



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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August 26, 2015

The Honorable Judge Donald D. Coleman  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

RECEIVED  
AUG 31 2015  
Email  
VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

Subject: Grand Jury Report, Detention Facilities and Related Law Enforcement Issues  
(June 01, 2015)

Dear Judge Coleman:

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations pertaining to the countywide Detention Facilities and Related Law Enforcement Issues, as it relates to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and the Moorpark Police Department.

## FINDINGS

**Finding:** FI-01 – The Grand Jury rated all holding cells or equivalent physical facilities in the County as satisfactory or better for the areas reviewed, except for the lack of raised seating in the Oxnard police station holding cells, lack of tamper proof lavatory fixtures at the Moorpark police station area serving detainees, and an inoperative water tap in one holding cell in the Port Hueneme police station. (FA-01, FA-23, FA-25, FA-31)

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the findings as they relate to the PTDF, Todd Road Jail, and East Valley Jail.

With respect to the Moorpark police station, we agree that we lack tamper proof lavatory fixtures at the Moorpark Police Service Center lavatory in the area of the supervised interview rooms. The Moorpark Police Department also agrees with FA-23 that the Moorpark Police Services Center has no holding cells in the facility. The lavatory located in the area of the supervised interview rooms are for use by detainees / arrestees which are under continual direct supervision from a sworn staff member of the Moorpark Police Department.

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**Finding:** FI-02 – Realignment has put more demands and stress on public safety workers and County facilities. Changes in the inmate population, including gang complexity, mental health issues, and increasing average stays and headcounts, as well as the amount of multiagency coordination and documentation, pose major challenges to the County corrections community. Overcrowding at the Todd Road and Main Jail facilities is one of these challenges, which could be mitigated by the construction of the proposed mental health facility at Todd Road. (FA-02, FA-03, FA-04, FA-08, FA-09)

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the findings as they relate to the PTDF and Todd Road Jail. It is important to note that while construction of the medical and mental health facility at the Todd Road Jail would increase the number of beds available for inmates, the new addition would not be a panacea for overcrowding in Ventura County. The facility would provide critical services to the most fragile of our inmate population; these services help to manage and stabilize individuals who are high service users both in and out of custody. It is in our community's interest to treat them compassionately and comprehensively and this new facility will allow for new and expanded services. However, overcrowding is only partially addressed by this addition; my staff will continue to effectively and professionally manage an inmate population that exceeds the rated capacity of the jails we operate.

**Finding:** FI-07 – Proposition 47's consequences, both intended and unintended, are only beginning to be evaluated. Early indications are that it may be successful in reducing the State prisoner population, but the effects on local law enforcement agencies and communities are yet to be understood. (FA-47, FA-48, FA-49, FA-50, FA-51, FA-52)

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office and the Moorpark Police Department agrees with the findings, and respectfully highlight that the identification, retention and collection of Proposition 47 related data on a statewide level was coordinated by my office through the California State Sheriff's Association within weeks of Proposition 47's passage.

**Finding:** FI-8 – The County has made a major effort to cope with the consequences of Realignment with some success. Overcrowding continues to be evident at the Main Jail and Todd Road Jail. (FA-01, FA-02, FA-03, FA-04, FA-05, FA-08, FA-09)

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the findings as they relate to the PTDF and Todd Road Jail.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation:** R-01 – The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Office be persistent in their efforts to build the mental health facility at the Todd Road Jail. (FI-02)

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the recommendation to continue our efforts to construct a mental health facility at the Todd Road Jail.

**Recommendation:** R-02 – The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation, and city councils closely track and evaluate the impact of Proposition 47 on local law enforcement agencies and communities and report findings to the Board of Supervisors. (FI -07)

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the recommendation to track and evaluate the impacts of Proposition 47 on local law enforcement agencies and communities. I am in continual contact with the members of the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Executive Officer, Chiefs of Police, as well as city councils in contracted cities in the county. The impacts of Proposition 47 will most certainly be shared with all of these entities as well as used to guide policy and operational decisions moving forward.

**Recommendation:** R-011 The Grand Jury recommends that the Moorpark City Council upgrade the Moorpark Police Service Center lavatory used for detainees with tamperproof fixtures of the type commonly found in holding cells.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department does not agree with this recommendation as the Moorpark Police Service Center does not have holding cells and is not a holding facility. The lavatory is utilized by detainees and/or arrestees under direct supervision by Moorpark Police Department and/or Sheriff's Office sworn staff during use. The Moorpark Police Department has also developed a policy directing staff that the lavatory shall not be used unless such direct supervision is provided. However, the City of Moorpark has indicated that they will be retrofitting the lavatory with tamper resistant fixtures and will have this completed no later than September 30, 2015.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Rob Davidson at 648-9275 or [rob.davidson@ventura.org](mailto:rob.davidson@ventura.org) for the Todd Rd. Jail and PTDF or Captain Stephen Wade at (805)832-2705 or [stephen.wade@ventura.org](mailto:stephen.wade@ventura.org) for the Moorpark Police Department.

Sincerely,

  
Geoff Dean  
Sheriff

cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury  
Undersheriff Gary Pentis  
Assistant Sheriff Steve DeCesari  
Assistant Sheriff Guy Stewart  
Frank Chow, CEO Analyst