

Ventura County Grand Jury 2011 - 2012



Final Report

Mandatory Detention Facilities Inspections

May 30, 2012

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Mandatory Detention Facilities Inspections

Summary

In order to ensure the safety and security of citizens in confinement facilities, the 2011-2012 Ventura County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) in its role as the civil watchdog for Ventura County (County) must annually inspect all places of incarceration in the County, which includes all temporary holding facilities and jails.

Penal Code section 919(b) states that, "The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Penal Code section 921 states that, "The grand jury is entitled to free access, at all reasonable times, to the public prisons, and to the examination, without charge, of all public records within the county." [Ref-01, Ref-02]

The Grand Jury observed the physical cells, gathered information from officers, and read Policies and Procedures (P&Ps) of the fourteen places of incarceration in the County. The Police Departments (PD) in the Cities of Camarillo (Camarillo), Fillmore (Fillmore), Moorpark (Moorpark), Ojai (Ojai), Oxnard (Oxnard), Port Hueneme (Port Hueneme), Santa Paula (Santa Paula), Simi Valley (Simi Valley), and San Buenaventura (Ventura) are responsible for the holding cells in their respective jurisdictions. The Ventura County Sheriff (Sheriff) is responsible for the operation of the East Valley Sheriff's Station (East Valley), the Main Jail, and the Todd Road Jail (Todd Road). The Ventura County Probation Department (Probation) is responsible for the Juvenile Justice Complex (JJC) and the Work Furlough/Work Release facility (Work Furlough).

Prior Grand Juries did not produce reports *if no negative observations were made*. It is the intention of this Grand Jury to take a more systematic approach, collecting data from checklists, analyzing the data, and drawing conclusions based on the data irrespective of positive or negative observations.

In the areas the Grand Jury chose to inspect, all places of incarceration met the minimum standards of the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA), found in Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations. The Grand Jury noted several areas for improvement: Oxnard did not provide mattresses, bunks, or other off-the-ground seating for arrestees; Santa Paula and Oxnard lacked visible and/or availability of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs); and Port Hueneme did not stock non-perishable food for arrestees, opting instead to have the arresting officer make "fast-food runs."

The Grand Jury found that officers, both out on patrol and in the facilities, are doing an excellent job in the area of parental involvement and confinement of all juveniles in Ventura County.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Cities, the Sheriff, and Probation continue to operate and maintain their cognizant incarceration facilities at least at the current level. The Grand Jury further recommends that Oxnard, Santa Paula, and Port Hueneme review and consider improvements in the areas noted above.

Background

There are fourteen places of incarceration in Ventura County, including ten holding cells (Camarillo, East Valley, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Ventura); one facility which acts as both a holding facility, and a post-sentenced jail (East Valley), two pre- and post-sentenced jails (Main Jail, Todd Road), one work furlough/work release facility, and one juvenile facility (JJC).

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The Penal Code allows for a great deal of flexibility by grand juries in their mandatory inquiries and inspections. Every aspect suggested by the CSA need not be inspected; therefore, each independent grand jury may define its goals of inspection so long as they fall within the parameters of the applicable codes.

"The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) is a state regulatory agency that establishes and promulgates standards for the construction, operation and administration of local detention facilities. These standards are found in Title 15 and Title 24, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR)." [Ref-03]

Methodology

The Grand Jury developed a checklist (see Table in FA-01) derived from some of the many CSA regulations. The Grand Jury made appointments in advance to visit all fourteen facilities and, in some cases, made second unannounced visits in order to follow up on some areas of concern. All data was collected by physical observation, verbal reports from a designated Point of Contact (POC) during the facility visit, and by review of P&Ps provided to the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury inspected all fourteen places of incarceration within the County: Ojai, Moorpark, Fillmore, Thousand Oaks (East Valley), and Camarillo, are under contract with the Sheriff; Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula, and Simi Valley, all have their own independent police departments; East Valley, which serves as a holding facility for Thousand Oaks and also houses post-sentenced inmate trustees; the Main Jail, which books, classifies, and houses both pre- and post-sentenced inmates; the Todd Road Jail which classifies and houses pre- and post-sentenced inmates; the Juvenile Justice Facility, which houses both pre- and post-sentenced juveniles (under the age of eighteen); and the Work Furlough Facility, which houses only post-sentenced adult inmates who have earned the privilege to work while serving their sentences.

The Grand Jury looked carefully at the detention of juveniles. Focus was placed particularly in the areas of: segregation from adult arrestees; appropriate use of restraints; whether juveniles were within hearing distance of the staff; whether phone calls were made to parents/responsible parties; the presence and proper

maintenance of a juvenile booking log; the number of hours held; interview techniques used before transfer to JJC, and if the juveniles were not released to parents/responsible parties.

