

**CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE  
(JAIL REPORTS)**

(This page is blank)

**Criminal Justice Committee**  
***El Dorado County Jail, Placerville***

**Reason for Report**

California Penal Code authorizes and directs Grand Juries to inspect and report annually on operations of all public prisons located within the boundaries of each county.

**Scope of Inspection**

The Placerville Jail was visited by members of the Grand Jury unannounced on November 29, 2000.

- Members of the Grand Jury were briefed on operations and were then escorted by correctional staff on a tour of the entire facility.
- Staffing levels were explained to the members.
- Recommendations of the 1999/2000 Grand Jury were discussed and implementations of those recommendations were explained to the members.

**Findings**

- F1. There was a lack of standardization of uniform and identifying insignia worn by correctional officers, deputies, and civilian employees. This creates confusion between sworn and unsworn personnel and does not provide a professional image.
- F2. The laundry and shower areas were clean.
- F3. The medical room was clean, organized, and well stocked. Licensed medical staff was on duty twenty-four hours a day.
- F4. Inmate personal property was properly handled.
- F5. There was a lack of cleanliness, especially in the receiving dock area.
- F6. Bagged lunches and loose fruit were temporarily stored on the floor prior to being distributed to the inmates.
- F7. There was inadequate control of kitchen knives, which were stored in an unsecured drawer to which all kitchen inmate workers had ready access.

**Recommendations**

- R1. A clothing standard should be adopted for a consistent and professional appearance of all employees.
- R2. Increased attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the jail.
- R3. Carts or tables should be provided for food storage prior to distribution.
- R4. Better control of knives should be implemented. An inventory procedure should be maintained.

**Responses Required for Findings**

F1 through F7            El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
                                 El Dorado County Sheriff

**Responses Required for Recommendations**

R1 through R4            El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
                                 El Dorado County Sheriff

## **Criminal Justice Committee**

### ***El Dorado County Jail, South Lake Tahoe***

#### **Reason for the Report**

California Penal Code authorizes and directs Grand Juries to inspect and report annually on operations of all public prisons located within the boundaries of each county.

#### **Scope of the Investigation**

Members of the Grand Jury made an unannounced inspection of the South Lake Tahoe Jail facility on September 20, 2000.

- Members of the Jury were briefed on jail operations including emergency contingency plans;
- Staffing levels were discussed and explained;
- The Jail Commander conducted a facilities tour;
- Recommendations of previous Grand Juries were discussed;
- Implementation of those recommendations were explained to and viewed by the inspecting members.

A follow-up inspection for specific winter conditions was made on February 8, 2000.

#### **Findings**

- F1. A musty odor was detected upon entry into the public access area.
- F2. The Jail was generally clean and neat.
- F3. The Jail's security storage locker for weapons, ammunition, and riot equipment is a sheet metal gymnasium type locker, with padlock. This situation is inadequate for proper security.
- F4. Numerous large cracks were observed extending vertically through both exterior and interior walls of the building. The cracks generally run through the building blocks, defeating the interlocking design integral to laid block construction.
- F5. Prior Grand Jury Reports noted the following conditions:
- Inadequate or broken surveillance equipment; and
  - Inmate medical facilities which were too small and inadequate to provide a proper level of service.

- F6. The inmate receiving area has been upgraded to provide adequate surveillance equipment. There is padding on equipment and structural areas, to reduce the potential of injury to inmates and staff in the event detainees become combative.
- F7. Additional cameras have been installed, and problems associated with the previously existing equipment have been repaired. These upgrades have increased the control and safety for both the inmates and staff.
- F8. The medical facilities within the Jail have been expanded to provide a better level of service to the inmates. A full-time duty nurse is provided under the medical service contract.

**Recommendations**

- R1. The source and nature of the “musty odor” should be identified, to eliminate any potential public health hazard.
- R2. Storage for weapons, ammunition, and riot equipment should be upgraded to provide a higher level of security.
- R3. An inspection should be performed by a qualified Structural Engineer to ascertain that the structural integrity of the Jail has not been compromised.

