

Office of the Sheriff



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

BILL BROWN
Sheriff-Coroner

CRAIG BONNER
Undersheriff

STATIONS

Buellton

140 W. Highway 246
Buellton, CA 93427
Phone (805) 686-8150

Carpinteria

5775 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 568-3399

Isla Vista

6504 Trigo Road
Isla Vista, CA 93117
Phone (805) 681-4179

Lompoc

3500 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
Phone (805) 737-7737

New Cuyama

70 Newsome Street
New Cuyama, CA 93254
Phone (661) 766-2310

Santa Maria

812-A W. Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone (805) 934-6150

Solvang

1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
Phone (805) 686-5000

Sheriff - Coroner Office

66 S. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4146

Main Jail

4436 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4260

Northern Branch Jail

2301 Black Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 554-3100

COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

Santa Barbara Division

1105 Santa Barbara Street
P O Box 690
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone (805) 568-2900

Santa Maria Division

312 E. Cook Street, "O"
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone (805) 346-7430

P. O. Box 6427 · 4434 Calle Real · Santa Barbara, California 93160
Phone (805) 681-4100 · Fax: (805) 681-4322
www.sbsheriff.org

August 25, 2025

Stacy Mezzetta de Cossio
Foreperson
2024-2025 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury
Grand Jury Chambers
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Re: Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report Entitled "Female Inmates at Santa Barbara County Jails."

Dear Foreperson Mezzetta de Cossio,
Enclosed, please find the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response to the 2024-2025 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled "Female Inmates at Santa Barbara County Jails."

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) 681-4100.

Sincerely,

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

BILL BROWN
Sheriff-Coroner
Enclosure

Office of the Sheriff

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

BILL BROWN
Sheriff-Coroner

CRAIG BONNER
Undersheriff

STATIONS

Buellton

140 W. Highway 246
Buellton, CA 93427
Phone (805) 686-8150

Carpinteria

5775 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 568-3399

Isla Vista

6504 Trigo Road
Isla Vista, CA 93117
Phone (805) 681-4179

Lompoc

3500 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
Phone (805) 737-7737

New Cuyama

70 Newsome Street
New Cuyama, CA 93254
Phone (661) 766-2310

Santa Maria

812-A W. Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone (805) 934-6150

Solvang

1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
Phone (805) 686-5000

Sheriff - Coroner Office

66 S. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4146

Main Jail

4436 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4260

Northern Branch Jail

2301 Black Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 554-3100

COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

Santa Barbara Division

1105 Santa Barbara Street
P O Box 690
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone (805) 568-2900

Santa Maria Division

312 E. Cook Street, "O"
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone (805) 346-7430

P. O. Box 6427 · 4434 Calle Real · Santa Barbara, California 93160
Phone (805) 681-4100 · Fax: (805) 681-4322
www.sbsheriff.org

August 25, 2025

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2024-2025 Report "Female Inmates at Santa Barbara County Jails"

Findings and Recommendations

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office: 60 Days

Finding(s): 1, 2 and 3

Recommendation(s): 1, 2 and 3

Finding 1: To their detriment, female inmates have fewer work opportunities than male inmates in preparing them for life outside jail.

Sheriff's Office Response: Agree.

Recommendation 1: The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office provide work detail opportunities to female inmates at both of the County's jails in crews that allow for a more flexible number of women. To be implemented by January 1, 2026.

Sheriff's Office Response: Will be implemented, with an implementation schedule.

The Sheriff's Office has recently codified work requirements for incarcerated persons based on job performance factors, which take into account a person's security level, their physical limitations, and disability accommodations. All work crew assignments within the jail facilities are voluntary. Due to the relatively small number of incarcerated women within the Main Jail (54 females as of 8/4/2025), it is very difficult to assign them to work in larger crews that exist within the kitchen and laundry. Mixing incarcerated men and women within a jail setting creates risk and cannot be safely accomplished with current staffing levels. In the past, the Sheriff's Office has attempted to utilize a female kitchen crew at the Northern Branch Jail. However, this effort was difficult to maintain due to a lack of eligible participants willing to volunteer. Nevertheless, the Sheriff's Office will evaluate various existing work assignments with a view to offering them to incarcerated women. This will be implemented before January 1, 2026.

