

MAIN JAIL INSPECTION

BACKGROUND:

The Main Jail was built in the 1960's in the collinear style with all cells in a row. It is a four story building with a fenced exercise yard on the fourth floor. The Sheriff's Offices are on the main floor. Janitorial functions are performed by the staff and inmates. The Main Jail is no longer inspected by the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Title 15 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations because of its age. Maintenance was reduced due to the premise that a new facility was in the planning stages.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

Penal Code §919(a) and §919(b) of the California Code authorizes the Grand Jury to inquire into jails and public prisons within the county. Verbal complaints by two inmates were made to members of the Grand Jury during the investigation of a non-related complaint. The nature of the verbal complaint were the deplorable conditions of all showers, toilet areas, and inmate common areas.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

The Grand Jury inspected the Main Jail on September 18, 2014 with subsequent visits on October 27, 2014 and December 18, 2014. All inspections of toilet areas, showers, and inmate common areas were unannounced. The Grand Jury requested all maintenance records.

FACTS:

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 – FIRST VISIT

1. Paint falling from ceiling and walls.
2. Black Algae and mildew in the corners of the showers.
3. Gang writing on the toilet stall walls in black pen.
4. Soap spots all over toilets.
5. Six used bars of soap were found on the shower floors.
6. Several mats missing from the showers. The existing mats were tattered and in a filthy condition.
7. Shower curtains were torn, ripped and in poor condition.

8. Showerheads leaking.
9. Used disposable razors laying around.
10. Water on the floor from the shower overflowing into the adjacent room.
11. Rust on metal in showers.

OCTOBER 27, 2014 – SECOND VISIT

1. Rusting vents in the shower areas.
2. Rust on metal in showers.
3. Several mats missing from the showers. The existing mats were tattered and in a filthy condition.
4. Paint falling from ceilings and walls.
5. Black Algae and mildew in the corners of the showers.
6. Excessive scum was present in the toilet and shower areas.
7. Shower curtains were torn, ripped and in poor condition.
8. Shower exhaust fans were rusted and basically non-useable.
9. Paint was peeling from the ceilings, walls and floors.
10. Floor drains were partially clogged because of paint chips, soap, and hair scum.
11. There was a distinct odor within the shower area.
12. Policies or procedures related to cleaning inmate facilities were not available.

DECEMBER 18, 2014 – THIRD VISIT

1. Efforts have been made to remove Black Algae, mildew, and scum.
2. A policy and procedure was established following the October 27, 2014 inspection.
3. Shower curtains have been changed.
4. New shower stall mats have been ordered.
5. Shower ceilings and walls have been scraped of all loose paint.
6. New procedures requires staff and inmates to clean inmate facilities two to three times per day.

7. Temporary fans are now being utilized to help circulate air near the shower areas.
8. Bids are being accepted as of January 2015, for all specified improvements.
9. The County is utilizing a product called "Bathroom Brite E-San 64" for cleaning the showers at the Main Jail.
10. A Weekly and Daily Maintenance Log is now being utilized.
11. The following is a copy of the Daily Maintenance Log form.

Tulare County Main Jail Facility

Floor: _____

Location	Complete	Comments
Elevator Landing		Swept, mopped, walls wiped down and free of all debris
Bull Pen / Deputies Office		Swept, mopped, walls wiped down and free of all debris
Tier One Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Tier Two Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Tier Three Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Tier Four Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Showers / Lights / Plumbing Chase		Clean after each use, free of all debris including used soap, trash and excess water. Upon completion of daily showers, detailed cleaning will be conducted by utilizing the appropriate chemicals/supplies.
Barbershop		Swept, mopped, walls wiped down and free of all debris. Hair clippers shall be secured inside office when not in use.

