

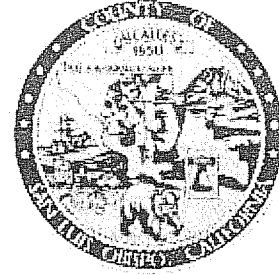
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 6/4/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Geoff O'Quest 805-781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve recommended responses from the Sheriff and Probation Department to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report."			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board:  (1) Accept and file recommended responses from the Sheriff-Coroner to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report"; (2) Approve recommended responses from the Probation Department to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report"; and (3) Forward the approved response from the Sheriff and Probation Department to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury by June 23, 2013.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT {X} Consent    { } Presentation    { } Hearing (Time Est. ____ )    { } Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions    { } Contracts    { } Ordinances    {X} N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: { } 4/5th's Vote Required    {X} N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY {X} N/A    Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW This item was prepared by the County Administrative Office.			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

*JSM*  
*EU*

Received  
6/9/13

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Administrative Office / Geoff O'Quest  
805-781-5011

DATE: 6/4/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve recommended responses from the Sheriff and Probation Department to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report."

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board:

- (1) Accept and file recommended responses from the Sheriff-Coroner to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report";
- (2) Approve recommended responses from the Probation Department to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report"; and
- (3) Forward the approved response from the Sheriff and Probation Department to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury by June 23, 2013.

## DISCUSSION

On April 23, 2013, the Grand Jury issued a report on "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report." This report presents the 2012-13 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury's inquiry into the conditions and management of the San Luis Obispo County Jail, San Luis Obispo County Juvenile Hall, and city and county temporary holding facilities. State law (PC 19(b)) mandates that "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Authorization extends to interviewing inmates and reviewing inmates' grievances. The 2011-12 report contains 12 findings and six recommendations.

In addition to its findings and recommendations, the report commends the high degree of professionalism of management and Correctional Officers at the Jail and at the Juvenile Hall, including the prompt response of management to follow-up questions posed by the Grand Jury and their prompt efforts to correct noted problems. The Grand Jury commends the Sheriff's staff for opening the Women's Honor Farm and for the development of educational and vocational programs for the Honor Farm inmates. Sheriff's staff are also commended for developing programs at the Men's Honor Farm that aim to reduce recidivism. The Grand Jury commends the Jail kitchen personnel for their Juvenile Hall health menus and the volunteers at the Juvenile Hall. Volunteers at the Jail and Juvenile Hall are also commended.

The report requires the responses to Findings and Recommendations as identified below. The response from each department is attached to this staff report.

### Sheriff-Coroner:

**Finding #1.** Overcrowding at the Jail remains a problem. Many inmates sleep in plastic "boats" or mattresses on the floors.

**Finding #10.** Correctional officers at the Courthouse do not have ready access to restroom facilities.

**Finding #11.** Inmates in wheelchairs are transported to holding cells through the public corridors of the

Courthouse.

**Finding #12.** Video surveillance systems are out-of-date in the Courthouse area.

**Recommendation #1.** Plans to build the new women's jail should remain a top priority.

**Recommendation #4.** Courthouse Correctional Officers should explore an alternative route for wheelchair bound prison inmates other than through public corridors.

**Recommendation #5.** Improve staff restroom facilities in the County Courthouse holding cells by using AB 109 funds.

**Recommendation #6.** Install a new surveillance system in the County courthouse holding cells by using AB 109 funds.

Probation Department:

**Finding #6.** The Juvenile Hall Handbook, on the website, concerning the use of the coupon system continues to be inaccurate.

**Recommendation #2.** The Juvenile Hall Handbook on the website should be updated.

Responses from the Sheriff and Probation Department are due to the Presiding Judge by June 23, 2013. No response is required from the Board of Supervisors. The County Administrative Office procedures include coordinating the departmental responses to Grand Jury reports and preparing recommended responses on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. The departmental responses to this Grand Jury report are attached and, where appropriate, incorporated as the Board's response.

**OTHER DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The Grand Jury inspected the County Jail, Juvenile Hall, the County Courthouse holding facility, and all seven city police departments within San Luis Obispo County. The County Administrative Office reviewed the responses to the Grand Jury report prepared by the Sheriff and the Probation Department in the development of the recommended Board response to this report.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no financial considerations associated with this item.

