

## **Madera County Department of Corrections**

**General Information:** The Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) conducted the mandated Detention Facility Inspection at the Madera County Department of Corrections (MCDC), located at 14191 Road 28 in Madera, California on November 14, 2022. The MCDC personnel who conducted the inspection of the facility was both transparent and accommodating of the requests for information and access to the facility for the MCGJ.

**Overview:** In March of 2021, the Madera County Board of Supervisors voted and approved the reunification of the Madera County Department of Corrections and the Madera County Sheriff's Office. In April of 2021, the two departments were consolidated and the elevated Sheriff officially gained oversight and management of the county jail operations.

On November 14, 2022, when the MCGJ inspection was conducted, the population of the facility was 422 inmates, which did not exceed the designed capacity of 504 inmates.

**Staffing:** Staffing ratios are assessed and adjusted in the facility depending on the inmate population, classification, diversity, and special needs of these inmates. Staffing for the 422 inmates at the facility includes 13 to 14 officers on each of three shifts. This provides a ratio of one officer to 31 to 33 inmates on each shift.

**Environmental Conditions:** The exterior and interior of the Administrative and Training portion of the facility are well-maintained, and well-manicured. The main yard is mowed and kept clean. The yard fence is a 12-foot block wall with razor wire on top. A surveillance system is provided in the main yard and throughout the facility.

California State Building and Safety Code, Title 24, requires standards of lighting and temperature to be maintained throughout the facility

**Orientation of Inmates:** The intake area is typically staffed by three officers and one watch commander. Personnel search inmates by pat search, body scan, and metal detectors for any type of contraband. These inmates are divided into three types of cells: intake, safety, and sobering cells. Processing of inmates includes checks for warrants and warrants, photographing, fingerprinting, and booking. Incoming inmates are oriented to the facility both verbally and in written form. Inmate orientation includes topics such as correspondence, visiting, telephone use, inmate grievances, procedures, available programs, how to participate in activities, medical services, housing assignments, court appearances, voting registration, inmate discipline, and rules for the housing facility.

**Housing:** At this detention facility, most inmates have individual cells. Individual cells are a safety measure as many inmates are involved in gangs. Those without gang ties are housed in dorm units of up to 10 inmates. The housing single unit cells and dorms were tidy and well kept.

**Kitchen:** On the day of the inspection, the kitchen was undergoing its biannual deep cleaning including walls, floors, drains, machinery, dry storage room, freezers, and refrigerators.

Inmates working in the kitchen are screened by medical and are trained in culinary safety, the rules of the kitchen, food preparation, proper food storage, hygiene, and cross-contamination.

**Personal Appearance of Inmates:** Inmates throughout the facility were well-groomed, and neatly dressed at all times. Beds were made and had sheets, blankets, and pillows with pillowcases.

**Medical Services:** Medical services for the facility are contracted through Well Path. During the week, the facility staffs one RN, one LVN, one CNA, and one FNP, as well as two mental health clinicians available to handle the needs of the inmates. There are limited dental services available. Over the past year, there were no suicides reported at the detention facility.

### **Educational and Vocational Programs:**

The Correctional Community Transitional Program (CCTP) helps MCDC inmates to successfully reenter society. To accomplish this, many rehabilitative programs, vocational programs, and services are provided. Training on preparing resumes and doing mock job interviews are available. Classes for GED completion, college courses, and completing classes to meet court directives for inmates are all available.

GRID Alternatives Program: Preparing inmates for successful job reentry has been a focus of GRID Central Valley's training program. The GRID program provides inmates with solar installation training through classroom instruction and hands-on experience. After completion of training and release from detention, program participants are able to continue with the program at the non-profit GRID facility.

The MCDC has received a grant to start a vocational welding program and has poured a concrete slab on the main yard for the new welding building. The welding shop will offer more opportunities for job training the inmates at the Madera Department of Corrections.

**Finding:**

1. The MCGJ finds that the Madera County Sheriff Department's operation of the Madera County Jail has done a responsible job implementing programs that provide opportunities for inmates.

**Recommendation:**

1. The MCGJ recommends that the Madera County Sheriff Department's continue to offer job training opportunities for inmates.

Required Respondents: Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.5, MCGJ request responses from the following elected county officials within 60 Days:

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

Sheriff Tyson Pogue  
Madera County Sheriff Headquarters  
2725 Falcon Drive  
Madera, CA 93637

Invited Respondents Pursuant to Penal Code 933 and 933.5, the MCGJ requests responses as follows:

From the following serving bodies within 90 days:

Assistant Sheriff  
2725 Falcon Drive  
Madera, CA 93637

Assistant Chief  
Madera County Jail  
195 Tozer Road  
Madera, CA 93637