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CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Committee (C&JJ) reviews and investigates complaints regarding criminal justice agencies within Sacramento County. C&JJ also fulfills the requirement of Penal Code Section 919(b) which states: "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." The Grand Jury meets this requirement by touring all the correctional facilities in Sacramento County.

Folsom State Prison Tour

Background

Folsom State Prison (FSP) occupies 40 acres of an 882-acre state-owned plot within the City of Folsom in eastern Sacramento County. FSP, commonly known as "Old Folsom", was constructed in 1880. It lies in a hilly, rural area of what could easily be described as parkland. Its age gives it a rich history, but creates logistic problems when friction arises among inmates. Its structure does not allow for portions of the prison to be "locked down" or segregated. If "lock-down" is necessary, the entire prison must be treated as a single unit.

The annual budget for FSP exceeds \$114 million. The largest expense is personnel. There are 1,132 employees, over half of whom are sworn correctional officers.

California classifies state prisoners by the level of security each inmate requires. Level I requires the lowest level of security. Level IV inmates require the highest level. Inmates of levels II and III account for over 75% of the FSP population. The prison was designed to hold 3,410 inmates. In mid-October, 2007, the total FSP inmate count was 4,048.

Each month, on average, the same number of inmates enter the facility as are released or transferred elsewhere within California. A small number of inmates are transferred to out-of-state facilities. Those first selected for out-of-state transfer are inmates who volunteer. Next are those who are on immigration holds and third, those on potential immigration holds.

During the month of September, 2007, there were 792 dental, 4,603 medical, and 1,483 mental health appointments scheduled. On any given day 52% of inmates are taking some kind of medication (prescribed or over the counter). The Grand Jury was advised during its tour that a planned computer-based medical records system will improve medical care.

FSP does not have its own kitchen. All meals are prepared at nearby California State Prison-Sacramento ("New Folsom") and delivered to FSP where they are re-heated. Some complaints about food "not being hot enough" were heard.

FSP provides opportunities for education, vocational skills, and behavioral skill training for inmates. Academic Programs include English Language Development and Adult Basic Education at three skill levels. Inmates have the opportunity to earn a General Education