindful of operational needs within our facilities.

FINDING 3

The Santa Barbara Superior Court Figueroa Building holding facility's air quality in the basement facility is poor.

Sheriff's Office Response:

Disagree partially, with an explanation

The Sheriff's Office partially disagrees with this finding and would like to provide further context. The Grand Jury's conclusion regarding poor air quality in the holding areas of the court's basement is based on anecdotal, self-observed evidence. Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is a complex aspect requiring scientific measurement and analysis. While the Grand Jury noted the area as "warm and muggy," this observation alone does not definitively indicate poor air quality. Various factors such as ventilation efficiency, air circulation, indoor and outdoor particulate levels, environmental pollutants, ambient temperature, and humidity all contribute to the IAQ and must be scientifically evaluated. No scientific study is available to substantiate the claim of poor air quality in these facilities.

Recommendation 1

The Sheriff's Office should request a complete overhaul of the air circulation system in the basement facility.

Sheriff's Office Response:

Requires further analysis, with an analysis completion date of fewer than 6 months after the issuance of the report

The Sheriff's Office will request that General Services commission an Indoor Air Quality study in the area. This study aims to accurately assess the air quality conditions and identify any potential issues. Based on the findings of this study, mitigation strategies will be developed to address any identified concerns. The goal is to complete this analysis and implement necessary improvements by January 1, 2025.