



# **MADERA COUNTY GRAND JURY**

**P.O. Box 534, Madera, CA 93639**



## **Madera County Jail**

**Final Report 2526-01**

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**Prepared by the 2025-2026 Madera County Grand Jury**

## SUMMARY

The Madera County Grand Jury conducted a tour of the Madera County Jail (Jail) on December 18, 2025. During the tour, members of the Grand Jury met with Jail officials and incarcerated individuals and received several presentations from supervising staff members.

A prior Grand Jury determined that the transition of Jail operations from the Madera County Department of Corrections to the Madera County Sheriff's Office was highly successful. That conclusion remains valid.

The current Sheriff and Jail management staff are performing at a high level. Deputy morale is strong, and staff retention rates are good. Overall, Jail operations appear to be well-managed and professionally run.

## GLOSSARY

BSCC: Board of State and Community Corrections

CCR Title 15: California Code of Regulations Title 15

CCTP: Correctional Community Transitional Program

GED - General Education Development

IP: Incarcerated Persons

Jail: Madera County Jail

MCGJ: Madera County Grand Jury

SERI: Sierra Education & Research Institute

## BACKGROUND

The Madera County Jail is located at 14191 Road 28 in Madera, and has been in operation at this location since 1988. The Jail is managed by the Madera County Sheriff's Office.

Each year, pursuant to California Penal Code §919 (a)(b), the California Grand Juries are mandated to inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons, jails and juvenile detention facilities within the county and to report on their findings. The average daily incarcerated population of the facility at the time of the MCGJ inspection was 443 incarcerated persons (IP) and has not exceeded the capacity of 563 beds in the last year. The MCGJ did not see any signs of overcrowding. The Jail is currently building two additional cell blocks to accommodate an additional 40 IPs with mental health issues.

The Jail was very clean and well-organized. Great efforts have been taken to remove old tiles from the floors, giving the facility a much cleaner appearance. MCGJ observed new paint in more appealing tones and colors.

All cells have working toilets, sinks and lights meeting or exceeding CCR Title 15 standards. IPs are supplied with cleaning supplies which are issued daily. Facility temperatures are maintained by County Maintenance and are at comfortable levels. Showers with hot water are available to the IPs on a regular basis. Bedding and clothing are provided and laundered weekly. The MCGJ did not witness any signs of pests, bugs or rodents. The Jail utilizes a monthly pest control service.

Cell checks and safety cell checks are being performed and documented properly. Safety checks are completed every 60 minutes. Safety cell checks occur twice every 30 minutes, with no more than a 15-minute lapse between checks. Sobering cell checks are conducted at irregular intervals, at least every 30 minutes. The Jail has adopted the Guardian Software platform to enhance their ability to meet cell check requirements from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

The BSCC latest report on the Jail found that the facility did not have any noncompliance issues. This is meeting all CCR Title 15 requirements.

The Jail has a well staffed Medical Department: two Registered Nurses, three Licensed Vocational Nurses, one Certified Nursing Assistant, two Mental Health Clinicians, one Health Services Administrator, one Family Nurse Practitioner, one Medical Director, and one Psychiatrist.

IPs are seen within 24 hours per their request. Serious medical issues are addressed immediately. Wellpath is the current medical provider that responds to all medical emergencies.

Wellpath serves the Madera County Department of Corrections & Juvenile Detention Facilities as the provider of medical and mental healthcare services. Services include 24/7 onsite nursing staff, 24/7 on-call providers, 24/7 emergency services, mental health services, crisis intervention, pharmaceutical services and dental care. Wellpath also collaborates with many community partners and offsite providers for patients who need additional assistance or services outside of the facilities.

All IPs are screened for mental health issues upon intake by both facility staff and Wellpath staff. IPs are screened for suicide risk, drug addiction, and withdrawal issues. The Jail has recently entered into an agreement with Madera County Behavioral Health Services to provide a Mental Health Clinician and a Substance Abuse Counselor assigned to the Jail.

Meals are prepared at the Jail by an outside contractor. The Jail has a clean, well-organized kitchen. The menu is determined by nutritionists from the State and meets or exceeds CCR Title 15 requirements. All food temperatures are monitored while cooking and maintained for serving. Meals are prepared to meet basic nutritional, caloric, medical, and religious dietary needs.

IPs receive a minimum of seven hours out of their cell per week, three hours outdoors of fresh air per week.

The Correctional Community Transitional Program (CCTP) is a re-entry and rehabilitative service offered through the Madera County Department of Corrections and related county programs. CCTP's purpose is to help people transition from incarceration back into the community through education, life skills, job training, and other support.

IPs have access to educational, rehabilitative, and religious programs. Some of the current programs include:

**GRID Alternatives** - Their mission is to make renewable energy technology and training available to underserved communities. GRID recognizes that successful offender re-entry depends on access to services that address underlying social problems contributing to criminal behavior. The challenge of how to prepare returning citizens for successful re-entry has been a focus of GRID Central Valley's training program for the past five years. Through GRID's solar installation training, individuals having been previously incarcerated are gaining hands-on experience, empowering them to take initiative to enhance their quality of life. GRID's solar training is an introductory course consisting of classroom instruction with hands-on onsite training labs. Each forty-hour class trains up to ten participants, running two hours per day, five days a week. Participants install solar system components on mock rooftops, learn techniques of installing different types of inverters, both micro and centralized, and gain a firm understanding of wire code and required techniques. Upon successful completion of the hands-on training program, participants will be prepared with the necessary knowledge to install photovoltaic systems, adhering to all safety requirements.

Trainees looking to continue their instruction to become Entry Level Solar Installers are offered the opportunity to join GRID Alternatives industry. Their recognized five-week "Installation Basics Training course" helps to ensure positive employment outcomes for entry-level solar installers. Graduates have successfully grown their technical skill sets, to "speak louder than their backgrounds," increasing their quality of living by obtaining gainful living wage employment in the solar industry.

