

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPONSE TO  
GRAND JURY REPORT NO. 0804:  
REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF DETENTION FACILITIES  
IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

**FINDINGS**

1. All the facilities inspected were found to meet or exceed the minimum inspection standards established by the State of California Corrections Standards Authority (CSA).

**Response:** *Agree.*

2. Fees charged to detainees that qualify for the work-release program substantially support the Custody Alternative Facility in Martinez. In 2006, fees collected from detainees totaled more than \$1 million, nearly 50% of the cost of operating the facility.

**Response:** *Agree.*

3. In 2006, detainees served approximately 118,000 custody alternative days. Had the detainees been obligated to serve their sentences in a detention facility, the additional cost to the county would have been approximately \$13.5 million.

**Response:** *Agree, with the clarification that 118,000 custody days at the 2006 calculated daily jail rate represents a cost of \$13.5 million. More significantly, absent the work alternative program, the average daily detention population would increase by 323 inmates, which would impact the maximum population limits in each facility.*

4. The entrance road leading to the Marsh Creek Detention Facility lacks a security gate and entrance monitoring security cameras. Such security devices would reduce the opportunities for contraband to enter the facility.

**Response:** *Agree.*

5. The design of the sewage drainage systems at the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities makes them vulnerable to inmate sabotage.

**Response:** *Agree.*

6. The orientation video shown to new inmates in the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities is recorded in English only.

**Response:** *Agree.*

7. The Martinez Detention Facility is the sole operational intake (i.e., processing) center for all County inmates. The area designed to handle West County Detention Facility processing of new inmates is not staffed. West County sheriff's deputies and West County police department officers are required to transport detainees to the Martinez Detention Facility rather than the West County Detention Facility for processing.

**Response:** *Agree.*

8. The West County Detention Facility has limited medical services as compared with the Martinez Detention Facility.

**Response:** *Agree.*

9. Classrooms in Juvenile Hall lack security cameras. The cameras would allow the staff to more closely monitor the classroom activities and reduce the number of disruptive incidents.

**Response:** *Agree. At the request of the County Office of Education, no cameras are installed in the classrooms at Juvenile Hall.*

10. The Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility is not an option for juveniles undergoing psychotropic drug therapy due to the lack of qualified, on-site, round the clock medical staff to monitor and manage such detainees.

**Response:** *Agree.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2007/2008 Contra Costa County Grand Jury recommends:

1. That the Sheriff expands wherever possible the use of the Custody Alternative Facility.

**Response:** *The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff has expressed his commitment to prioritize the use of custody alternatives and to expand the scope of those alternatives to encompass drug abuse treatment and prevention programs.*

2. That within six months of this report, the Sheriff works with the General Service Department to accomplish the installation of an electrically operated gate and security cameras at the entrance to the Marsh Creek Detention Facility.

**Response:** *The recommendation requires further analysis. Multiple options could be implemented to deter the infiltration of contraband in the Facility, including gates, cameras, and layered perimeter fencing. The General Services Department will prepare a cost estimate for the various options within six months. Affordable options will be implemented, subject to the County's Adopted Budget.*

3. That within six months of this report, the Sheriff works with the General Services Department to complete a feasibility study and to secure proposals that cover the available alternatives to alleviate the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities' sewage drainage systems' vulnerability.

**Response:** *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Staff at the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities has increased its diligence in tracking inmate clothing and bedding since a flooding incident at the MDF in September 2007. Additionally, the General Services Department has installed devices at the MDF, in areas where feasible, to limit the number of toilet flushes per hour and has installed timers on showers to limit the opportunities for inmate sabotage.*

*The General Services Department has determined that modifications needed to improve the integrity of the sewage drainage system would require structural changes to the detention facility itself, which are not feasible.*

4. That within six months of this report, the Sheriff obtains and uses additional copies of the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities inmate orientation videotape to include any other languages that account for a significant percentage of the inmate population.

***Response:*** *The recommendation has been implemented. Spanish versions have been completed and are being loop-played after the English version. The Sheriff will continue to monitor changes in inmate demographics and make adjustments in informational programming as needed.*

5. That within six months of this report, the Sheriff completes a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of making the West County Detention Facility intake area fully operational.

***Response:*** *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Operating the West County intake area has been studied repeatedly since the West County Detention Facility opened 17 years ago. The County recently completed a budget balancing process that required significant service reductions, elimination of staff positions, and employee layoffs. When the County's fiscal position improves, millions of dollars will be required to restore critical County services that were reduced or eliminated. The County is currently not in a fiscal position to consider adding new discretionary programs and services.*

6. That within six months of this report, the Sheriff works with the County Health Services Department to complete a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of providing West County Detention Facility medical services similar to those available at the Martinez Detention Facility.

***Response:*** *The recommendation will be implemented within six months. The Office of the Sheriff will participate with the Health Services Department as it conducts a Request for Proposals to evaluate contracting for health services to be delivered to inmates. However, it should be noted that the County is evaluating more cost-effective ways to maintain current services, but is currently unable to afford augmented services.*

7. That within six months of this report, the Probation Department works with the General Services Department to install security cameras in the classrooms at Juvenile Hall.

***Response:*** *This recommendation will be implemented within six months if requested funding is granted by the Corrections Standards Authority. The County Office of Education is preparing a grant to apply for funding to purchase the cameras and related hardware. The Probation Department has applied to the Corrections Standards Authority for funding to upgrade the camera system at Juvenile Hall as part of funds made available through Senate Bill 81.*

8. That within six months of this report, the Probation Department works with the County Health Services Department to complete a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of making specialized medical services available around the clock to detainees being treated with psychotropic drugs at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility.

***Response:** This recommendation will be implemented within six months. Probation staff will participate with the Health Services as it conducts a Request for Proposals to evaluate contracting for specialized medical services to be provided to youth at OAYRF who are being treated with psychotropic medication.*