Deputy: _____ Date: _____

FINDINGS:

- F.1. During the first inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers, toilet areas, and common areas in poor condition.
- F.2. During the second inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers, toilet areas, and common areas had minimal improvements.
- F.3. Distinct odor gave problems with air quality during the second inspection; several members of the Grand Jury inspection team experienced eye irritation, difficulty breathing and coughing during and for a short time after leaving the facility.
- F.4. Tulare County Grand Jury is also concerned about air quality within the building for the inmates and the Sheriff's Deputies.
- F.5. Prior to the third inspection, the Sheriff Department had developed Weekly and Daily Maintenance Logs due to the request of the Grand Jury following the second inspection.
- F.6. During the third visit there were noticeable improvements in the air quality of the showers and toilet areas.
- F.7. During the third inspection, the Grand Jury discovered conditions had dramatically improved.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R.1. Continue to follow the new policies and procedures as established by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.
- R.2. The Tulare County Sheriff's Office needs to follow-up on systematic monitoring of air quality.
- R.3. Continue to pursue contract process for Main Jail improvements.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

- 1. Sheriff – Coroner
- 2. Board of Supervisors

Disclaimer

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).



County of Tulare

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 19, 2015

Allen R. Ishida
District One

The Honorable Judge Hillman
Tulare County Superior Court, Room 303
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Dear Judge Hillman:

Phillip A. Cox
District Three

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, the following are the Board's responses to the findings and recommendations included in the 2014/2015 Tulare County Grand Jury Report titled *Main Jail Inspection*. The Board of Supervisors has no independent basis by which to respond to the specific findings and recommendations and has therefore consulted with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department to assist with these responses.

J. Steven Worthley
District Four

Mike Ennis
District Five

Findings and Board Responses

Finding 1

During the first inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers, toilet areas, and common areas in poor condition.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 2

During the second inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers, toilet areas and common areas had minimal improvements.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 3

Distinct odor gave problems with air quality during the second inspection; several members of the Grand Jury inspection team experienced eye irritation, difficulty breathing and coughing during and for a short time after leaving the facility.

BOARD STAFF

Julieta Martinez

Allison Pierce

Melissa Withnell

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Michelle Baldwin
Chief Clerk

Administration Bldg.
2800 West Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291

TEL: (559) 636-5000
FAX: (559) 733-6898

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5-29-2015

Response: The Board cannot agree or disagree with this finding since the Board does not know what the members of the Grand Jury experienced or the cause of any experiences.

Finding 4

Tulare County Grand Jury is also concerned about air quality within the building for the inmates and Sheriff's Deputies.

Response: The Board cannot agree or disagree with this finding since the Board does not have knowledge of the concerns of the Grand Jury.

Finding 5:

Prior to the third inspection, the Sheriff Department had developed Weekly and Daily Maintenance Logs due to the request of the Grand Jury following the second inspection.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 6:

During the third visit there were noticeable improvements in the air quality of the showers and toilet areas.

Response: The Board cannot agree or disagree with this Finding since the Board does not have knowledge of what the members of the Grand Jury experienced on either visit.

Finding 7:

During the inspection, the Grand Jury discovered conditions had dramatically improved.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Recommendations and Board Responses

Recommendation 1

Continue to follow the new policies and procedures as established by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Tulare County Main Jail has continued with its established cleaning procedures for all housing floors. The shower curtains were replaced with new ones, as have the floor mats in all showers. Staff members have continued to utilize "Bathroom Brite E-San 64" for the daily cleaning of all showers and a pressure washer has been purchased to assist in cleaning of the shower

mats. All shower mats are cleaned on a weekly basis, unless specific cleaning is needed earlier.

Recommendation 2

The Tulare County Sheriff's Office needs to follow-up on systematic monitoring of air quality.

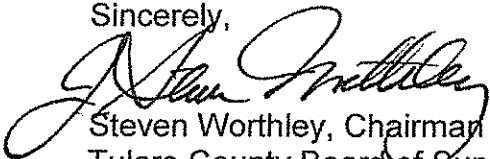
Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff has purchased and installed additional fans to assist the air circulation for each of the housing floors. Our maintenance staff are also inspecting the air filters at the Main Jail every 30 days and replacing them if needed, but filters will be replaced regardless at 60 days. Main Jail maintenance staff have also increased the air purging system at the Main Jail and cleaned numerous vents and vent shafts to assist with the air quality.