**Workforce** - Workforce's vision is to establish innovative collaborations that inspire success and support an environment conducive to economic development while providing opportunities for lifelong learning and personal growth. In partnering with the Madera County Department of Corrections, a workshop curriculum taught by a career specialist, is offered to qualifying participants as part of a second chance and a better choice. The topics range from transition planning, career research, labor market information, job search and resource planning, building networks and effective interviewing. By the end of the class the participants compile an employment portfolio that they may use to gain employment. Periodically an in-house job and resource fair is offered to the IPs that are near to their release date. If further employment and or job searches are required, individuals may stop by the Madera County Workforce to receive additional assistance.

**IN2WORK**- The IN2WORK Program is designed to provide IPs with food service training and practical work experience. Teaching them the necessary tools will help better their everyday life.

The program includes formal vocational training in both the classroom and the kitchen, to include hands-on work experience. Participants have the ability to earn the ServSafe certification that is valid for three years. Progress checks and tests measure their comprehension and help track the program's successes.

**SERI**- SIERRA EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SERI)

SERI is a non-profit agency that provides psychological services to IPs. SERI provides 10-week psychoeducational classes for IPs. SERI provides psychoeducation focusing on topics such as communication, family systems, setting healthy boundaries, cognitive distortions, drug/alcohol addiction, and parenting. In addition, the instructors provide individual therapy to IPs who desire a higher level of treatment. These individual therapy sessions allow IPs to have one-on-one treatment with a trained clinician. These sessions reinforce the skills learned in the psychoeducational classes. The goals of these classes and individual therapy sessions are to teach IPs positive coping skills so they can improve their lives and to reduce recidivism.

**Probation-** The mission of the Madera County Probation Department is to encourage positive change in the lives of IPs through collaborative partnerships, evidence based practices, and corrective services. Partnering with the Madera County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, each IP is provided with a fair and equal opportunity of restoration towards health and a normal life through rehabilitation, educational programs, training and therapy. This program is designed to assist IPs with a successful transition from jail back into their communities. The program achieves this by encompassing a range of evidence based cognitive behavior classes and resources, which include parenting, anger management, personal skills development (Life Skills) education, substance use disorders, life and work instruction, and work-related programs. These programs aid IPs in the preparation for community reintegration by providing them with knowledge, self-confidence, self-worth and community resources.

**ACE Overcomers-** Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Overcomers curricula are being used in several county jails throughout California, treatment programs, and rescue missions nationwide.

The ACE Overcomers curriculum addresses the effects of adverse childhood experiences. IPs learn the science of trauma, steps to retrain the brain and reset the nervous system, and keys to self-awareness and self-regulation. This course is designed to improve the mental, emotional and physical health of the IPs, and prepares them for success.

**Tablets, Edovo Program-** Edovo utilizes secure tablet technology to deliver free access to educational programming at the Madera County Department of Corrections. Edovo provides a comprehensive suite of digital education, helping meet the range of needs of the IPs education, language, and literacy levels. Edovo provides over 20,000 hours of material, including a differentiated literacy platform, thousands of hours of books and videos, general education development(GED) prep courses, and much more.

Preparation for re-entry: Edovo offers a wide range of vocational preparation to help prepare for a successful re-entry. This includes career exploration, job skill training, vocational certifications, resume building, and interview preparation.

Opportunities for Self-Improvement: The platform helps provide opportunities for personal development through video-based life skills and treatment courses. Edovo provides IPs with access to programming in a variety of areas, including substance abuse treatment, health literacy, anger management, cognitive behavioral therapy, parenting while incarcerated, meditation, and emotional development. MCGJ also learned that IPs may access the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) program on their tablets. The exam covers five subject areas.

- Reading
- Writing
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Passing the HiSET course will give an IP a high school diploma.

## METHODOLOGY

- Conducted an in-person tour of the Madera County Jail facility
- Interviewed Madera County Jail administration, staff, and IPs
- Reviewed the Madera County Jail website
- Reviewed the most recent BSCC inspection reports
- Reviewed prior MCGJ reports
- Reviewed submitted Citizen Complaint Forms relating to the Madera County Jail
- Reviewed CCR: California Code of Regulations Title 15

## DISCUSSION

The MCGJ did an extensive tour of the Jail facility and found that the Staff operating the Jail were well organized and well trained to perform their duties. The Sheriff and Under Sheriff are primarily responsible for this result.

There is a major construction project underway at the facility to build two units to house 40 additional beds for IPs needing behavioral health care. The MCGJ believes this will promote an even greater success for the Jail in the future.

## FINDINGS

**F1.** The Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) finds that the Madera County Jail (Jail) is being operated efficiently and productively.

**F2.** The Jail building is adding two additional units to the facility to house Incarcerated Persons (IPs) with behavioral health concerns.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**R1.** The Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) recommends that the Sheriff continue with the current policies.

**R2.** The MCGJ recommends the Sheriff continue with renovation and building plans.

## REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Madera County Grand Jury requests responses as follows: From the following elected officials within 90 days:

Office of the Madera County Sheriff  
2725 Falcon Drive  
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Board of Supervisors

200 West Fourth Street

Madera, CA 93637

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Correctional Community Transitional Programs: Madera County website

<https://www.maderacounty.com/government/corrections/correctional-community-transitional-program>

Reports issued by the Civil Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code Section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Civil Grand Jury. The California State Legislature has stated that it intends the provisions of Penal Code Section 929 prohibiting disclosure of witness identities to encourage full candor in testimony in Grand Jury investigations by protecting the privacy and confidentiality of those who participate in any Civil Grand Jury investigation.