**RESULTS**

This response will meet the legal requirements and time frames for responding to a Grand Jury report with findings and recommendations.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Sheriff's response to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report"
3. Probation's response to the Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report"
2. Grand Jury's 2012-13 report "County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and Holding Cells: Inspection and Information Report"

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: COUNTY JAIL, JUVENILE HALL AND HOLDING CELLS

Report Date: APRIL 24, 2013

Authorized Responder and Agency SHERIFF-CORONER IAN PARKINSON

SAN LUIS OBISPO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 1, 5, 11, 12, 10
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

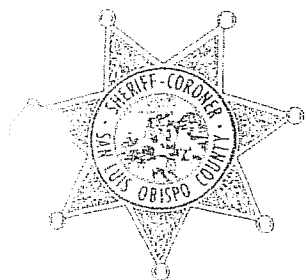
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 2 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered 1, 6 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered 4, 5 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 5-20-13 Signed: Ian Parkinson

Number of pages attached 4



## San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office

1585 Kansas Avenue • San Luis Obispo • California • 93405

www.slosheriff.org

Ian S. Parkinson  
Sheriff - Coroner

May 20, 2013

The Honorable Barry LaBarbera  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California  
1050 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408

**RE: Grand Jury 2012-2013 Report**

Dear Judge LaBarbera:

I have reviewed the 2012-2013 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report regarding their inspection of the San Luis Obispo County Jail and Courthouse Holding Facility. My response to their findings and recommendations are as follows:

**County Jail:**

Finding

1. *"Overcrowding at the Jail remains a problem. Many inmates sleep in plastic boats or mattresses on the floors."*

The respondent agrees with the finding with the clarification that many inmates sleep in plastic boats with mattresses. In order to address current limitations on our physical space needs we need to continue to find additional housing for male and female inmates. We anticipate construction of the new female jail beginning in November 2013. We have refurbished two modular units to house female inmates. This housing unit is used as a female honor farm, similar to the men's honor farm. This has helped reduce overcrowding in the female jail and allowed for more programming to reduce the recidivism rate. Once the new female jail is built, these modular units will be considered for male housing.

The Sheriff's Office has also increased the number of male inmates housed at the male honor farm. We continue to increase our Home Detention Program (HDP) so we can provide more opportunities for minimum security/low risk inmates with sentences of 20 days or more to participate in these programs. This alternative to incarceration partially relieves the jail of overcrowding and allows eligible offenders an opportunity to reintegrate into the community in a supervised context while continuing to serve their time.

---

Administration (805) 781-4540 • 24-hour Dispatch (805) 781-4550

## Finding

5. *"There is contradictory information about contraband in the jail."*

The respondent believes that the contradictory information was probably a result of different perspectives of the problem. Contraband is and will continue to be a problem for all jails, including ours. However, over the past year significant improvements have been made and creative ways explored to detect and discourage contraband from entering the jail. Last year the Sheriff's Office reinstated a strip search policy for all inmates entering housing units. Prior to this change inmates were only strip searched when specific reasonable suspicion existed. This previous policy was a result of a law suit in Ventura County. That case was further researched and determined and supported by County Counsel not to be relevant to our procedure. Today all inmates, male and female, that enter the housing units are strip searched. In addition the Sheriff's Office purchased a detection K-9 for the jail. This is a drug search only K-9 and has been successful in locating narcotics smuggled into the jail.

It is believed that much of what comes into the jail comes in by the inmates secreting the items in a body orifice. This makes it very difficult to locate. The law does not permit a cavity search of an inmate without first obtaining a court issued search warrant. A search warrant for this purpose must be supported by probable cause and because of the intrusive nature of such a search warrant is considered difficult to obtain and only utilized for extreme cases.

Last year the Sheriff's Office did a thorough evaluation of technology used by airports for the detection of concealed items. Unfortunately, we determined that this device would not help us with our problem and the only other viable alternative was x-ray. The exposure to x-ray would be far too harmful to the inmate and staff, thus this idea was not pursued.

### **Courthouse Holding Facility:**

## Finding

10. *"Correctional officers at the Courthouse do not have ready access to restroom facilities."*

The respondent agrees with the finding. The part of the court building that houses the Sheriff's Office holding facilities is maintained by the State of California and it is a matter for the State of California to address. These recommendations have been made; however do to the State's budget issues it is not possible at this time.

