



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Board of Supervisors

1195 Third St
Suite 310
Napa, CA 94559
www.countyofnapa.org

Main (707) 253-4421
Fax (707) 253-4176

Diane Dillon
Chair

July 14, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Stone
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Judge Stone:

As required by Penal Code Section 933(c), enclosed are the responses to the 2014-2015 Final Report on the Napa County Fire Department Career and Volunteer Firefighters Working Together to Protect Napa County and the Napa County Jail and Department of Corrections Annual Review.

Grand Jury activity takes place over the course of a number of months. The Board acknowledges the members of the 2014-2015 Grand Jury for the time they have devoted in preparing their report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Dillon".

Diane Dillon, Chair
Napa County Board of Supervisors

Enclosures

cc: Foreman, 2014-2015 Grand Jury

Brad Wagenknecht
District 1

Mark Luce
District 2

Diane Dillon
District 3

Alfredo Pedroza
District 4

Keith Caldwell
District 5

FILED

JUL 27 2015

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court
By: C. Baerman
Deputy

NAPA COUNTY
RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT ON
NAPA COUNTY JAIL AND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
JUNE 2015

The Grand Jury requested responses from the Napa County Board of Supervisors.

FINDING 1: The Control Room in the Napa County Jail is marginally operational and needs to be upgraded and moved as planned to safely manage access and control operations for the lengthy period until the new jail is constructed.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding. The project has been funded and design was completed in early 2014. Due to the August 2014 earthquake the final phase of the bidding process was delayed in addition to delays with specialized equipment needed for this project. Parts of this project have already been completed and full construction of this project will take approximately 18 - 24 months after final bids are awarded.

FINDING 2: The August 2014 Earthquake caused damage in the jail resulting in the old section of the jail to be condemned, leading to more overcrowding and requiring the relocation of inmates to the Solano County Jail at extra cost to Napa County.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with this finding. There was damage to the jail caused by the August 2014 earthquake. The old section of the jail was yellow-tagged, restricting access to only essential personnel. The building was not condemned. Some inmates have been relocated to Solano County pending the completion of necessary repairs. The cost of relocation of inmates is earthquake related and presently being reimbursed by the County's insurance company.

FINDING 3: NSH patients/inmates in custody at the jail require special handling that puts an additional strain on the staffing and housing components of an already overcrowded jail.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding. The process of managing and providing care and services for inmates with mental health needs is greater than other general population inmates. Many of the mentally ill inmates require single-cell housing and cannot be placed into areas with other general

population inmates. This creates additional pressure on the jail as housing severely mentally ill persons often requires cells designed to house up to three inmates to be used for a single inmate.

FINDING 4: A new county jail needs to be completed before 2022 if possible because the current jail is inadequate for the county's needs due to earthquake damage, inmate overcrowding, Realignment effects, and inmate classification conflicts.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding. The County is preparing an application to compete for jail construction funding to replace unusable beds. The County is exploring additional options for future funding opportunities.

FINDING 5: More attention to initial searching is needed to combat the increased contraband that is entering the jail due to the effects of Realignment.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with this finding. Changes in the inmate profile due to the implementation of realignment has increased the amount of contraband introduced into the facility. NCDC staff currently conducts searches on all inmates brought into custody. The type of search is based upon the type of arrest, whether the person will be housed in the main jail, and if the inmate is sentenced or pre-sentenced. Security of the facility is of the highest priority. Staff searches inmate cells and common areas throughout the jail frequently. Despite these security measures, there are inmates who continue to smuggle in contraband. This is common in correctional facilities throughout the United States. Napa County staff constantly works to reduce the amount of contraband that is introduced into the correctional facility.

RECOMMENDATION 1: By January 1, 2017, the Board of Supervisors, the Napa County Executive Officer, and the Napa County Department of Corrections (NCDC) Director to fund and implement the scheduled move and upgrade of the NCDC Control Room.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this recommendation. Recognizing the importance of this move, the project has been funded and design was completed in early 2014, with the pre-qualifications of potential bidders beginning thereafter. Due to the August 2014 earthquake the final phase of the bidding process was necessarily delayed. Additionally, since that time, the manufacturer

(General Electric) of the specialized computer hardware that operates the controls throughout the facility has alerted the County that the computer model to be used for the project is up for review and may require an upgraded design. Once this issue is resolved the bidding process will be completed, and will take approximately 90 days. Some portions of this project have already been completed, including the construction of the new control room. Full construction of this project will take approximately 18 - 24 months after final bids are awarded.

RECOMMENDATION 2: By June 30, 2016, the Board of Supervisors to compete for jail construction funding under SB-863 and to consider a bond measure to fund part of the construction of a new jail.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this recommendation. The County is preparing an application to compete for jail construction funding to replace unusable beds and increase programming opportunities for inmates. The Board of Supervisors will consider approval to staff to submit the application on August 11, 2015 with the final application for the funding due to the Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC) August 28, 2015. The County will be notified of conditional award status for the funding in December 2015. The County is exploring additional options for future funding opportunities and the Board of Supervisors will consider funding strategies by June 30, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION 3: By June 30, 2016, the BOS and NCDC Director to devise a plan to include increased staffing and jail capacity to better manage NSH patients/inmates who enter NCDC.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with this recommendation. The Board of Supervisors has already increased staffing at the jail to address increases in work load over the past few years following Realignment and the changing profile of inmates. Post-earthquake as the NCDC Director identified inmate population and operational issues, the Board increased the contract with Solano County from 75 beds to 125 beds to meet the potential additional capacity needs. Ultimately, the new jail construction will include a larger capacity to house mental health inmates which includes those from Napa State Hospital and other inmates in custody who also have mental health needs. The Director does not feel that increased staffing or adding additional capacity within the current jail is appropriate for this situation.

RECOMMENDATION 4: The Napa County BOS and NCDC Director to include a body scanner in the 2016-2017 budget to help prevent contraband from entering the jail.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisor disagrees with this recommendation. The NCDC Director would support the inclusion of a body scanner in the new jail; however, the body scanner equipment cannot be placed in the current jail due to space issues in the booking area. The optimal location for body scanners would be in the booking area which is the entry point for new arrestees. Unfortunately, the jail's booking area is not configured to hold body scanner equipment. This cannot be accomplished without creating a major construction project in an area that is critical to the jail's day to day operations and needs to remain operational at all times. The scanner cannot be placed in the vehicle sally port either as it would impede the flow of police cars in and out of the facility. Additionally, the body scanners are not 100% reliable and there have been instances in other facilities where even with the use of body scanners, inmates have been successful in smuggling in contraband. It is certainly a deterrent and it may stop some inmates from bringing in contraband. However, the current jail does not have the ability to place large-size equipment into the booking area. The County will explore the option to locate a body scanner with a new jail in the future.