



**2012 – 2013**  
**Madera County Grand Jury**  
**Final Report**  
**Madera County Department of Corrections**  
**Madera County Jail**



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**Introduction:**

California Penal Code Section 919(b) states that the grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within the county. This includes the county jail located at 14191 Road 28, Madera, CA 93638. This facility was inspected by members of the Madera County Grand Jury on October 25, 2012.

The current jail facility is certified to house up to 419 inmates with provisions for both male and female. The new construction and expansion will increase the jail capacity by 144 beds. This addition was possible due to Assembly Bill 900 passed on May 3, 2007. This authorized more than \$7 billion in funding for state prison projects, reentry facilities and local jail beds to ease the overcrowding in California's prisons and local jails.

Senate Bill 678 passed on November 4, 2009 created the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) which dispenses funds provided by AB109 to county agencies involved with parolees. The CCP includes representatives of the Probation Department, Superior Court, Sheriff's Department, Madera Police Department, District's Attorney's office, Behavioral Health and the Public Defender's office. The CCP does not include the Madera County Department of Corrections Director as a member.

**Facts:**

1. At the time of inspection, the Average Daily Population for the current year was 366.
2. The total number of allocated staff is 121. This includes 23 vacant Corrections Officers' positions eight of which are funded but unfilled. Three clerical staff, one records clerk and one assistant director are unfilled positions.
3. The jail provides contracted medical and food services.
4. GED educational training for inmates is available.

5. Currently under negotiations Life Skills and Work Force volunteers will provide programs in assisting inmates to develop skills to transit back to civilian life and reduce the rate of recidivism.
6. AB109 has produced a shifting jail population throughout the State, including Madera County, making jail population forecasts difficult.
7. The county jail housed 27 state parolees at the time of the Grand Jury inspection. However, the jail has the right to refuse state parolees who have violated their parole.
8. Other county jails have made inquiries of the Madera County jail to house inmates due to their overcrowding.
9. Inmates are classified based on severity of charges, medical needs or risk of violence.
10. The jail has seen a negative behavioral trend developing in the county jail system. This is an attempt by inmates to force state prison guidelines for segregation.
11. Some inmates are electing to serve their full sentences as opposed to seeking early release and submitting to Probation Department supervision.
12. Female inmates are housed in a separate module. There is a maximum security unit for those inmates classified as an escape risk or a threat to other inmates, staff or themselves.
13. Inmates have a formal grievance procedure that is adhered to by the jail staff. Inmates may also obtain other forms of representations, private counsel or represent themselves in legal matters.
14. Jail staff furloughs which results in diminished staffing have been reduced, but not eliminated, posing a risk to correctional officers and inmates.
15. The Madera County Department of Corrections budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 is \$10,800,000.
16. Internal crimes are increasing and referred to the Madera County District Attorney's Office. Approximately 80% are rejected for prosecution.

17. The engineering and design of the new jail allows future expansion.

18. The new visitor center provides video and voice contact with inmates.

**Findings:**

1. The Director of Madera County Department of Corrections has no voting privileges on CCP matters directly affecting his department.
2. The jail population is within the current design capacity. The completion of the new addition will increase the capacity of the jail.
3. The jail provides medical services, religious observances, GED training, and soon to include Life Skills and Work Force programs.
4. Jail security, officer and inmate safety would be improved by additional correctional officer staffing and by the elimination of furloughs.
5. Inmates have access to a formal grievance procedure which addresses their concerns and complaints.
6. Internal crime reports not prosecuted by the District Attorney's office, creates a safety issue for officers and inmates.

**Recommendations:**

1. The Director of the Madera County Department of Corrections should be made a member, with voting privileges, of the CCPs.
2. Correctional officer mandatory furloughs should be eliminated.
3. District Attorney's Office to review internal crime reports and increase the number of prosecutions.

**Respondents:**

1. Madera County Department of Corrections  
Director  
14191 Road 28  
Madera, CA 93638
2. Madera County District Attorney's Office  
Michael Keitz, District Attorney  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Board of Supervisors  
200 West Fourth Street  
Madera, CA 93637

**Informational:**

Madera County Probation Department  
Chief County Probation Officer  
200 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Sheriff's Department  
Sheriff-Coroner  
14143 Road 28  
Madera, CA 93638

Madera County Superior Court  
Honorable Joseph A. Soldani  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637

Madera Police Department  
Chief of Police  
330 South C Street  
Madera, CA 93638

Madera County Behavior Health Services  
Director  
P.O. Box 1288  
Madera, CA 93639