### Finding

11. *"Inmates in wheelchairs are transported to holding cells through the public corridors of the Courthouse."*

The respondent agrees with the finding. This problem is created due to limitations of the current building structure of the courthouse. Currently, there are only staircases that access the courtrooms directly from the holding cells. Once again, the part of the building that is used by the Sheriff's Office is maintained by the State of California and this will require structural changes that would facilitate an alternative route (elevator) from the holding cells to the courtrooms for inmates in wheelchairs. These recommendations have been made; however do to the State's budget issues; it is not possible at this time.

### Finding

12. *"Video surveillance systems are out of date in the Courthouse holding area."*

The respondent agrees with the finding. We have begun the process of replacing several of our video surveillance systems including the one at the courthouse. We have replaced some of the video surveillance system in the main jail and honor farm. In 2012, we consolidated our video storage to one location. We anticipate the replacement of these cameras in 2013 by our Information Technology (IT) personnel. Staff is creating a priority list of our IT projects, and this project is on that list. One of the goals of this project is to have one system with a centralized storage location that will allow IT personnel to more efficiently manage all of our video surveillance systems.

### Recommendation

1. *"Plans to build the new woman's jail should remain a top priority."*

The respondent agrees with the recommendation. This project remains a top priority and the Sheriff's Office tentatively plans to break ground on the project in November 2013.

### Recommendation

2. *"Vigilance and strategies for contraband detection should be increased during jail admitting and visitation process."*

The Sheriff's Office agrees that the detection of contraband should remain a top priority. As stated in an earlier response, the Sheriff's Office has taken all steps allowable by law to detect and prevent contraband from entering the jail. The Sheriff's Office will continue to look for creative ways to prevent contraband but are limited by law and the US Constitution.

Recommendation

4. *“Courthouse Correctional Officers should explore an alternative route for wheel-chair bound prison inmates other than through public corridors.”*

This recommendation has been previously explored for wheelchair bound inmates, but Correctional Deputies are confined by the current physical layout of the Courthouse and no alternative routes are available. Structural changes would be needed to the existing building to facilitate an alternative route.

Recommendation

5. “Improve staff restroom facilities in the County Courthouse holding cells by using AB 109 funds.”

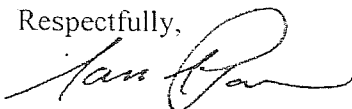
The Sheriff’s Office would like to improve the courthouse holding facilities, by adding a restroom. However, the use of AB109 money to make these facility changes would not be an appropriate use of AB109 money. AB109 money is given to the County in order to cover the cost of AB109 inmates and to reduce the recidivism of these inmates. Facility upgrades do not accomplish this goal. This upgrade is considered a convenience and is a cost that the State can’t afford at this time.

Recommendation

6. “Install a new surveillance system in the County Courthouse holding cells by using AB109 funds.”

The Sheriff’s Office remains committed to replacing the video cameras in the courthouse holding facility. Unfortunately the use of AB109 for this need is not an appropriate use of AB109 money. The Sheriff’s Office has funding for this project, however due to other priorities has not been able to complete the upgrade yet. It is our plan to have the cameras upgraded this calendar year.

Respectfully,



Ian S. Parkinson  
Sheriff-Coroner

# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

*“Protection, Service & Accountability”*

Main Office (805) 781-5300 ~ 1730 Bishop Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Juvenile Services Center\* (805) 781-5352 ~ 1065 Kansas Avenue, San Luis Obispo  
Juvenile Hall\* (805) 781-5389 ~ 1065 Kansas Avenue, in San Luis Obispo

**\*Mailing Address:**

Juvenile Services Center and Juvenile Hall - SLO County Government Center~ Attn: Probation JSC ~ 1050 Monterey Street ~ San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



James E. Salio  
Chief Probation Officer

**TO:** Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst

**FROM:** Jim Salio, Chief Probation Officer

**SUBJECT:** Response to 2012/2013 Grand Jury Report

**DATE:** May 2, 2013

The 2012-2013 Grand Jury report on the County Jail, Juvenile Hall and Holding Cells requested a response by the Probation Department to Finding number six “The Juvenile Hall Handbook, on the website, concerning the “use of the coupon system continues to be inaccurate”, and to Recommendation number three “The Juvenile Hall Handbook on the website should be updated.”

**The Probation Department agrees with Finding number six.**

The Grand Jury is correct. An older version of the Juvenile Hall Handbook was inadvertently posted on the Probation Department’s website.

**The Probation Department has implemented Recommendation number three.**

The most recent version of the Juvenile Hall Handbook has been posted on the Probation Department’s website. In the future, updates to the Juvenile Hall Handbook will be posted on the Probation Department’s website.