

COUNTY OF VENTURA-CAO
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COUNTY OF VENTURA
CORRECTIONS SERVICES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

August 14, 1996

TO: KATHY McCANN
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ANALYST

FROM: *Cal*
CAL REMINGTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: 1995/96 GRAND JURY REPORT

This memo is written in regard to the 1995/96 Ventura County Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

The Grand Jury received Citizen's Complaint #95-13 regarding the inadequate outdoor recreational space at the Clifton Tatum Center (Juvenile Hall). As a result of this complaint the Grand Jury visited the detention center, interviewed staff and reviewed relevant laws and State standards regarding the operation of County Juvenile Halls.

The findings of the Grand Jury were, in part, that the State of California establishes minimum standards for the operation of juvenile halls. These standards regulate the minimum number of hours daily and weekly that minors must receive recreation and exercise and the size of the outdoor recreation activity area. The Grand Jury found that the Ventura County Juvenile Hall does not meet these standards for the size of the recreation yard and also has difficulty meeting the minimum number of hours for recreation and exercise each day due to the limited recreation space.

As a result of the above, the recommendation of the Grand Jury was in two parts. The first part states, "The problems of inadequate outdoor recreational space be rectified as soon as possible in order to meet the minimum standards required by the California Code of Regulations." Further, the second part of the recommendation was, "If this noncompliance item cannot be resolved in the present facility, then we fully support plans for the new Juvenile Assessment Center and recommend that the County Supervisors and other officials look at this

project as a priority.”

This noncompliance item cannot be resolved in the present facility as there is no room to expand the recreation area. The buildings predate the California Code of Regulations and have been “grandfathered in” since the standards went into effect. The problem of limited recreation time is also exacerbated by overcrowding in the institution and security problems posed by the high number of gang members incarcerated in the facility.

Presently, minors receive a minimum of 45 minutes of outdoor recreation time each day and 90 minutes of recreation time on the weekends. Additionally, minors who are in the program receive 45 minutes per day of structured physical exercise during the week and those who are on disciplinary restriction receive one hour of outside activity per day.

We fully support the Grand Jury’s recommendation that the proposed Juvenile Justice Center be given a high priority.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Grand Jury for their comments regarding the Agency’s dedication and continuing efforts to provide quality care to young people in trouble with the law.

CCR:pkt