



**Valley State Prison
2016-2017
Madera County Grand Jury
Final Report 1617-02**

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Introduction:

Pursuant to California Penal Code §919(b), the Madera County Grand Jury visited the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR), Valley State Prison (VSP) on November 7, 2016. VSP, located at 21633 Avenue 24, Chowchilla, California, is a part of the California State Prison system.

VSP was dedicated in 1995 as a prison for women and was originally named Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW). In October 2012 VSPW started the conversion from a female prison to a male prison. In January 2013 the conversion was completed and the name was changed to Valley State Prison.

The Grand Jury toured the prison facility and was provided guided access to several areas.

Facts:

1. VSP is one of 13 rehabilitation facilities in CDCR.
2. Inmate population capacity is 1,980. The inmate population on November 7, 2016 was 3,543.
3. Volunteers provide some specialized training, such as dog obedience and gardening.
4. Privileges are earned through good behavior, evidenced by a low rate of reportable incidents.
5. Educational and vocational classes are available. Currently there are over 1,800 inmates involved in these programs.
6. VSP provides essential rehabilitation programs to select inmates.
7. VSP is designed as an Enhanced Program facility. This program allows inmates to obtain additional privileges for positive behavior.

Findings:

1. VSP's rehabilitation environment is designed to provide inmates with skill sets to become positive contributors to society after getting out of prison.
2. VSP houses more inmates than the rated capacity.
3. The dog training program is a sought after privilege.
4. The rehabilitation program provided by VSP offers a fostering and rewarding environment as compared to a traditional prison environment.
5. Vocational and educational classes include: masonry, wood shop, small engines, janitorial, crop farming, office services, electric work, welding, carpentry, computer literacy and cosmetology. Adult basic education and college classes are available. Inmates have the opportunity to earn a bachelor degree at their own expense.

6. Inmate morale is high.

Recommendations:

The Madera County Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The warden and staff continue the professional job they are currently performing.
2. The Grand Jury has no recommendations for change.

Respondent:

Warden
Valley State Prison
21633 Avenue 24
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Information only:

Correctional Lieutenant/
Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer
Valley State Prison
21633 Avenue 24
Chowchilla, CA 93610