Facts

FA-01. The table below summarizes the results of the Grand Jury’s evaluation of detention facilities in the County. The first column in the table identifies topics from CSA regulations selected by the Grand Jury for this year’s review. The results were determined by three methods: direct observation during facility visits; verbal reports from the designated POCs during the facility visits; review of the P&Ps applicable to the facility. The following legend identifies the rating system used by the Grand Jury in its interpretation of CSA regulations:

- S – This Grand Jury feels the facility Satisfies CSA minimum standards
- E – This Grand Jury feels the facility Exceeds the minimum CSA standards
- N – This Grand Jury feels the facility Needs improvement as indicated, still meeting the CSA minimum standards
- NA – Not applicable for this facility
- R – Received documentation requested from the facility

	Jails					Holding Cells								
	Main Jail	Todd Road Jail	Juvenile Justice Facility	Work Furlough Facility	East Valley Facility/TO	Camarillo	Fillmore	Moorpark	Ojai	Oxnard	Port Hueneme	Santa Paula	Simi Valley	Ventura
Policy & Procedure Manuals	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Training for Natural Disasters	S	E	S	S	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	E	S
Medical Incidents	S	E	S	S	S	S	E	S	S	S	S	S	E	S
Physical Facility Observations														
Average Capacity	810	900	420	80	22	NA	3	4	4	75	6	15	25	6
Average Length of Stay (Hours)	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	3	2	1	3	4	4	4	3	2
Cell Cleanliness & Sanitation	E	E	S	S	E	E	S	E	S	S	S	S	S	S
Arrestee/Inmate Clothing/Personal Hygiene	S	S	S	S	S	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bedding/Linens	S	S	S	N	S	S	NA	S	S	N	S	NA	S	S
Toilet Accessibility	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Bodily Fluids Cleansers/Drainage	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Showers	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	NA	S	S	NA	NA	S	NA
Safety & Maintenance	S	E	S	S	S	E	S	E	S	S	S	S	S	S
Phone Accessibility	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Water Accessibility	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Food/Snacks	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N	S	S	S
First Aid/Medical Necessities and AED Accessibility	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N	S	N	S	S
Classification/Segregation by Male/Female	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Classification/Segregation by Charge/Violence	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Appropriate Use of Restraints	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
English/Spanish Translators	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Special Accommodations for Juveniles														
Appropriate Use of Restraints	S	S	S	S	NA	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Segregation from Adults	S	S	NA	NA	NA	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Shouting Distance to Staff	S	NA	NA	NA	NA	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Phone Call to Parents	S	NA	S	NA	NA	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Interview before Transfer to Juvenile Hall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Log	S	NA	S	NA	NA	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Longest Time a Juvenile Held (Hours)	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	2	2	2	2	4	1	4	1

FA-02. East Valley, which services Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley, and incarcerates trustees, is a unique facility. It houses transient arrestees prior to delivery to the Main Jail and also houses male post-sentenced

trustees. Due to its size, East Valley has the first right of refusal of arrestees. East Valley does not house women, juveniles, or those with psychiatric or serious physical health issues. East Valley P&Ps state it is at the discretion of the deputy whether to accept an arrestee, or to direct the arresting officer to take arrestees to the Main Jail, a hospital, JJC, or to any other appropriate place.

- FA-03.** As indicated in the table by "NA," at most facilities, the Grand Jury could not make accurate assessments for arrestees' clothing and hygiene at the time of the visit. There was only one temporary holding facility with an arrestee at the Oxnard PD. Lack of an arrestee at a facility at the time of the visit precluded the evaluation.
- FA-04.** The Grand Jury observed and inquired of each POC approximate temporary cell capacity.
- FA-05.** The Grand Jury found that each adult arrestee is commonly held less than six hours in a temporary holding facility.
- FA-06.** Some facilities have been developing special programs for juveniles, such as Camarillo's "Diversion Program," and Ojai's "Project Parenting." Both programs are geared toward getting the parents/responsible parties of the offenders more involved and proactive in the juveniles' actions.
- FA-07.** East Valley had a fire in their clothes dryer in early December of 2011. Everyone was safely evacuated following P&Ps. Todd Road was affected by brush fires in 2003, and their evacuation also went smoothly and according to their P&Ps.
- FA-08.** At the Oxnard facility, there was one arrestee in a cell and lying on the floor, who had been arrested the night before. This arrestee was held for approximately 11 hours.
- FA-09.** All temporary holding cells and jails had bunks, mattresses, and/or wooden benches, except Oxnard. Oxnard offered arrestees blankets, but nothing to sit or lie upon except the concrete floor.
- FA-10.** At the Work Furlough facility, several rooms had damaged bedding (springs visible through the mattresses).
- FA-11.** The City of Port Hueneme did not have a stock of food for arrestees. The officers made "fast food runs."
- FA-12.** At the Oxnard and Santa Paula facilities there were no AEDs visible and/or available.