Office of the Sheriff



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

BILL BROWN
Sheriff-Coroner

CRAIG BONNER
Undersheriff

STATIONS

Buellton

140 W. Highway 246
Buellton, CA 93427
Phone (805) 686-8150

Carpinteria

5775 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 568-3399

Isla Vista

6504 Trigo Road
Isla Vista, CA 93117
Phone (805) 681-4179

Lompoc

3500 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
Phone (805) 737-7737

New Cuyama

70 Newsome Street
New Cuyama, CA 93254
Phone (661) 766-2310

Santa Maria

812-A W. Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone (805) 934-6150

Solvang

1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
Phone (805) 686-5000

Sheriff - Coroner Office

66 S. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4146

Main Jail

4436 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4260

Northern Branch Jail

2301 Black Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 554-3100

COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

Santa Barbara Division

1105 Santa Barbara Street
P O Box 690
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone (805) 568-2900

Santa Maria Division

312 E. Cook Street, "O"
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone (805) 346-7430

P. O. Box 6427 · 4434 Calle Real · Santa Barbara, California 93160
Phone (805) 681-4100 · Fax: (805) 681-4322

www.sbsheriff.org

August 25, 2025

Finding 2: College classes are not available at the Main Jail to the same extent that they are available at the Northern Branch Jail, depriving women at the Main Jail of equivalent educational opportunities.

Sheriff's Office Response: Disagree partially with an explanation.

The Sheriff's Office has partnered with Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) for several years to provide educational opportunities to incarcerated persons while they serve their time in the Main Jail. Unlike Allan Hancock College, which provides educational services at our Northern Branch Jail, SBCC requires at least seventeen participants to be enrolled in any class that they teach within the Main Jail. Due to this restriction, the Sheriff's Office must coordinate closely with SBCC to offer classes that allow for persons of different classifications, gender and other safety concerns to be able to participate in college courses on a rotating basis. Interested female inmates are being offered the opportunity to attend the next course offering in Fall 2025. At this time, SBCC is not able to offer additional courses. However, the Sheriff's Office will continue to explore additional educational opportunities with SBCC and other educational organizations. The Sheriff's Office also offers several online educational opportunities through our communication services contract with ViaPath, which are free and available to everyone incarcerated within the Santa Barbara County jail system.

Recommendation 2: The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office expand current educational and vocational course offerings at the Main Jail in cooperation with local colleges. To be implemented by January 1, 2026.

Sheriff's Office Response: It will not be implemented with an explanation of why. Please see the response to Finding 2.

Office of the Sheriff



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

BILL BROWN
Sheriff-Coroner

CRAIG BONNER
Undersheriff

STATIONS

Buellton

140 W. Highway 246
Buellton, CA 93427
Phone (805) 686-8150

Carpinteria

5775 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 568-3399

Isla Vista

6504 Trigo Road
Isla Vista, CA 93117
Phone (805) 681-4179

Lompoc

3500 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
Phone (805) 737-7737

New Cuyama

70 Newsome Street
New Cuyama, CA 93254
Phone (661) 766-2310

Santa Maria

812-A W. Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone (805) 934-6150

Solvang

1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
Phone (805) 686-5000

Sheriff - Coroner Office

66 S. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4146

Main Jail

4436 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4260

Northern Branch Jail

2301 Black Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 554-3100

COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

Santa Barbara Division

1105 Santa Barbara Street
P O Box 690
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone (805) 568-2900

Santa Maria Division

312 E. Cook Street, "O"
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone (805) 346-7430

P. O. Box 6427 · 4434 Calle Real · Santa Barbara, California 93160

Phone (805) 681-4100 · Fax: (805) 681-4322

www.sbsheriff.org

August 25, 2025

Finding 3: Women inmates are receptive to therapy and self-improvement groups. While the Sheriff's Treatment Program is available at both of the County's jails, the activities provided by community organizations – such as yoga, book clubs, and mutual support recovery groups – vary between the two facilities.

Sheriff's Office Response: Agree

Recommendation 3: The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office expand its efforts to make more community-provided self-improvement and therapy programs available to educate and motivate inmates at both jails, including the women.

Sheriff's Office Response: It will not be implemented with an explanation of why.

The Sheriff's Office is always interested in expanding educational and vocational programs to persons incarcerated within its jails, whenever feasible. The Main Jail's design makes it difficult and cost prohibitive at times to provide additional programs. The Sheriff's Office partners with numerous community providers, volunteers, and local community colleges to provide programs and activities that are beneficial to those who are incarcerated. To do so, we depend on their willingness and ability to provide such services. Many of these activities also require supervision by custody deputies, which we cannot always prioritize staffing resources to accomplish. Once construction is completed at the Northern Branch Jail to replace Main Jail beds with more adequate program spaces available, the Sheriff's Office will be able to offer more self-improvement and therapeutic programs to both men and women.