

PINE GROVE YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP, CC#12

13630 Aqueduct Volcano Road
P.O. Box 1040
Pine Grove, CA 95665



October 24, 2023

The Honorable Judge Hermanson
Amador County Grand Jury
500 Argonaut Lane
Jackson, Ca 95642

Re: Grand Jury Report June 2023

Pursuant to Penal Code 933.05 I am required to respond to this Grand Jury report. The Amador County Grand Jury inspected Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp #12 on March 16, 2023. During the inspection they took an extensive tour of the facility and in their report they made seven findings and three recommendations.

FINDINGS

F1: All CDCR and CAL FIRE staff were very friendly and more than willing to answer any and all questions. They were open and transparent in letting the Grand Jury observe their trainings where they pointed out flaws and ways to improve the system for this year.

- I agree with this finding.

F2: The 2019-2020 Grand Jury report stated, "The kitchen and dining area need repainting and ceiling tiles need replacement." Between their tour on December 5, 2019, and the response date January 7, 2021, "the kitchen underwent a complete remodel."

The next Grand Jury Report was in 2021-2022 after the year of quarantine. That Grand Jury toured PGYCC on March 2, 2022 and found that "the new flooring was removed due to water damage." The response stated the floor replacement involved a warranty issue.

During the 2023 tour, the Grand Jury found the floor and ceiling in the dining area in needed repair. Follow up in June 2023 found that the roof on the dining area has been replaced, resolving the leak issues. Repairs to the ceiling are scheduled, and the new flooring in the camp is ready to be installed after the ceiling repairs are completed.

- I agree with this finding.

F3: The lower part of the outside wall in the recreational area is missing bricks.

- I agree with this finding.

F4: The community benefits greatly from this program. The current low numbers of inmates due to the DJJ-DAI transition minimize the effectiveness of the camp.

- I agree with this finding.

F5: CAL FIRE and CDCR conduct a joint training in advance of fire season to bridge the two agencies and create a collaboratively run camp. The Grand Jury found this to be a very effective training between the two agencies.

- I agree with this finding.

F6: The camp only had twelve youths and one fire crew at the time of visit with a facility capacity of 100 and four fire crews.

- I agree with this finding.

F7: The camp does not have trouble with staff vacancies as other facilities currently do.

- I agree with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: Continue to sign contracts with other counties to bring youth numbers at the camp up to have full fire crews that can be deployed.

- I agree with this recommendation. We will continue to work with other counties in efforts to bring up our youth numbers.

R2: Repair the floor and ceiling in the dining area. This is the third year of findings for the dining hall to be repaired, even following a remodel

- I agree with this recommendation. Due to the current transition we have dealt with a few setbacks with vendors, contracts and funding. We will continue to focus on the dining hall repairs.

R3: Repair the items brought up at training such as the toilets and roof.

- I agree with this recommendation and we will begin looking into these repairs.

Thank you,



Lieutenant Vanessa Melendez

Camp Commander

Pine Grove Youth Conservation Center #12