



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Response to the

**2013 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury
Interim Final Report No. 9**

August 26, 2014

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REPORT TITLE: Detention Facilities Inspections: **Monterey County Jail**
RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors
RESPONSE TO: Findings F-1, F-2, and F-3

Finding F-1: The Sheriff's Department is trying to address the complexities of accepting new prisoners with extended sentences. Also, there is an increased need for housing that reflects the classification and segregation of gang members. Contrary to initial expectations, AB 109 has not yet impacted the jail population. It is, however, anticipated to have an impact on the jail population as more prisoners who would have been sentenced to the state prison are now being sentenced to the County Jail.

***Response F-1:** The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding. The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff's response that is difficult at this point to draw any distinct correlation between AB 109 and inmate populations at the County Jail. However, the County likely would see greater impacts to our inmate population if it were not for a variety of programs recently implemented by my administration and our County justice partners to mitigate the effects of AB 109. The County Administrative Office will continue to work with the Sheriff's Office and the Justice Partners on dealing with the jail population issues at the County Jail.*

Finding F-2: The inmate population differs from that originally intended to be housed in the facility. The majority of the inmates are now medium to high security risks and are being incarcerated prior to trial.

***Response F-2:** The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.*

Finding F-3: The Monterey County Jail is being transformed, by prisoner transfers, from a jail into a local prison facility. It was not designed and is not staffed to be a prison.

***Response F-3:** The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.*

REPORT TITLE: Detention Facilities Inspections: **Monterey County Jail**
RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors
RESPONSE TO: Recommendations R-1, R-3, and R-4

Recommendation R-1: The Sherriff's Office and the Probation Department should work with Superior Court Judges to increase the number of blended sentences, thus shortening the actual time that low-level offenders would be housed in County Jail.

***Response R-1:** The recommendation will not be implemented. Superior Court judges are independently responsible for sentencing in accordance with the law. However, the County's Justice Partners work in close partnership with the Superior Court to develop new programs such as the Probation Department's revised presentence investigation report to align terms and conditions with their respective needs and determine the appropriateness of sentencing options, including blended sentences.*

Recommendation R-3: The Probation Department should establish a unit to investigate and screen arrested individuals to aid the court in determining candidates for their own recognizance or reduced bail release from County Jail pending trial.

***Response R-3:** The recommendation has been implemented by Probation. Since October 2012, Probation has established and staffed a Pretrial Services Unit within its Adult Division to screen and assess arrested individuals pending trial, gather information, and prepare reports to the Courts with recommendations. If released with conditions, Probation monitors compliance.*

Recommendation R-4: The County Jail expansion should move forward and be completed as soon as possible, as the longer the delay the greater the chance that when completed the jail expansion will not adequately house the anticipated jail population increase.

***Response R-4:** The recommendation has been implemented. The 576-bed jail expansion is a top priority for the Sheriff's Office and the County. The Board of Supervisors has approved the matching funds that were needed to move this expansion project forward. The County is currently finalizing the environmental review phase of the project and is well into the design phase. The project is on schedule pursuant to the State grant requirements. The County has obtained an AB 900 jail construction grant award in the amount of \$80.0 million.*

REPORT TITLE: Detention Facilities Inspections: **Juvenile Hall**
RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors
RESPONSE TO: Findings F-1 and F-2

Finding F-1: The current Juvenile Hall facility is antiquated and needs to be replaced with a new facility as soon as possible.

Response F-1: *The respondent agrees with the finding.*

Finding F-2: The Chief Probation Officer should be commended for obtaining \$35 million for funding the construction of a new Juvenile Hall.

Response F-2: *The respondent agrees with the finding. The successful grant application has been a collaboration between CAO's Office, Resource Management Agency (RMA) and Probation, supported by advocacy activities with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to recognize Monterey County's needs as urgent priority.*

REPORT TITLE: Detention Facilities Inspections: **Juvenile Hall**
RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors
RESPONSE TO: Recommendation R-1

Recommendation R-1: The Board of Supervisors should move forward as soon as possible with the construction of a new facility.

***Response R-1:** The recommendation is partially implemented and efforts are on-going. The construction of a new Juvenile Hall is one of the County's Capital Projects priorities. County partners have been working with the architectural firm on the planning phase, with anticipated Project Establishment by the State in November 2014.*

REPORT TITLE: Detention Facilities Inspections: **Youth Center**
RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors
RESPONSE TO: Findings F-1, F-2 and F3

Finding F-1: The Youth Center initiated new policies and improvements to the physical facility and exterior fence to address the problems identified in 2011.

***Response F-1:** The respondent agrees with the finding. All procedures identified in 2011 as needing improvement have been implemented.*

Finding F-2: The current capacity is limited to 60 youth by the Probation Department.

***Response F-2:** The respondent agrees with the finding.*

Finding F-3: The current design and funding for the new Juvenile Hall does not include moving the operations of the Youth Center to the new proposed Juvenile Hall.

***Response F-3:** The respondent agrees with the finding. Design and funding are based on the State-approved application for a new Juvenile Hall facility only.*

REPORT TITLE: Detention Facilities Inspections: **Youth Center**
RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors
RESPONSE TO: Recommendations R-1 and R-2

Recommendation R-1: The current Youth Center is meeting the needs of the Probation Department.

***Response R-1:** The recommendation has been implemented. Implementation of new policies and procedures, in addition to improvements to the physical facility and exterior fence, have addressed the problems identified in 2011.*

Recommendation R-2: Any discussion for converting the Youth Center to a Community Center should include funding for building a new facility to house the Youth Center.

***Response R-2:** The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be considered in future discussions, to ensure fiscal responsibility and align with County priorities. Preliminary discussions on the feasibility of a new Youth Center facility have included the need to obtain adequate funding for the project.*