



**Madera County Department of Corrections  
2016-2017  
Madera County Grand Jury  
Final Report 1617-04**

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Madera County Department of Corrections**

**Introduction:**

On January 30, 2017, the Grand Jury toured the Madera County Department of Corrections, also known as the jail. The Department of Corrections is located at 14191 Road 28, Madera, California. The Grand Jury was afforded all courtesies and allowed, without restrictions, to visit all requested locations within the jail.

The Grand Jury started the tour by meeting with the Chief (Director), Assistant Chief, a lieutenant and the supervising sergeant. After a brief discussion, the Grand Jury began the tour. Exterior areas observed included: building, grounds and lighting, blacktop and asphalt, and recreation. Interior areas observed included: building, kitchen, dining, exercise, cells/lockup, showers, common area, medical health, mental health, dental health, religious services, visitation, and school classrooms.

The Grand Jury was allowed to interview four inmates during the tour. Each interview was in a private setting and was conducted by two members of the Grand Jury with a single inmate. We also conducted similar interviews with two guards and two of their supervisors.

The jail personnel are charged with ensuring all persons placed in their custody are treated lawfully, humanely and professionally while providing safety to the staff and citizens of the county.

**Facts:**

1. During the late 1970s, the Madera County Board of Supervisors created a Department of Corrections, thus taking control of the jail away from the Sheriff's Department. Madera and Napa Counties are the only two counties of California's 58 counties where the Sheriff's Department does not run the jail.
2. The Madera Department of Corrections has its own staff. As of January 19, 2017, the Chief and his staff are comprised of 122 individuals plus ten vacancies and nine unfunded positions.
3. As of January 19, 2017, the ethnic breakdown of inmate supervisory staff is: six African American, one American Indian, 45 Hispanic, two Other Non-Hispanic, two Asian, two Punjabi and 26 White. The languages spoken by line staff are: English, Hmong, Punjabi and Spanish.
4. As of January 19, 2017, the inmate population was 439. The ethnicity of inmate population was: 34 African American, seven American Indian, 251 Hispanic/Latin/Mexican, one Other, four Other Asian, one Pacific Islander and 141 White. The

- primary language spoken by these inmates is: 342 English, 53 English/Spanish, two Other and 42 Spanish.
5. The jail is a 24 hour, seven day a week operation.
  6. A certain amount of overtime is anticipated and budgeted for annually. The average overtime for staff is approximately 8%.
  7. The average daily numbers of inmate supervisory staff by position per shift are: one watch commander, two intake officers, one officer for each of Modules A, C, D, K, L and M. There are three officers in Maximum Security and one officer overseeing the whole jail in Central Control. The average line staff to inmate ratio is approximately one officer to 33 inmates.
  8. Inmate involved physical altercations in 2016 consisted of 28 “inmate vs. inmate” and 11 “inmate vs. officer” assaults.
  9. As of January 19, 2017, there were 71 inmates in an education program provided by the Madera Unified School District with one full time teacher.
  10. The 2014-2015 Grand Jury published a final report addressing low Correctional Officer pay compared to other counties.

### **Findings:**

1. The jail staff consists of: the Chief, one Assistant Chief, two Lieutenants, seven Sergeants, ten Corporals, 83 Officers, 17 administrative/clerical personnel and one Maintenance Worker.
2. There is sufficient staffing to properly handle the responsibilities of the jail.
3. The inmate supervisory staff is ethnically diverse.
4. Staff overtime is not a problem and varies depending upon several factors such as sick leave, vacation and training.
5. The classroom visited during the tour was observed to be quiet and orderly.
6. Several members of the staff credited the 2014-2015 Grand Jury’s report, which highlighted the jail staff’s low wage scale, as having an influence on increasing their pay scale. The staff believes this increase has assisted the jail by lowering turnover, providing adequate staffing levels, and higher morale.
7. During the tour, there were no concerns observed. The jail is being run efficiently and safely.

### **Recommendations:**

*The Madera County Grand Jury recommends:*

1. That the Madera County Department of Corrections continue to perform as observed.
2. That the Chief and his entire staff be commended for providing an effective custodial environment.

**Respondents:**

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