Findings

- FI-01.** All places of incarceration in the County meet the minimum standards of the CSA for the areas reviewed. (FA-01)
- FI-02.** Holding facilities and jails in the County are doing a satisfactory job holding, pre- booking or booking, and incarcerating juveniles. Both Ojai

and Camarillo facilities have innovative programs dealing with juveniles. (FA-01, FA-06)

- FI-03.** The following facilities excelled in overall cleanliness: Main Jail, Todd Road Jail, East Valley, Camarillo, Moorpark, and Simi Valley. (FA-01)
- FI-04.** All facilities are prepared for natural disasters and medical incidents. (FA-01, FA-07)
- FI-05.** All facilities, except Oxnard, provide mattresses, bunks, or other off-the-ground seating for arrestees. (FA-01, FA-09)
- FI-06.** At the Oxnard facility one adult arrestee, (who would commonly be held under 6 hours) was held approximately 11 hours before being transported to the Main Jail. (FA-08)
- FI-07.** All facilities have adequate first aid supplies available except Oxnard and Santa Paula, which lacked visible/available AEDs. (FA-01, FA-12)
- FI-08.** "Fast food runs" were made by officers at the Port Hueneme facility due to a lack of food on hand, taking time away from officers on patrol or other assigned duties. (FA-01, FA-11)
- FI-09.** Some bedding and mattresses at the Work Furlough facility were in need of replacement. (FA-01, FA-10)

Recommendations

- R-01.** That the cities of Oxnard and Santa Paula purchase or make visible AEDs. (FI-07)
- R-02.** That the City of Oxnard provide off-the-floor accommodations in order to insulate an arrestee from the concrete cell floor. (FI-05, FI-06)
- R-03.** That the City of Port Hueneme stock non-perishable food and not rely solely on officers making "fast food runs" for arrestees. (FI-08)
- R-04.** That the Ventura County Probation Department review the condition of bedding and mattresses at the Work Furlough Facility and replace these substandard items. (FI-09)
- R-05.** That the cities without parenting programs for juveniles review and implement innovative programs such as those of Camarillo and Ojai. (FI-01,FI-02)

Responses

Responses Required From:

City Council, City of Oxnard (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04, FI-05, FI-06, FI-07), (R-01, R-02, R-05)

City Council, City of Ventura (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04) (R-05)

City Council, City of Fillmore (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04) (R-05)

City Council, City of Moorpark (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04) (R-05)
City Council, City of Ojai (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04)
City Council, City of Simi Valley (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04) (R-05)
City Council, City of Camarillo (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04)
City Council, City of Port Hueneme (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04, FI-08), (R-03, R-05)
City Council, City of Santa Paula (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04, FI-07), (R-01, R-05)
City Council, City of Thousand Oaks (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04) (R-05)
Ventura County Sheriff (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04)

Responses Requested From:

Ventura County Probation Department (FI-01, FI-02, FI-04, FI-09), (R-04)

Commendations:

The cities of Camarillo and Ojai are to be commended for their innovative juvenile programs.

References

- Ref-01.** State of California, Penal Code section 919(b).
<http://law.onecle.com/california/penal/919.html>
(accessed January 23, 2012)
- Ref-02.** State of California, Penal Code section 921.
<http://law.onecle.com/california/penal/921.html>
(accessed January 23, 2012)
- Ref-03.** California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Corrections Standards Authority, Title 15 and Title 24, CCR.
<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/CSA/FSO/Regulations.html>
(accessed March 26, 2012)

Glossary

<u>TERM</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>
AED	Automatic External Defibrillators
Camarillo	City of Camarillo
CCR	California Code of Regulations
County	Ventura County
CSA	Corrections Standards Authority
East Valley	East Valley Sheriff’s Station in Thousand Oaks
Fillmore	City of Fillmore
Grand Jury	2011-2012 Ventura County Grand Jury
JJC	Juvenile Justice Complex in Oxnard
Main Jail	Pretrial Detention Facility in Ventura
Moorpark	City of Moorpark
Ojai	City of Ojai
Oxnard	City of Oxnard
P&Ps	Policies and Procedures
PD	Police Department
POC	Point of Contact
Port Hueneme	City of Port Hueneme
Probation	Ventura County Probation Department
Santa Paula	City of Santa Paula
Sheriff	Ventura County Sheriff
Simi Valley	City of Simi Valley
Todd Road	Todd Road Jail
Ventura	City of San Buenaventura
Work Furlough	Work Furlough/Work Release Facility in Camarillo