



**GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY**

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August 17, 2001

TO: John F. Johnston  
Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Paul W. Ruffin   
Director

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO FY2000-01 GRAND JURY REPORT**

The following is in response to your memo of July 23, 2001, same subject as stated above.

**Sheriff's Department Crime Lab (pages 15-23)**

The Crime Lab Report contains 23 findings, five of which relate to building construction, backup power and remodel plans. The General Services Agency's ('GSA's') responses to these findings are presented below. Responses to the two Crime Lab recommendations that pertain to GSA as an "involved department" are addressed at the conclusion of the findings.

(F-3) The building the Crime Lab occupies is seriously outdated.

**Response:** GSA disagrees that the building is seriously outdated. The assigned space inside the building is inadequate.

(F-4) The construction of the building does not readily accommodate new technological equipment, i.e.; forensic test equipment, computers, and networking.

**Response:** GSA disagrees. The Crime Lab was constructed at the same time and is made of the same materials as the rest of the 25-year old



Government Center Complex. The overall construction of the Government Center has proven to be flexible enough to accommodate several upgrades including fiber optics. The problem with the Crime Lab is that it is a very specialized laboratory and has outgrown its space. Many of the current problems could be addressed if it were possible to expand into additional space. However, the configuration of the space does not allow for such expansion. It is the configuration and the need for more space rather than the construction that is the root cause of the problem.

**F-8** Although management has plans for a minor remodel, lab management has stated that the gain in space will suffice for at most four to five years. The remodel is estimated to increase working space from the present 250 square feet per person to approximately 470 square feet per person.

**Response:** GSA agrees. Plans are underway to relocate the property room and other operations in order to increase the square footage per employee in the Crime Lab. The relocations and associated remodeling should be completed in early 2002.

**F-9** At the present time, there are no formal plans drawn for the remodel.

**Response:** GSA agrees. Consultants are now being interviewed to begin the schematic design process for the remodel. Plans should be available by January 2002.

**F-22** At the present time, there is no system of adequate and reliable back-up power, i.e.: uninterruptible power source (UPS) power regulators for all sensitive circuits in the lab.

**Response:** GSA agrees. California's current power situation and the County's Interruptible contract with Southern California Edison (SCE) have both created problems for the Crime Lab in the past. However, SCE's designation of the Government Center as an "essential facility", coupled with an increase in the Center's firm service level, resulted in the decision that the Crime Lab will remain powered up during future interruptible events. Also, the new Government Center Generator Plant will be completed this summer. It will be capable of providing power to the entire Government Center, including during a power interruption or outage.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**R-2** The planned move and modification (remodel) of the existing areas should be funded and carried out as soon as possible, complete with formalized plans.

**Response:** The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The schematic design process has begun

with the interviewing of consultants. Plans should be available by January 2002.

**R-3** Every effort must be made by County Supervisors, and involved Department Heads, and Administrators to secure funding for the location and construction of a new Sheriff's Crime Lab facility by 2006, in part to implement plans in association with CSUCI.

**Response:** The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. As an "involved department" GSA supports funding efforts for construction of a new Crime Lab.

**Sheriff's Department Women's Detention Facility (pages 25-28)**

The Sheriff's Department Women's Detention Facility Report contains 10 findings, eight of which can be categorized as internal issues to be addressed by the Sheriff's Department, and two findings regarding the visitor area that GSA addresses below. Our response to the single recommendation that pertains to GSA as an "involved department" is addressed at the conclusion of the findings.

**F-2** At present, the visitor area for high-risk inmates is a former inmate dining area. The separation of visitors from inmates is accomplished by the use of a removable wood partition placed lengthwise down the center of the dining table.

**Response:** GSA agrees.

**F-7** Formal plans exist to convert the present visitor area to a more secure area at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

**Response:** GSA agrees. Work should start in the last quarter of the calendar year 2001.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R-3** The Sheriff's Department should work with the GSA department to obtain the necessary funds from the current budget, via re-allocation, for the timely completion of the remodeling.

**Response:** The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Funds have been obtained and work will begin in September 2001.

Please feel free to contact me at 654-3800, or Paul Young, at 654-3885 if you have questions.

PWR/PY/KVN

cc: Sheriff's Department  
Paul Young