

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 4/22/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Geoff O'Quest 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to receive and file the response from the Sheriff-Coroner to the Grand Jury's 2013-14 report "Forensic Investigations in San Luis Obispo County: The SLO County Crime Lab, The SLO County Coroner's Office." All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board receive and file response from the Sheriff-Coroner to the Grand Jury's 2013-14 report "Forensic Investigations in San Luis Obispo County: The SLO County Crime Lab, The SLO County Coroner's Office."			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT ☒ Consent ☐ Presentation ☐ Hearing (Time Est. ____) ☐ Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS ☐ Resolutions ☐ Contracts ☐ Ordinances ☒ N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: ☐ 4/5 Vote Required ☒ N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY ☒ N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW This item was prepared by the County Administrative Office.			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Administrative Office / Geoff O'Quest
781-5011

DATE: 4/22/2014

SUBJECT: Request to receive and file the response from the Sheriff-Coroner to the Grand Jury's 2013-14 report "Forensic Investigations in San Luis Obispo County: The SLO County Crime Lab, The SLO County Coroner's Office." All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board receive and file response from the Sheriff-Coroner to the Grand Jury's 2013-14 report "Forensic Investigations in San Luis Obispo County: The SLO County Crime Lab, The SLO County Coroner's Office."

DISCUSSION

On March 27, 2014, the Grand Jury issued a report on "Forensic Investigations in San Luis Obispo County: The SLO County Crime Lab, The SLO County Coroner's Office." This report presents the 2013-14 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury's inquiry into the conditions and management of the San Luis Obispo County Crime Lab and San Luis Obispo County Coroner's Office. The Grand Jury found San Luis Obispo County has equipment, processes and trained personnel to ensure accurate forensic results in Crime Lab and Coroner cases.

The report contains one finding and one recommendation. The report requires a response from the Sheriff, which is attached to this staff report. The report does not require a response from the Board of Supervisors.

Finding #1: The Crime Lab is housed in a facility that is cramped and over-crowded.

Recommendation #1: The space for the Crime Lab should be expanded or the Crime Lab moved to a larger facility.

The response from the Sheriff is due to the Presiding Judge by May 26, 2014. No response is required from the Board of Supervisors. The County Administrative Office procedures include coordinating the departmental responses to Grand Jury reports and preparing recommended responses on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. The departmental responses to this Grand Jury report are attached and, where appropriate, incorporated as the Board's response.

OTHER DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Grand Jury visited the Crime Lab and Coroner's Office and was briefed by the staff of those facilities on their operation and procedures. Additional information was obtained through follow-up communications with the Sheriff, detectives, and both Crime Lab and Coroner's Office personnel. The County Administrative Office reviewed the response to the Grand Jury report prepared by the Sheriff in the development of the recommended Board response to this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations associated with this item.

RESULTS

This response will meet the legal requirements and time frames for responding to a Grand Jury report with findings and recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Sheriff's response to the Grand Jury's 2013-14 report "Forensic Investigations in San Luis Obispo County: The SLO County Crime Lab, The SLO County Coroner's Office"
2. Grand Jury's 2013-14 report "Forensic Investigations in San Luis Obispo County: The SLO County Crime Lab, The SLO County Coroner's Office"

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS / CRIME LAB CORONER'S OFFICE

Report Date: MARCH 31, 2014

Authorized Responder and Agency SHERIFF-CORONER IAN PATKINSON
Sheriff's Office

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 1
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed;
include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented,
but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study,
and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or
director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including
the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall
not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered 1 will not be implemented
because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 3-31-14 Signed: Ian Patkinson

Number of pages attached 2



San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office

1585 Kansas Avenue • San Luis Obispo • California • 93405
www.slosheriff.org

Ian S. Parkinson
Sheriff - Coroner

March 31, 2014

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

RE: Grand Jury 2014 Report- Crime Lab and Coroner's Office

Dear Judge Harman:

I have reviewed the 2014 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report regarding their inspection of the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office Crime Lab and Coroner's Office. My response to their findings and recommendations are as follows:

Crime Lab:

Findings

1. *"The Crime Lab is housed in a facility that is cramped and over-crowded."*

The respondent agrees with this finding.

The crime lab is housed in a WWII barracks that was moved from Camp San Luis in the 1970's. Even though this building has gone through many remodels over the years, the size of the building continues to be an issue. Approximately three weeks ago the Sheriff's Office added approximately 300 square feet to the lab. This was only possible because of the opening of the new property/evidence room at another sight. At this time, the Sheriff's Office does not have an alternative site to relocate the crime lab nor the budget for a new building.

Recommendations

1. *"The space for the Crime Lab should be expanded or the Crime Lab moved to a larger facility."*

This response was answered in Finding 1 (above).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian S. Parkinson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ian S. Parkinson
Sheriff-Coroner