

Madera County Department ofC

2013 - 2014 Madera
County Grand Jury

Madera County Department of Corrections
Madera County Jail



Madera County Grand Jury

P. O. Box 534 Madera,
CA 93639
559-662-0946

May 2, 2014

Manuel Perez, Director
Madera County Department of Corrections
14191 Road 28
Madera, CA 93638

Re: Madera County Department of Corrections

Dear Mr. Perez:

Enclosed please find a copy of the above report by the 2013-2014 Madera County Grand Jury.

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(f), a copy of the report is being provided to you two working days prior to the public release of the report. The public release of the report is scheduled for May 6, 2014. Please note that Penal Code Section 933.05(f) states that "...no officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report".

In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933.05(a) and (b), you shall respond in writing to all **Findings and Recommendations** in the report that address subjects under your control. According to Penal Code Section 933(c), you have 60 days to submit your written responses to the Finding and Recommendations in the report.

Please send your written responses to:

Presiding Judge
Madera County Superior Court
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 534
Madera, CA 93639

If you have any questions please contact me at 559-349-3316.

Sincerely,

Jim Haze, Foreperson
2013-2014 Madera County Grand Jury

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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. *The respondent agrees with the findings.*
2. The increased inmate population and the low level of officer staffing has heightened the potential for an unsafe DOC environment. *The respondent agrees with the findings.*
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. *The respondent agrees with the findings.*
4. The requirement to house California Welfare and Institutional Code 5150 (Involuntary Psychiatric Hold) inmates represents a danger to employees. *The respondent agrees with the findings.*

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.

Human Resource and the CAO are working closely with addressing this issue by making positions available to fill and having a current list available to begin the hiring process. The hiring process takes an average of 4-5 months. I feel the Madera County is making a great effort to recruit but retention due to low pay appears to be a major factor when surrounding counties and CDCR are paying higher salaries for the same job description.

Respondents:

Director Manuel Perez
Madera County Department of Corrections
14191 Road 28
Madera, CA 93638

Chiffon M...
6-3-14

Board of Supervisors 200
West 4* Street Madera,
CA 93637

Informational:

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

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

Director
Madera County Department of Social Services
700 East Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637