

# **1999 - 2000 Ventura County Grand Jury Report**

## **Status Report on Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities Plan**



# Status Report on Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities Plan

The Grand Jury has in past years encouraged the County of Ventura to seek a long term solution to the housing of juvenile offenders. This report is a review of the current status of the new Juvenile Justice Facility to be completed and occupied in 2003.

## Background

In March 1999, a grant application was submitted to the State Board of Corrections (BOC) by Ventura County requesting \$40,500,000 in funding toward the construction of a new \$64,939,545 juvenile detention and commitment facility. The application was approved in May 1999 by BOC for the full amount requested.

Funding summary:

\$40,500,000	BOC grant
\$10,125,000	BOC required match by County of Ventura
\$14,314,545	County of Ventura cost over and above matching funds
\$64,939,545	Total Cost

Present plans provide for two phases of detention/commitment (240 beds for a secure detention facility and a 180 bed commitment facility) and six courtrooms with offices for juvenile justice staff. The courthouse funding and staffing questions will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a later date.

## Methodology

The Grand Jury interviewed:  
 Director, Chief Probation Officer  
 District Attorney  
 Judge of the Juvenile Court  
 Public Defender  
 The Grand Jury also visited:

Clifton Tatum Hall (Juvenile Hall)

Frank Colston Youth Center

Ventura County Juvenile Court

We also reviewed the following documents:

Ventura County Juvenile Justice Center, Master Plan Requirements, DRAFT, dated December 1998, prepared by Jay Farbstein & Associates/Mark Morris Associates/Patrick Sullivan Associates.

Ventura County Juvenile Justice Commission, Juvenile Hall and Camp Inspections Report. California Board of Corrections, November 1997.

Ventura County Local Juvenile Detention Facility Construction Grant Application, Correction Service Agency and the Multi-Agency Juvenile Coordinating Council, Ventura County, March 1999.

Support documents prepared for and entitled Public Hearing Juvenile Justice Complex, Item #27, Project and Operational Budget For The Juvenile Justice Complex, March 28, 2000.

## Finding

- F-1 The grant of \$40.5 million dollars from the State Board of Correction requires Ventura County to build 420 beds; 240 of these beds will be in the secure detention facility and 180 beds will be in commitment facilities. The plan is to have three 60-bed facilities on the same site as the secure detention facility.
- F-2 The additional \$24.5 million that the County has made accessible to this project will pay for land acquisition, facility design, and infrastructure.
- F-3 A 45 acre site, located in El Rio, has been acquired by the County at a cost of \$3,988,500.
- F-4 Pennfield & Smith estimates \$2,400,000 will complete infrastructure development. This figure is based on the water/sewer study cost estimates, selection of a specific site, and contact with utility providers.
- F-5 Site plans and building floor plans are being produced, reviewed, and revised in a cycle involving Kaplan, McLaughlin and Diaz, (KMD) architectural engineering, Jacobs Facilities, Inc., (JFI) project manager, and the Probation Department. KMD's cost model indicates that construction costs will be within the budgeted \$40.5 million.

F-6 Cash flow projections are as follows:

- FY 99-00 \$1 Million
- FY 00-01 \$11 Million
- FY 01-02 \$23 Million
- FY 02-03 \$27 Million
- FY 03-04 \$3 Million

These projections are from a monthly progress report dated May 15, 2000, submitted by Chief Administrative Officer, Jacobs Facilities, Inc., Project Manager.

- F-7 Additional funds required for debt service (2003-2018) to finance the Ventura County share of monies to complete the Juvenile Justice Facility is projected at 2.7 million dollars per year for fifteen years.
- F-8 Additional budgeted funds for Ventura County to cover additional operational expenses at the new Juvenile Justice Facility are projected to be \$3,000,000. (See Figure 1)

	Current	2003-04	2004-05	2006-07	2009-10
Total # juv.	165	315	335	375	420
Fac. capacity	153	420	420	420	420
\$ capacity	108	75	80	89	100
Staff costs	\$5.8 m	\$10.8 m	\$11.4 m	\$12.7 m	\$14.7 m
Oper costs	\$1.3 m	\$4.4 m	\$4.6 m	\$4.8 m	\$5.1 m
Total Costs	\$7.1 m	\$15.2 m	\$16 m	\$17.5 m	\$19.8 m

**Figure 1. The operational budget for the new facility (excluding courtroom expenses)**

- F-9 Additional staffing costs for the new Juvenile Justice Facility are projected at \$5,000,000 fro fiscal year 2003-04.
- F-10 Ventura County Risk Management personnel, in response to a question from the Grand Jury, said that they have not been asked to participate in planning for the Juvenile Justice Facility.
- F-11 The County also hopes to build six additional courtrooms and offices for juvenile justice staff. This phase of the project is contingent on additional funding from the State.
- F-12 Proposition 21, recently enacted by the State Legislature, may impact juvenile justice costs in Ventura County.

## Conclusions

- C-1 Ventura County Juvenile Facilities Grant Project is currently (as of May 19, 2000) on schedule and within projected budget.
- C-2 The Juvenile Justice Facility is a stated priority of both the Chief Administrative Officer and the Board of Supervisors.
- C-3 Long term funding of the debt service for the Ventura County portion of the cost of the Juvenile Justice Facility, additional operating costs, and the expense of staffing the new facility will impact the Ventura County budget for the foreseeable future. The source for this funding remains unresolved in the documents reviewed by the Grand Jury.
- C-4 Proposition 21 will impact Ventura County as an un-funded mandate by the State of California directing that additional services be provided by the Probation Department.

## Recommendations

The Grand Jury recommends the following:

- R-1 That Ventura County should inform the State of California that Proposition 21 is an additional financial requirement that is being passed to the County as an unfunded mandate and request appropriate funding. (C-4)
- R-2 That personnel from Risk Management participate in the planning process for the new Juvenile Justice Facility. (F-10)

## Responses Required By

- Director, Probation Department (R-2)
- Chief Administrative Officer (R-1)