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**HEALTH &  
WELFARE**

## **MAIN JAIL INSPECTION**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Main Jail was built in the 1960's in the collinear style with all cells in a row. It is a four story building with a fenced exercise yard on the fourth floor. The Sheriff's Offices are on the main floor. Janitorial functions are performed by the staff and inmates. The Main Jail is no longer inspected by the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Title 15 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations because of its age. Maintenance was reduced due to the premise that a new facility was in the planning stages.

### **REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:**

Penal Code §919(a) and §919(b) of the California Code authorizes the Grand Jury to inquire into jails and public prisons within the county. Verbal complaints by two inmates were made to members of the Grand Jury during the investigation of a non-related complaint. The nature of the verbal complaint were the deplorable conditions of all showers, toilet areas, and inmate common areas.

### **METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:**

The Grand Jury inspected the Main Jail on September 18, 2014 with subsequent visits on October 27, 2014 and December 18, 2014. All inspections of toilet areas, showers, and inmate common areas were unannounced. The Grand Jury requested all maintenance records.

### **FACTS:**

#### **SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 – FIRST VISIT**

1. Paint falling from ceiling and walls.
2. Black Algae and mildew in the corners of the showers.
3. Gang writing on the toilet stall walls in black pen.
4. Soap spots all over toilets.
5. Six used bars of soap were found on the shower floors.
6. Several mats missing from the showers. The existing mats were tattered and in a filthy condition.
7. Shower curtains were torn, ripped and in poor condition.
8. Showerheads leaking.
9. Used disposable razors laying around.
10. Water on the floor from the shower overflowing into the adjacent room.
11. Rust on metal in showers.

**OCTOBER 27, 2014 – SECOND VISIT**

1. Rusting vents in the shower areas.
2. Rust on metal in showers.
3. Several mats missing from the showers. The existing mats were tattered and in a filthy condition.
4. Paint falling from ceilings and walls.
5. Black Algae and mildew in the corners of the showers.
6. Excessive scum was present in the toilet and shower areas.
7. Shower curtains were torn, ripped and in poor condition.
8. Shower exhaust fans were rusted and basically non-useable.
9. Paint was peeling from the ceilings, walls and floors.
10. Floor drains were partially clogged because of paint chips, soap, and hair scum.
11. There was a distinct odor within the shower area.
12. Policies or procedures related to cleaning inmate facilities were not available.

**DECEMBER 18, 2014 – THIRD VISIT**

1. Efforts have been made to remove Black Algae, mildew, and scum.
2. A policy and procedure was established following the October 27, 2014 inspection.
3. Shower curtains have been changed.
4. New shower stall mats have been ordered.
5. Shower ceilings and walls have been scraped of all loose paint.
6. New procedures requires staff and inmates to clean inmate facilities two to three times per day.
7. Temporary fans are now being utilized to help circulate air near the shower areas.
8. Bids are being accepted as of January 2015, for all specified improvements.
9. The County is utilizing a product called “Bathroom Brite E-San 64” for cleaning the showers at the Main Jail.
10. A Weekly and Daily Maintenance Log is now being utilized.
11. The following is a copy of the Daily Maintenance Log form.

**TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 2014-2015**

**Tulare County Main Jail Facility**

**Floor:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Location</b>	<b>Complete</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Elevator Landing		Swept, mopped, walls wiped down and free of all debris
Bull Pen / Deputies Office		Swept, mopped, walls wiped down and free of all debris
Tier One Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Tier Two Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Tier Three Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Tier Four Cell Areas		Enforce Inmate Rules and Regulations. Cells clean, beds made, walls free of all debris and contraband
Showers / Lights / Plumbing Chase		Clean after each use, free of all debris including used soap, trash and excess water. Upon completion of daily showers, detailed cleaning will be conducted by utilizing the appropriate chemicals/supplies.
Barbershop		Swept, mopped, walls wiped down and free of all debris. Hair clippers shall be secured inside office when not in use.

**Deputy:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# **TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 2014-2015**

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## **FINDINGS:**

- F1. During the first inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers, toilet areas, and common areas in poor condition.
- F2. During the second inspection, the Grand Jury found the showers, toilet areas, and common areas had minimal improvements.
- F3. Distinct odor gave problems with air quality during the second inspection; several members of the Grand Jury inspection team experienced eye irritation, difficulty breathing and coughing during and for a short time after leaving the facility.
- F4. Tulare County Grand Jury is also concerned about air quality within the building for the inmates and the Sheriff's Deputies.
- F5. Prior to the third inspection, the Sheriff Department had developed Weekly and Daily Maintenance Logs due to the request of the Grand Jury following the second inspection.
- F6. During the third visit there were noticeable improvements in the air quality of the showers and toilet areas.
- F7. During the third inspection, the Grand Jury discovered conditions had dramatically improved.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- R1. Continue to follow the new policies and procedures as established by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.
- R2. The Tulare County Sheriff's Office needs to follow-up on systematic monitoring of air quality.
- R3. Continue to pursue contract process for Main Jail improvements.

## **REQUIRED RESPONSES:**

- 1. Sheriff – Coroner
- 2. Board of Supervisors

### **Disclaimer**

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).

## **TAKING CARE OF OUR VETERANS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Tulare County Veterans Services Office (TCVSO) provides services to veterans and their family members regarding pensions and claims. The TCVSO is the local advocate for the veterans. All services are free to the veterans. Veterans can walk in and get an Identification Card, and immediately file a claim for benefits.

### **REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:**

The Grand Jury maintains a history of investigating county agencies. The 2014-2015 Tulare County Grand Jury reviewed the operations and facilities of the TCVSO.

### **METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:**

In September 2014, members of the Grand Jury took a tour of the Veterans Service Office. Members of the Grand Jury also interviewed representatives from Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency.

### **FACTS:**

1. The TCVSO is a part of the Aging Services Department of the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, but their salaries are reimbursed by the Veterans Administration to Tulare County.
2. Office hours are Monday – Thursday 7:30am – 5:00pm and Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm. The TCVSO requests that a client attempt to make an appointment by calling (559) 684-4960, but they will take walk-ins.
3. TCVSO serves all of Tulare County; however, most clients live in Visalia, Tulare and Porterville.
4. To be credentialed as a Veterans Service Representative, an individual must receive training by an organization such as Cal-Vet or the Order of the Purple Heart. The American Legion will also grant accreditation to qualified individuals.
5. Training conferences are held three times a year for five days each. Training is rotated among the staff each year. Staff must attend training each year to maintain 16 Continuing Education Units (CEU) to retain National Accreditation. The Supervisor has seven different accreditations and each of the Service Representatives have two accreditations at the time of the Grand Jury visit.
6. A Veterans Service Officer writes an article for the Visalia and Tulare newspapers every third Saturday, and on the Health and Human Services website for veterans.
7. In Fiscal Year 2013-2014, the TCVSO assisted a total of 2,611 veterans, which averaged 218 per month and 11 per day.