**Commendation**

The Grand Jury commends Jail Commander Lt. Les Lovell for the repair, as recommended by previous Grand Juries, improvement to South Lake Tahoe Jail, and the excellent management of this facility.

**Responses Required for Findings**

F1 through F8            El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
                                   El Dorado County Sheriff

**Responses Required for Recommendations**

R1 through R3            El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
                                   El Dorado County Sheriff

## **Criminal Justice Committee**

### ***El Dorado County Juvenile Hall***

#### **Reason for Report**

California Penal Code authorizes and directs Grand Juries to inspect and report annually on operations of all public prisons located within the boundaries of each county.

#### **Scope of Inspection**

Members of the Grand Jury inspected the County Juvenile Hall on August 30, 2000:

- The Deputy Chief Probation Officer in charge of the juvenile facility conducted the tour;
- Some juveniles were interviewed.

#### **Findings**

- F1. The facility was generally clean and well run.
- F2. The food and education services were good.
- F3. The health facility's room had no running water, toilet, or blankets.
- F4. No private room was available for individual counseling.
- F5. There were stained ceiling tiles.
- F6. The showers showed small amounts of mold and missing grout.
- F7. The clock in the multi-purpose room was broken.
- F8. Equipment stored over the laundry room door was not secured.
- F9. One of the outdoor recreation areas was shut down for repair.
- F10. The ceiling and floor of the food freezer were not clean.
- F11. Both control room doors were open because the area was too warm.
- F12. Males and females used common facilities at different schedules.
- F13. Work orders have been issued for Findings 4, 5, and 8.

F14. This Grand Jury, in common with several previous Grand Juries, finds that the current facility is inadequate for its intended use.

**Recommendations**

R1. Deficiencies noted in findings F3 through F12 and F14 should be corrected.

**Responses Required for Findings**

F1 through F14 El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

**Responses Required for Recommendations**

R1 El Dorado County Board of Supervisors



## **Criminal Justice Committee**

### ***Growlersberg Conservation Camp, Georgetown***

#### **Reason for Report**

California Penal Code authorizes and directs grand juries to inspect and report annually on operations of all public prisons located within the boundaries of each county.

#### **Scope of Inspection**

The Growlersberg Conservation Camp at Georgetown was inspected by members of the Grand Jury on December 6, 2000.

- Grand Jury members were briefed on operations and escorted by state personnel on a tour of the entire facility;
- Staffing levels were discussed and explained to the members;
- Recommendations of the 1999/2000 Grand Jury were discussed and implementations of those recommendations were explained to the members.

#### **Findings**

- F1. The Growlersberg Conservation Camp is a facility that is operated jointly by the California State Department of Forestry and the California State Department of Corrections.
- F2. The facility was designed and constructed in 1966/67 as an 80-man facility. The population has increased to 132.
- F3. Some areas contained bunks beds because of over crowding.
- F4. The kitchen and food preparation area has been outfitted with a larger range than was originally installed. At this time the range hood is a hazard and does not meet Code. Plans to construct a new office building and kitchen within two years will resolve some problems.
- F5. The dining area was also designed for 80 persons so inmates must be fed in two shifts.
- F6. Housing areas were clean and orderly
- F7. The kitchen food preparation area was clean and orderly. The quantity and quality of food served was satisfactory

- F8. There are provisions for Inmate recreation. A small but adequate library is utilized by inmates on a regulated basis, with a limited number allowed to use it at any given time.
- F9. Management by the correctional staff seemed to be efficient and professional
- F10. There was virtually no ADA compliance.

**Recommendations**

- R1. Immediate steps should be taken to upgrade the food preparation area to meet all current safety standards relating to ranges and range hood exhaust systems. This recommendation was also made by the 1999-2000 Grand Jury.
- R2. There should be steps taken to comply with ADA.

**Responses Required for Findings**

F1 through F10      California State Department of Forestry  
California State Department of Corrections

**Responses Required for Recommendations**

R1                      California State Department of Forestry  
California State Department of Corrections