

**(Photo to be added)**

**2013-2014**

**Madera County Grand Jury**

**Final Report**

**Central California Women's Facility and  
Valley State Prison**

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**Introduction:**

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 919(b) the Madera County Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. The Grand Jury toured the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) located at 23370 Road 22, Chowchilla, CA 93610 and the Valley State Prison (VSP) located at 21633 Avenue 24, Chowchilla, CA 93610 on September 17, 2013.

As a result of several factors including AB109 (Public Safety Realignment), the success of community based programs and the completion of the conversion of VSP to a male prison, and the transfer of women prisoners to CCWF, both prisons have observed changes in their inmate populations.

**Facts:**

1. CCWF is the largest women's prison in the United States. The population at CCWF on September 17, 2013 was approximately 3421 inmates which is an increase of over 22 % since September, 2012. CCWF employs approximately 1100 persons.
2. The population at VSP on September 27, 2013 was approximately 3210 male inmates which is a decrease of 10% from September, 2012. VSP employs approximately 909 persons.
3. The conversion of VSP to Level 2 (low and medium security male inmates) was started in October, 2012 and completed in January, 2013.
4. Both prisons offer vocational and work skills training through the Prison Industry Authority (PIA). These industrial-type operations include optical, laundry, farm operation, dental prosthetics, eyewear manufacturing, and fabric production. Vocational programs include auto repair, HVAC and electrical repair.
5. CCWF operates Joint Venture Electronics; a public-private partnership (with All-Wire Incorporated) which employs approximately 45 inmates in an electronics manufacturing program. The inmates are paid a wage.
6. Both prisons operate Enhanced Operations Programs (EOP) for inmates with determined levels of mental illness.

7. The 2013-14 Fiscal Year budget of VSP is \$84,771,940 which represents a 1.5% increase from Fiscal Year 2012-13. The 2013-2014 Fiscal Year budget for CCWF is \$91,598,947 which represents a 3.2 % increase from Fiscal Year 2012-13.
8. VSP operates as a reentry hub for certain inmates. These rehabilitation programs include programs for substance abuse, anger management, and behavioral issues. Inmates are provided reentry programs, teaching inmates how to write a resume, and interview for jobs when they are released. Educational programs at both prisons include a GED program, and long distance learning programs with accredited universities.
9. CCWF has a shared service fire department located off grounds with a female inmate crew of 10 firefighters that supplements and supports Madera Fire Station 5. The fire department has a civilian fire chief and three civilian fire captains. The fire department services approximately 200 square miles of Madera County including VSP and CCWF.

### **Findings:**

1. VSP does not have a fire truck located on the VSP grounds, nor are their male inmates trained as firefighters. This situation presents a potential inmate safety/security issue for the female CCWF inmates when they enter VSP for emergencies.
2. The CCWF Fire Department houses three fire trucks under cover. The station house lacks the garage space to keep the fourth fire truck #350 which is used for VSP and CCWF facility fire emergencies.

### **Recommendations:**

The grand jury recommends that:

1. A Firefighter Training Program for the VSP inmates should be implemented. These firefighters will support and supplement Madera Fire Station 5.
2. A large protective vehicle canopy be purchased for the CCWF Fire Department for fire truck #350 which is kept outside and subjected to the elements. Replacement value of the fire truck would be in excess of \$400,000.

**Respondents:**

Ron Davis, Warden  
Valley State Prison  
21633 Avenue 24  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Debra Johnson, Warden  
Central California Women's Facility  
23370 Road 22  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

**Informational:**

CalFire Chief, Fire Station 5  
Central California Women's Facility  
23370 Road 22  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Madera County Board of Supervisors  
200 West 4th Street  
Madera, CA 93637