

Tuolumne County
Administration Center
2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370



Alicia L. Jamar
Chief Deputy Clerk
of the Board
Of Supervisors

Telephone: (209) 533-5521
Facsimile (209) 533-6549
www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

Sherri Brennan, First District
John L. Gray, Fourth District

Randy Hanvelt, Second District

Evan Royce, Third District
Karl Rodefer, Fifth District

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Donald Segerstrom
Tuolumne County Superior Court
60 North Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

FILED

OCT 07 2013

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report - Tuolumne County Jail

By: E. Beckner Clerk

Dear Judge Segerstrom:

The following is offered in response to the 2012-13 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to the Tuolumne County Jail.

Grand Jury Findings

F1 The Tuolumne County Jail facility is outdated, dilapidated and overcrowded. The Jail Facility was not designated to house longer-term inmates as being mandated by AB109 legislation.

Response: Agree.

F12 The increase in long-term incarcerated individuals at the local level poses a serious risk to the county in terms of possible future litigation concerning allegations of inadequate long term medical care for jail inmates.

Response: Agree.

F13 The scope of the planned Law and Justice Center has twice been reduced to balance cost saving measures while maintaining adequate space needs of each phase.

Response: Agree.

F15 The Board of Supervisors and Administrative staff are actively seeking new grants and funding opportunities to fund the Law and Justice Center.

Response: Agree.

Grand Jury Recommendations

- R1** The Grand Jury recommends that the jail facility be replaced as soon as funding is secured for the currently planned Law and Justice Center.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented. The County is currently preparing and will submit a grant application in October 2013 to secure \$20 million dollars through the SB 1022 program. A \$20 million State grant will not be sufficient to fully fund a replacement Jail. In conjunction with the grant application, staff is working on a plan to further reduce the cost of a replacement Jail and to finance the balance with non-grant funds.

- R12** The Grand Jury recommends that the County Health Director and County Administrator continue to pursue available staff funding for the health care and rehabilitative services of transferred AB109 inmates. The Grand Jury further recommends that they secure long term catastrophic liability insurance to protect the County from possible future litigation resulting from inmate medical suits.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis which should be completed by the end of calendar 2013. As to securing additional funding to pay for medical costs related to the AB 109 inmates, the options are very limited. The County can pursue State AB 109 funding through the annual Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) planning process, however, funding secured in this manner will reduce already limited funding available to local law enforcement departments to manage this population. The County Health Officer is evaluating health care coverage for Jail inmates through the Low Income Health Program (LIHP) and the expanded Medi-Cal program which is part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As for securing catastrophic liability insurance to add a layer of protection to the County from inmate medical lawsuits, the Health Officer is evaluating the cost /benefit of such policies.

- R13** The Grand Jury recommends that as state or local funding becomes available, that the construction of the new jail, the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department expansion phases remain the top priority to the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator. The County Administrator staff and analytical team should be commended for their efforts to reduce the scope and cost of the originally planned Law and Justice Center.

Response: The recommendation is consistent with the past 13 years of Board and staff action with respect to the Law and Justice Center and will be implemented as soon as responsible financial plans can be developed for each phase of building. Such financial plans will include the one-time costs to design and construct each building as well as ongoing costs to operate same.

R15 The Grand Jury recommends that state and local funding for jail replacement continues to be aggressively pursued by County Administrative staff.

Response: The recommendation has and will continue to be implemented through pursuit of both AB 900 and SB 1022 State Jail grants. As previously noted, the Board and staff intend to submit an AB 1022 grant application in October 2013.

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.

Sincerely,



RANDY HANVELT, Chair
Board of Supervisors



CRAIG L. PEDRO
County Administrator

Cc: James Mele, Sheriff
Ann Connolly, HSA Director
Todd Stolp, Health Officer

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

By: 