



San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office

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Ian S. Parkinson
Sheriff - Coroner

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Dodie Harman
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408

RE: Grand Jury 2015 Report- County Jail, Crime Lab and Coroner's Office

Dear Judge Harman:

I have reviewed the 2015 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report regarding their inspection of the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office Jail, Crime Lab and Coroner's Office. My response to their findings and recommendations are as follows:

Crime Lab:

Findings

1. ***"Current staffing of forensic specialists in the Crime Lab is limited to two well trained and professionals."***

The respondent agrees with this finding.

2. ***"Forensic specialists are required to have extensive hands-on training which could take up to five years."***

The respondent agrees with this finding.

3. ***"There is currently no plan to obtain an additional specialist or provide back-up."***

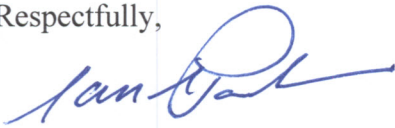
The respondent partially disagrees with this finding. In regards to the additional specialist; The Sheriff's Office had twenty-five positions cut during the recent recession. The Sheriff's Office is currently working on a staffing plan for the entire department. This position will be looked at as part of the plan; however the Sheriff's Office most pressing need is in the area of patrol. The Sheriff's Office has in the past and will in the future rely on our allied Police Departments to provide assistance from their crime scene units as back-up.

Recommendations

1. ***"The Sheriff's Department should hire a third full-time forensic specialist in the Crime Lab to provide additional support and long-term capability for personnel replacement."***

The responded agrees that it would be beneficial for the Sheriff's Office to add another forensic specialist, however first we must complete our staffing and analysis plan. This plan will prioritize the staffing needs of the Sheriff's Office as a whole.

Respectfully,



Ian S. Parkinson
Sheriff-Coroner