



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MADERA

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July 8, 2014



The Honorable D. Lynn Jones
Presiding Judge
Madera, County Superior Court
209 W. Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Subject: Response to the 2013-14 Grand Jury Report entitled "Madera County Department of Corrections."

Honorable Judge Jones:

Pursuant to the California Penal Code 933.05, the Madera County Board of Supervisors submits this response to the findings and recommendations in the 2013-14 Madera County Grand Jury Report on "Department of Corrections." See Attachment #1.

The following are the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations and the Board of Supervisors' responses:

Finding 1:

If sufficient correctional officers are employed, the additional 144 beds would aid the DOC in accommodating the increased inmate population.

Response:

Agree with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 2:

The increased inmate population and the low level of officer staffing has heightened the potential for an unsafe DOC environment.

Response:

Agree with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 3:

Presently the staffing and recruitment process is experiencing difficulties in filling vacant positions. High turnover and personnel on long term medical leaves have contributed to this shortage.

Response:

Agree with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 4:

The requirement to house California Welfare and Institutional Code 5150 (Involuntary Psychiatric Hold) inmates represents a danger to employees.

Response:

Agree with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Recommendation 1:

The Director of the Madera County Department of Corrections develop and implement an immediate plan to fill vacant positions and hire additional correctional officers.

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. In a separate response, the Madera County Director of Corrections responded to Recommendation 1 and stated:

"Human Resources and the CAO are working closely with addressing this issue by making positions available to fill and having a current list available to begin the hiring process. The hiring process takes an average of 4-5 months. I feel the Madera County is making a great effort to recruit but retention due to low pay appears to be a major factor when surrounding counties and CDCR are paying higher salaries for the same job description."

The response of the Director of Corrections to the above Recommendation is considered appropriate and is submitted as the Board of Supervisors' response.

Sincerely,


Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Madera County Board of Supervisors
Attachments