Recommendation 3

Continue to pursue contract process for Main Jail improvements.

Response: The recommendation is in the process of being implemented under the interpretation that the recommendation refers to the bid process to perform specified improvements. On 02/16/15, repairs and refurbishment were started on the inmate showers at the Main Jail. Upon starting the repairs and painting on the showers, an unforeseen issue with the paint not adhering to the tile in the showers was discovered. There has been a temporary pause in painting until a solution for these issues can be corrected, which we anticipate will be soon.

Sincerely,



Steven Worthley, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

CC: Tulare County Grand Jury



Tulare County

SHERIFF

Proudly Serving Since 1852

Office of
MIKE BOUDREAUX
Sheriff-Coroner
2404 W. Burrel Ave
Visalia, CA 93291-4580
(559) 636-4716

April 14, 2015

Administration
(559) 636-4690

Detentions
(559) 735-1700

Investigations
(559) 735-1898

Operations
(559) 636-4625

The Honorable Brett D. Hillman
Tulare County Superior Court Magistrate
County Civic Center, Room 303
221 S. Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

Re: Main Jail Inspection

Dear Judge Hillman,

The following is my response concerning the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury Report regarding the Tulare County Main Jail Inspection.

Findings:

- F.1. During the first inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers, toilet areas, and common areas in poor condition.
- F.2. During the second inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers; toilet areas and common areas had minimal improvements.
- F.3. Distinct odor gave problems with air quality during the second inspection; several members of the Grand Jury inspection team experienced eye irritation, difficulty breathing and coughing during and for a short time after leaving the facility.
- F.4. Tulare County Grand Jury is also concerned about air quality within the building for the inmates and Sheriff's Deputies.
- F.5. Prior to the third inspection, the Sheriff Department had developed Weekly and Daily Maintenance Logs due to the request of the Grand Jury following the second inspection.
- F.6. During the third visit there were noticeable improvements in the air quality of the showers and toilet areas.
- F.7. During the inspection, the Grand Jury discovered conditions had dramatically improved.

Findings Response:

The Sheriff agrees with the findings.

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4-21-2015

Recommendations:

- R.1. *Continue to follow the new policies and procedures as established by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.*

Response:

R.1. – The recommendation has been implemented. The Tulare County Main Jail has continued with its established cleaning procedures for all housing floors. The shower curtains were replaced with new ones, as have the floor mats in all showers. Staff members have continued to utilize "Bathroom Brite E-San 64" for the daily cleaning of all showers and a pressure washer has been purchased to assist in cleaning of the shower mats. All shower mats are cleaned on a weekly basis, unless specific cleaning is needed earlier.

Recommendations:

- R.2. *The Tulare County Sheriff's Office needs to follow-up on systematic monitoring of air quality.*

Response:

R.2. – The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff currently purchased and installed additional fans to assist the air circulation for each of the housing floors. Our maintenance staff are also inspecting the air filters at the Main Jail every 30 days and replacing them if needed, but filters will be replaced regardless at 60 days. Main Jail maintenance staff have also increased the air purging system at the Main Jail and cleaned numerous vents and vent shafts to assist with the air quality.

Recommendations:

- R.3. *Continue to pursue contract process for Main Jail improvements.*

Response:

R.3. – The recommendation is in the process of being implemented. On 02/16/15, repairs and refurbishment were started on the inmate showers at the Main Jail. Upon starting the repairs and painting on the final floor showers, an unforeseen issue with the paint not adhering to the tile in the showers was discovered. There has been a temporary pause in painting until a solution for these issues can be corrected, which we anticipate will be soon.

Capt. Mike Boudreaux FOR: SHERIFF BOUDREAUX
Sheriff Mike Boudreaux

cc: Grand Jury
Board of Supervisors