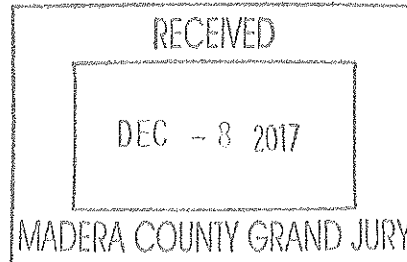




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District 5



November 7, 2017

Presiding Judge, Madera County Grand Jury
Madera, County Superior Court
200 S. G Street
Madera, CA 93637

Subject: Response to the 2016-17 Grand Jury Report entitled "Madera County Department of Corrections"

Honorable Presiding Judge:

Pursuant to the California Penal Code 933.05, the Madera County Board of Supervisors submits this response to the findings and recommendations in the 2016-17 Madera County Grand Jury report entitled "Madera County Department of Corrections." See Attachment #1.

The following are the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations and the Board of Supervisors' responses:

Finding 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.

Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 2:

There is sufficient staffing to properly handle the responsibilities of the jail.

Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 3:

The inmate supervisory staff is ethnically diverse.

Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 4:

Staff overtime is not a problem and varies depending upon several factors such as sick leave, vacation and training.

Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 5:

The classroom visited during the tour was observed to be quiet and orderly.

Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Finding 6:

Several members of the staff credited the 2014-15 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.

Response

Respondent partially disagrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (2). The Grand Jury's 2014-15 report 1415-05, entitled Madera County Department of Corrections is dated June 20, 2015 and recommends, among other things, that the Board of Supervisors increase Correctional Officer salaries. Prior to the issuance of the Grand Jury's report, on March 17, 2015, the Board of Supervisors authorized the initiation of a county-wide salary survey. As outlined in the Board's response to recommendation 1 of the prior report, the results of the salary survey had been received and presented to the Board of Supervisors and the Correctional Officers' bargaining unit at the time of the response on September 22, 2015. While the Grand Jury's influence on Correctional Officer salaries is debatable, Respondent agrees that increased wages for Correctional Officers has had a positive impact on employee turnover, staffing levels and employee morale.

Finding 7:

During the tour, there were no concerns observed. The jail is being run efficiently and safely.

Response

Respondent agrees with the finding per California Penal Code 933.05 (a) (1).

Recommendation 1:

That the Madera County Department of Corrections continue to perform as observed.

Recommendation 2:

That the Chief and his entire staff be commended for providing an effective custodial environment.

Response

Respondent agrees with Recommendations 1 and 2.

The Board acknowledges the Grand Jury's review and time involved in this matter, and appreciates the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Rodriguez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Max Rodriguez
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors