



Madera County Department of Corrections

**2013 - 2014
Madera County Grand Jury**

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Madera County Jail**

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Introduction:

California Penal Section 919(b) states that the grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. This includes the county jail located at 14191 Road 28 Madera, CA 93638. The Madera County Jail is also known as the Madera County Department of Corrections (DOC). The facility was inspected by members of the Madera County Grand Jury on October 18, 2013.

Facts:

1. The Madera DOC budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014 is \$12,024,820. The budget for 2012-2013 was \$10,807,016.
2. The passage of AB109 has resulted in prison inmates being transferred to the jail to reduce the state prison population. Because of this new regulation, AB900 funds were received for the renovation and expansion of the existing jail facility in order to add 144 beds increasing the total capacity to 563.
3. At the time of the inspection, the average daily population for the current year was 460.
4. The building expansion cost of \$34 million, includes \$30 million that was received from the State of California and \$4 million that was received from the Madera County Jail Construction Fund.
5. At the time of the inspection, information technology and communications systems in the intake area of DOC (where detainees are booked) was in the process of improvement for the purpose of safety and security.
6. A \$3 million renovation to the kitchen facility was also proceeding at the time of the inspection. The purpose of the renovation is to accommodate the growing inmate population.
7. The DOC is currently funded for 94 paid staff positions. At the time of the inspection the staffing level was 84, including two pending staff retirements.
8. The cost to the county to train a new employee is \$18,000.
9. Overtime costs are currently at 130% of normal.

10. One housing unit has been closed due to the shortage of staff. Five employees are required to open the unit; three employees for the day/night shifts during the week, and two extra to cover weekends and holidays.
11. The DOC is not a facility prepared to house California Welfare and Institutional Code 5150 (Involuntary Psychiatric Hold) inmates, but is required at this time to be used for this purpose.
12. The new sentencing regulations for non-serious, non-violent, and non-sexual related offenses under AB109 have contributed to the increased inmate population. Persons convicted under these circumstances are sentenced to the DOC in lieu of state prison.
13. The DOC in collaboration with Probation and Social Services departments has developed a pre-release program. This program facilitates an inmate's need for assimilation into the community after release and includes evaluation of social needs, risk level, treatment resources and assistance options.

Findings:

1. If sufficient correctional officers are employed, the additional 144 beds would aid the DOC in accommodating the increased inmate population.
2. The increased inmate population and the low level of officer staffing has heightened the potential for an unsafe DOC environment.
3. Presently the staffing and recruitment process is experiencing difficulties in filling vacant positions. High turnover and personnel on long term medical leaves have contributed to this shortage.
4. The requirement to house California Welfare and Institutional Code 5150 (Involuntary Psychiatric Hold) inmates represents a danger to employees.

Recommendation:

The grand jury recommends that:

The Director of the Madera County Department of Corrections develop and implement an immediate plan to fill vacant positions and hire additional correctional officers.

Respondents:

Director Manuel Perez
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Board of Supervisors
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Informational:

Sheriff-Coroner
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Chief County Probation Officer
Madera County Probation Department
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Director
Madera County Department of Social Services
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