



**2011-2012  
Madera County Grand Jury  
Final Report  
Valley State Prison for Women &  
Central California Women's Facility**

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**Introduction:**

The Grand Jury inquired into the condition and management of the public prisons within Madera County in accordance with California Penal Code Section 919(b). The Grand Jury toured the Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW) on November 4, 2011 and the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) on February 8, 2012.

VSPW opened in May 1995. It is located at 21633 Avenue 24, Chowchilla and operates on an annual budget of approximately \$80 million. VSPW is designed for a capacity of 2,500 inmates, with an authorized staffing allocation of 1,080.

CCWF opened in October 1990. It is located at 23370 Road 22 in Chowchilla and operates on an annual budget of approximately \$100 Million. CCWF is designed for a capacity of 2,004 inmates and has an authorized staffing allocation of 1,119.

**Findings:**

1. The Grand Jury found that on November 4, 2011, VSPW had an inmate population of 3,358.
2. The Grand Jury found that on February 8, 2012, CCWF had an inmate population of 3,118.
3. The Grand Jury found that since implementation of AB 109 in October 2011, inmate population decreased at CCWF by at least 800. AB 109 requires that non-violent, non-sexual offenders and parole violators be incarcerated in county jails rather than state prisons.
4. The Grand Jury found that VSPW conversion to a men's facility is targeted to be completed by July 2013.
5. The Grand Jury found that once the conversion of VSPW is completed, CCWF will be the only reception center for women prisoners in California. After sentencing, all women prisoners will be sent to CCWF for evaluation and classification. Some will then be transferred to other facilities.
6. The Grand Jury found that CCWF is the only facility to house condemned women in California.
  - a. CCWF does not have the facilities to perform an execution.
  - b. Executions are performed at San Quentin State Prison.

7. The Grand Jury found that food preparation and service at both facilities adhere to strict state guidelines and operate in a clean and efficient manner.
8. The Grand Jury found that meals are prepared to address religious, dietary, and medical needs.
9. The Grand Jury found that medical treatment for inmates is provided by California Correctional Health Care Services Division, independent from the prison management, as a result of federal court actions.
10. The Grand Jury found that both facilities provide academic education, vocational training, counseling, and specialized programs for the purpose of successful reintegration into society.
11. The Grand Jury found that inmates can submit complaints as follows:
  - a. by an appeal process called “602” California Prison Grievance Process;
  - b. by accessing a toll-free number to register complaints;
  - c. by submitting a complaint in a locked box that can be opened only by an ombudsman; or
  - d. through the Women’s Advisory Council which is an inmate operated program.
12. The Grand Jury found that both facilities are clean, well-managed, and well maintained.

**Conclusions:**

1. The Grand Jury concluded that, with the implementation of AB 109, prison population will decrease while increasing county jail population.
2. The Grand Jury concluded that AB 109 will raise the overall security classification levels of prison inmates.

**Recommendations:**

None

**Informational:** response optional

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Warden  
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Chowchilla, CA 93610

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Madera, CA 93637

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