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August 21, 2012

FILED

SEP 04 2012

The Honorable Eric L. DuTemple
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
41 W. Yaney Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne
By: *[Signature]* Clerk

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report - Tuolumne County Jail

Dear Judge DuTemple:

The following is offered in response to the 2011-12 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to the Tuolumne County Jail.

Grand Jury Findings

F1 Due to the age of the Jail, numerous additions, years of deferred and/or lack of maintenance, and inmate vandalism, the Jail will always generate an inordinate number of maintenance work orders. The leaking roof problem is scheduled to be corrected by replacing the last defective section in the spring of 2012. The remainder of the Jail roof is less than 5 years old and should not be in need of repair. Water damaged walls and deteriorated sewer plumbing remain a health concern.

Response: Agree.

F2 Inquiries were made into the surveillance system. For security reasons the Jury decided not to give details regarding numbers of cameras, or other pieces of equipment necessary to its operation. The Jury was informed that the system is currently at maximum camera capacity. No additional cameras can be added to the system, leaving key areas with no camera coverage.

Response: Agree.

- F3** Limitations on space continue to restrict inmate access to educational programming.
- Response: Agree.*
- F4** Reading, which is one of the primary ways inmates cope with 'doing time', has been impaired by the removal of the reading cart and lack of shelving. This is being addressed by new shelving and book placement.
- Response: Agree.*
- F5** The availability of the self-help approach, and materials for a GED, as well as Columbia College's provision for continuing study, make opportunities possible that the inmates might not otherwise have. However, these resources are limited to the self-motivated and directed inmates.
- Response: Agree.*
- F6** A good plan to install a closed circuit system to broadcast educational and recovery programming has yet to be implemented.
- Response: Agree.*
- F7** The recreational space is small and not adequate for any variety of sports. Exercise is an important part of maintaining good physical and mental health.
- Response: Agree.*
- F8** Tuolumne County needs a new jail.
- Response: Agree.*
- F9** The meals appeared to be adequate for each inmate's requirements. Dietary requirements (e.g., vegetarian, vegan, Kosher) were taken into account.
- Response: Agree.*
- F10** The small size of the pantry (dry storage) dictates how often supplies are taken into the jail. A larger pantry area would allow for fewer food deliveries and less

disruption to Jail routines. The size of the cold storage (refrigerator and freezer) also affects how often deliveries are made.

Response: Agree.

Grand Jury Recommendations

- R1** In order to ensure staff and inmate safety, and to improve morale and reduce stress related health issues, work orders from the Jail need to be given a higher priority than general county work order requests. This takes into consideration that a new jail may be several years away, the changing inmate population and the increasing average length of stay, all of which will contribute to the already poor current condition of the facility. For health and safety reasons, water damaged walls and deteriorated sewer plumbing need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented with regard to giving Jail work orders higher priority versus general county work orders. This has always been the case with respect to health, safety and security work orders. The recommendation related to water damaged walls has been implemented. Both the damaged walls and some flooring have been replaced. The recommendation related to deteriorated plumbing has not been completed but will be by December 2012. The Jail's plumbing and HVAC systems have been analyzed by an outside engineering firm and a scope of work for use in bidding is under development. This work is also expected to be completed by December 2012. All of the work outlined above is being accomplished using a \$250,000 appropriation approved by the Board in the FY 2012-13 Budget.

- R2** The Jury believes the lack of a backup DVR is a security and safety issue and should be addressed. New DVR's should be purchased and put online. The old units should be refurbished to be used as backup. The existing units should be relocated to a cooler, cleaner area to preserve their longevity. In order to meet the needs of the staff and facility, every effort should be made to find funding for the replacement of the current system, including cameras, to make High Definition video recording, viewing, storage, and expandability possible.

Response: The recommendation related to a backup DVR has been implemented. A backup DVR has been acquired and the County's IT Division has taken action to allow activation of this spare unit in the event of equipment failure. The recommendation related to funding a replacement system that includes High Definition video recording requires further analysis. The County's IT Division will work with the Sheriff's Department in issuing any RFP's necessary to obtain proposals for system replacement. This process will

be completed by December 2012 and a recommendation made to the Board of Supervisors.

- R8** When state funds become available, every effort should be made by the citizens of Tuolumne County to support efforts to pursue the construction of a new jail. This support should come despite the possibility of requiring additional county funding.

Response: This is a difficult recommendation to respond to in that it is not within the ability of the Board and staff to fully implement. To the extent the Board and staff can act to implement the recommendation, the recommendation has been implemented. A site for a new Jail has been identified, purchased, environmentally cleared and infrastructure constructed to it. An updated architectural program and cost estimate for a new Jail has been prepared. Jail Needs Assessments and State AB 900 grant applications have been prepared and submitted to secure State funding for a new Jail. All of the above has been accomplished with locally derived funding. What else can the Board and staff do to implement this recommendation? Continue efforts to ensure the lowest cost design for the new Jail. Make application for the upcoming cycle of AB 900 (Phase III) grant funding and begin setting aside money for the local match. To the extent the required match amount exceeds the County's ability to fund out of existing resources, the Board will consider approaching the public with a bond measure for the balance needed. This will require a thoughtful and comprehensive public information program on the part of the Board, Sheriff and County staff.

- R9** A detailed and informative video showing the inadequate, dilapidated and unsafe condition of this facility would help to make the citizens of this county aware of these problems and create the much needed support for a new jail.

Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in conjunction with the public information program mentioned in the response to Recommendation #8 above.

- R10** There seem to be no viable options. A new jail with a larger pantry area and a larger cold storage area would solve such problems.

Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in conjunction with construction of a new Jail.

- R11** The Jury recommends that the Jail contract with local health providers, such as Sonora Regional Medical Center, to provide a detailed health care needs

assessment to account for the new and future Jail population's health/medical care.

Response: This recommendation is not clear. To the extent the recommendation is calling for local health providers to evaluate health care needs and plan for same in the new Jail, such needs have already been taken into consideration in the most recent Jail Needs Assessment and architectural program for the new Jail. To the extent it is calling for local health providers to provide health care services within the Jail (existing or new), the recommendation will not be implemented. Sonora Regional Medical Center is the only local health provider with the ability to provide such services and have declined prior requests to consider being a provider of Jail health care services.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above findings and recommendations. Please feel free to contact the County Administrator Craig Pedro should you have any questions regarding same.



RICHARD PLAND, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Yours truly,




CRAIG L. PEDRO
County Administrator



ED HOAG
Facilities Manager

Cc: James Mele, Sheriff

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.


ALICIA L. JAMAR
Clerk of the Board