

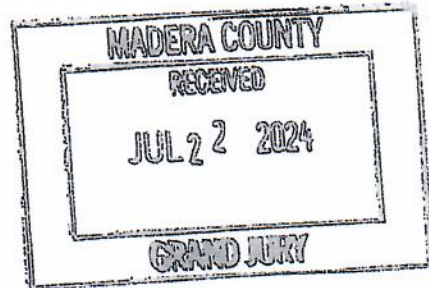


OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Tyson J. Pogue, Sheriff - Coroner

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Michael Jurkovich
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
Madera County Superior Court
200 S. G Street
Madera, CA 93637



Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report #2324-01 titled, "Penal Institutions in Madera County."

In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, this correspondence serves as the Madera County Sheriff's response to the Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) report #2324-01.

I've carefully reviewed your inspection report and appreciate the thorough inspection and evaluation conducted by the Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) on October 27, 2023. We acknowledge the findings and recommendations outlined in the report and offer the following responses:

F1. The MCGJ finds that the daily maintenance routine needs improvement to clean away the cobwebs.

R1. The MCGJ recommends improving the daily maintenance routine to clean away the cobwebs.

While we acknowledge the presence of cobwebs on the exterior of the windows leading to the central housing unit, this does not reflect the overall cleanliness of our facility. We appreciate the MCGJ's recognition of this by describing our facility as "neat and well-maintained." This aligns with our goal of keeping our jail "hospital clean." The feedback we routinely receive from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), who inspect our facility several times a year, consistently highlights that our jail is one of the cleanest in the state.

The accumulation of cobwebs on those windows appears to have been an oversight by the staff. We have addressed this with our team and do not expect any future occurrences of cobweb buildup on these windows.

F2. The MCGJ finds that the worn-out linoleum flooring, cited in 2021-2022, still needs to be addressed and repaired.

R2. The MCGJ recommends that the worn-out linoleum flooring cited in this report be addressed by September 30, 2024.

We acknowledge the condition of the worn-out linoleum flooring in a few of the older areas of our jail, which was previously cited in the 2021-2022 inspection. However, these plans have been delayed due to an anticipated budget shortfall. We remain committed to addressing this issue and will continue to seek funding opportunities to complete the necessary repairs as soon as possible.

F3. The MCGJ finds that the Jail provides relevant training and certification programs for participating inmates.

R3. The MCGJ recommends the current vocational programs continue and consider expanding.

We are pleased with the recognition of our efforts to provide relevant training and certification programs for eligible inmates. We are committed to continuously improving and exploring new vocational programs to offer even more rehabilitation and skill development.

F4. The MCGJ finds that the interaction between correction officers and inmates was respectful.

R4. The MCGJ recommends that the correction officers continue to interact respectfully with inmates.

We appreciate the acknowledgment of the respectful interactions between correctional officers and inmates. We employ a direct supervision philosophy, which involves officers being stationed inside the housing units with inmates rather than being separated by barriers. This approach fosters a more positive and respectful environment, as it allows for more direct communication and interaction. By being present and engaged, our officers can build rapport and trust with inmates, leading to more respectful interactions and a safer facility overall. We are committed to maintaining this philosophy and will continue to provide training and support to our staff to uphold this standard.

In closing, I want to thank the Grand Jury for their time and attention to this important matter. We appreciate your dedicated service to the community and the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations in your report.

Sincerely,



Tyson J. Pogue, Sheriff-Coroner