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Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report 1002

## **COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTION**

Contra Costa County Detention Centers  
Compliant with California Penal Code 919

**TO: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department  
Contra Costa County Probation Department  
Cities of El Cerrito, Hercules, Martinez, Oakley, Pittsburg, Richmond,  
San Pablo, San Ramon and Walnut Creek**

### **SUMMARY**

California Penal Code 919 subsection (b) provides: "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Pursuant to the statute, the 2009-2010 Grand Jury fulfilled the mandated responsibility. A total of seventeen facilities were inspected. Inspections included county detention facilities, municipal police department jails and lockups, court holding cells, juvenile detention centers, and a youth rehabilitation center.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Sheriff's Department supervises and operates two detention facilities, a minimum security work camp and all holding cells in the superior court system. At the time of the inspections, August 24 through September 18, 2009, based on the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) guidelines:

- Martinez Detention Center housed 624 pre-sentenced and sentenced adult inmates who did not qualify for less restrictive environments.
- West County Detention Center, a coeducational medium security facility, held 702 inmates.
- Marsh Creek, a minimum security work camp, held 77 inmates.
- Superior Court Holding Cells, located in county courthouses, are used to hold detainees for court appearances for not more than twelve hours.
- Discovery Bay Substation has no facilities for housing detainees.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Meets CSA Standards</i>
Martinez Detention	County Sheriff	Yes
West County Detention	County Sheriff	Yes
Marsh Creek Detention	County Sheriff	Yes
Superior Court Holding Cells	County Sheriff	Yes
Discovery Bay Substation	County Sheriff	N/A

The County Probation Department manages and operates Juvenile Hall, Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center and Chris Adams Girls' Center.

- Juvenile Hall, a secured juvenile detention facility, holds non-sentenced and sentenced male and female offenders. Detainees are serious, violent or chronic offenders ranging in age from 12 to 18. Male offenders' average length of detainment is 35 days; females average 24 days. There were 135 to 140 offenders in custody.
- Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center, a minimum-custody unfenced and unlocked facility, housed 97 male youths the day of the inspection. Typically, the age range is 12 to 18 and the length of detainment is 6 to 9 months.
- Chris Adams Girls' Center, a facility for at-risk girls ages 12 to 18, is operated collaboratively by County Mental Health, Probation and County Office of Education. The 20-bed residential treatment facility is staffed by a multidisciplinary team. The team consists of a psychiatrist, a deputy probation officer, probation counselors, psychiatric technicians, a credentialed teacher, and a substance abuse counselor.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Meets CSA Standards</i>
Chris Adams Girls' Center	County Probation	N/A (refer to Finding #3)
Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center	County Probation	No
Juvenile Hall	County Probation	Yes

Nine Police Department booking and holding facilities were inspected.

- Police Department jails and holding cells hold prisoners temporarily while booking procedures are completed. Two of the eight departments do not have holding cells. Prisoners are transported directly to the County detention facility or are released to another jurisdiction for temporary holding.
- Booking is a short process. After booking is completed, prisoners may be released from the police department or transported to the County detention facility.
- The holding cells within the departments inspected are intended for short term, usually less than 24 hours.
- With the exception of minor graffiti at two locations, all holding cells were found to be clean.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Managed by</i>	<i>Meets CSA Standards</i>
El Cerrito Police Dept.	El Cerrito PD	Yes
Hercules Police Dept.	Hercules PD	Yes
Martinez Police Dept.	Martinez PD	Yes
Oakley Police Dept.	County Sheriff	Yes
Pittsburg Police Dept.	Pittsburg PD	Yes
Richmond Police Dept.	Richmond PD	Yes
San Pablo Police Dept.	San Pablo PD	Yes
San Ramon Police Dept.	San Ramon PD	Yes
Walnut Creek Police Dept.	Walnut Creek PD	Yes

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) Jail Inspection Handbook was used as a guideline to maintain a consistent and standardized approach to collecting and documenting inspection data.

#### **Grand jurors:**

- Toured each department and facility with the duty officer.
- Discussed department holding processes.
- Inspected holding and sobering cells.
- Interviewed staff and inmates in various facilities.
- Reviewed Corrections Standards Authority, Health, Safety, and Fire Department inspection reports.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. West County Detention Facility has an inoperable Central Communication Intercom System.

**Recommendation:** The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department shall repair or replace the system.

2. Marsh Creek Detention Facility has vocational programs to assist detainees with resocialization and transition upon release to productive community living.

**Recommendation:** None

3. Chris Adams Girls' Center was permanently closed effective September 30, 2009.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Supervisors shall direct a study to determine how female juvenile offenders in need of intensive therapeutic treatment can be served.

4. Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center demonstrated improvements from findings in last year's Grand Jury Inspection Report Number 0905. However, CSA standards related to hygiene were not met. Showers and drains are in need of deep cleaning, mold removal and leak repair.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Supervisors shall direct that appropriate cleaning and repairs are implemented.

5. Richmond Police Department had an overflowing biohazard container.

**Recommendation:** The Richmond Police Department shall train responsible personnel in proper handling of biohazard material.

6. Martinez Detention Facility, West County Detention Facility and Marsh Creek Detention Facility provide meals that meet nutritional requirements for only \$3.30 a day per inmate.

**Recommendation:** None

**CONCLUSION:**

The Grand Jury determined that County and municipal department personnel professionally operate and manage the facilities under their jurisdiction.

The Grand Jury commends all staff for their dedication and commitment in continuing to meet corrections standards while facing budget cuts and staff reductions.

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:**

**Findings and Recommendations:**

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors: 1, 3, and 4

Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department: 1

Contra Costa County Probation Department: 3 and 4

City of Richmond Police Department: 5