



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- BOB BROOKS  
SHERIFF
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July 22, 2008

Ventura County Grand Jury  
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751  
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Grand Jury Members:

This response is generated in accordance with Penal Code Section 933(c), which requires that we respond to your recommendations within sixty (60) days of submittal of your report entitled: *Ventura County Detention Facilities: Conditions and Management*.

#### Recommendation R-01:

The VCSD, BOS and CEO should determine the most appropriate build-out option for Todd Road, and set a start date.

#### Response:

The Sheriff's Department is currently involved in study sessions with the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer to make the determination of the appropriate build-out option for the Todd Road Jail expansion. We hope to have a decision by the end of September, 2008. Once that decision is made, the design and building phases will be planned.

#### Recommendation R-05:

The VCSD, in conjunction with the Ventura County District Attorney and the Superior Court, should give strong consideration to transferring identified undocumented County jail inmates to ICE detention facilities prior to completion of their sentence.

#### Response:

The Ventura County Sheriff does not have the authority to cut short the sentence of any inmate sentenced to the Ventura County Jail, except as provided in Penal

**SPECIAL SERVICES**  
101 Telephone Road, Suite 200  
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**DETENTION SERVICES**  
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Ventura, CA 93009  
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**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
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Code Section 4024.1, accelerated release. That section only permits the Sheriff of a county to petition the courts to permit a five-day accelerated release to relieve overcrowding. Every sentenced inmate in our jail, whether documented or undocumented, receives consideration for accelerated release based on our jail population. A sentence of the Superior Court of Ventura County is an order of the Courts, and thus the Sheriff does not have the authority to violate that order.

Additionally, it is highly unlikely that ICE would house sentenced undocumented inmates until their sentences were served. Due to a lack of facilities, ICE would immediately deport the undocumented individuals. We are deeply concerned about the message such a practice would send both to the legal residents in our community and the undocumented individuals in our communities. Sending sentenced, undocumented individuals to ICE, and thereby having them deported prior to serving their sentence, tells them that if they commit a crime in our county they do not have to serve the same time in jail that any other legal resident would have to serve.

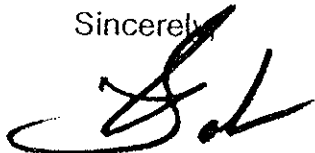
**Recommendation R-06:**

VSCD should request additional ICE Agents or have more Sheriff's Deputies receive certified ICE training, if the County adult inmate population of undocumented foreign nationals continues to increase.

Response:

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been very supportive in our efforts to identify undocumented foreign nationals in our detention facilities. They have agents regularly assigned to our facilities and they assist in training our personnel. We have two Board approved positions for deputies who will be cross-trained as ICE agents. These two positions will greatly enhance our efforts during those times that the full-time ICE agents are not in our jails. If the number of undocumented foreign nationals in our facilities increases we would certainly request additional resources from ICE or train additional staffing.

Sincerely,



Bob Brooks  
Ventura County Sheriff

c: Hon. Colleen Toy White, Presiding Judge, Superior Court