

Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury

Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility Behind the Walls: Oversight and Observations of the Detention System

June 2, 2025



Courtesy of <https://www.dewberry.com/projects/calaveras-county-adult-detention-facility-and-sheriff-s-administration-building>

SUMMARY

The Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury (CCCGJ) is required by law to inquire into the condition and management of detention centers within the County on an annual basis. There are two adult detention centers, Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility (CCADF) and Vallecito Conservation Camp #1, located within Calaveras County.

This report summarizes the CCCGJ's inquiry into the Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility. CCCGJ found the adult detention facility was very clean, organized, efficiently run and well maintained. CCCGJ was left with a favorable impression of the Sheriff's Office and CCADF officers for their professionalism, compassion and commitment to their jobs as well as to the inmates. The "tone from the top" is apparent and the staff demonstrates empathy while holding inmates accountable. Their mannerisms and interactions with the inmates are positive and create an environment of mutual respect and collaboration.

GLOSSARY

BSCC	Board of State and Community Corrections
CCADF	Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility
CCCGJ	Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCSO	Calaveras County Sheriff's Office

METHODOLOGY

Section 919(b) of the Penal Code mandates that the grand jury inquire into the conditions of any public prison within the county. Sections 919(a), 925 and 925(a) authorize the grand jury to investigate county and city jails and other detention facilities within their jurisdiction. The Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury (CCCGJ) requested and reviewed state and county inspection reports of the Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility (CCADF) from the last two years. CCCGJ also reviewed the established policies and procedures, and logs (e.g., safety cell, grievances, personnel training).

CCCGJ also toured the detention facility and had an opportunity to speak to Sheriff's Office personnel and inmates and had an opportunity to confirm practices were in line with current policies and procedures.

BACKGROUND

The California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is a state regulatory agency that establishes and promulgates standards for the construction, operation and administration of local detention facilities. These standards are found in Title 15 and Title 24, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility (CCADF), located at 1045 Jeff Tuttle Drive in San Andreas, is a modern facility designed to meet current standards for inmate housing and rehabilitation. The facility houses up to 160 inmates within six separate pods that include double-bunked cells, rehabilitation program space, open communal space and outdoor recreation areas. The facility also includes a full-service kitchen, separate medical care areas, laundry, and tunnel

access between the detention facility and the county courthouse for inmate transport. The CCADF has financial contracts in place to house inmates from other counties should it be needed.

The Calaveras County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) oversees the operation of the detention facility, ensuring the safety and security of inmates and staff while providing essential services and programs aimed at rehabilitation and successful reintegration of inmates into the community after time served. The Sheriff's Office administration components include an emergency dispatch and operations center, evidence processing and storage area, interview rooms, locker rooms, public assembly space and staff communal area. The jail building contains electronic safety and security control systems which consist of an intercom, video visitation capabilities, interview recording and video surveillance.

DISCUSSION

The Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury (CCCGJ) found the adult detention facility was very clean, organized, efficiently run and well maintained. Sheriff's Office personnel were transparent, professional and interactions with the inmates were respectful.

Inmates have access to portable tablets that allow them to view the meals for the month, order commissary goods and access personal entertainment. Video conferencing capabilities in dedicated spaces provide inmates with privacy between their medical and legal teams. Each pod has a communal area where inmates can lounge and watch television or spend time interacting with other inmates and playing games, reading and/or listening to music. There are dedicated rooms where classes are held to support rehabilitation and reintroduction back into society. Meals prepared by jail and inmate staff are pre-defined for the month and reviewed by a nutritionist to ensure they meet minimum requirements.

CCCGJ reviewed various logs and found safety checks and headcounts are routinely performed. Inmate time-out-of-cell exceeds the minimum regulatory requirements, and review of inmate grievances found that they were appropriately documented and addressed by Sheriff's Office personnel.

One of the challenges faced by the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office is the retention of officers. Adjacent counties offer higher salaries which often pull Calaveras County officers to new opportunities.

FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS, RESPONDENTS

Pursuant to Penal Code §933 and §933.05, the Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury requires responses within 60 days from elected county official(s), and within 90 days from governing bodies. In order to be included and published in the next CCCGJ report, invited responses must be received within 90 days.

After conducting interviews and reviewing documents, CCCGJ's findings and recommendations are as follows:

F1: Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury was left with a very positive opinion of the Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility. The facility is well run, clean and properly maintained, and is

being operated in an efficient manner by committed officers and staff. Inmates are treated in a safe and humane manner.

Required Response

Calaveras County Sheriff's Office

COMMENDATIONS

C1: Calaveras County Civil Grand Jury commends the Sheriff's Office and Calaveras County Adult Detention Facility officers for their professionalism, compassion and commitment to their jobs as well as to the inmates. The "tone from the top" is apparent and the staff demonstrates empathy while holding inmates accountable. Their mannerism and interactions with the inmates are positive and create an environment of mutual respect and collaboration.

DISCLAIMER

Reports issued by the Civil Grand Jury do not identify the individuals interviewed. Penal Code §929 requires that reports of the Civil Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Civil Grand Jury.

REFERENCED SOURCES

Board of State and Community Corrections. Accessed on April 6, 2025.

<https://www.bscc.ca.gov/>.

Calaveras County Sheriff's Office. Accessed on April 6, 2025. <https://sheriff.calaverasgov.us/>.