

# **Ventura County Grand Jury 2017 - 2018**



**Final Report**

**Annual Detention Report**

**May 16, 2018**



## **Annual Detention Report**

### **Summary**

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 919(b), the 2017-2018 Ventura County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) investigated the conditions and management of the detention facilities in Ventura County (County). The Grand Jury inspected the following:

- County Juvenile Facility (JF)
- State of California’s Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF)
- Pre-Trial Detention Facility (PTDF)
- Todd Road Jail (TRJ)
- East Valley Jail
- All 10 city holding facilities.

The Grand Jury concluded that due to a decrease in juvenile crime over several years, both the JF and the VYCF have underutilized space, with hundreds of unfilled beds.

The Grand Jury also concluded that despite a major lawsuit against the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the VYCF has not met and/or maintained goals set by the resulting consent decree. It continues to fall short of minimum standards of cleanliness, repair, and safety.

The Grand Jury concluded that in stark contrast to the underutilized space at the juvenile facilities, the adult facilities, PTDF and TRJ, remain significantly overcrowded. A TRJ expansion is on track to be completed in 2020. It is designed to add 64 beds for chronically and mentally ill inmates. While this will ease overcrowding, the \$61-million expansion will be insufficient and serve only a small fraction of mentally ill inmates when completed.

The Grand Jury concluded that County jails and holding facilities are generally in good order, with only two departments showing cause for concern: the Santa Paula Police Department (SPPD) and the Port Hueneme Police Department (PHPD). Through Measure T, SPPD has now garnered funding to retrofit and expand its holding facility. However, PHPD continues to operate its facility short-staffed, and the holding cell is in need of repair.

The Grand Jury concluded that Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA) has reduced services to crime victims over the last few years, and the District Attorney’s office does not provide comparable services to all crime victims.

The Grand Jury concluded that compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is important for detention facilities in order to avoid liability and increase grant funding opportunities.

## **Background**

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 919(b), there is one specific task mandated of the Grand Jury, which is an annual inspection of all the detention facilities in the County. The Grand Jury carried out this duty as mandated.

### **Juvenile Facility (JF)**

The VCPA operates the JF. According to the VCPA website, the JF was designed to house juvenile offenders both short and long term.

Detention housing is intended for youth requiring custody pending court proceedings. It also provides temporary custody for those in need of short-term removal from the community and/or awaiting transfer to placement or another jurisdiction. The detention side was designed to house 240 youth.

The commitment side was designed to house 180 youth serving court-ordered commitments of up to one year. Commitment youth may participate in an array of vocational programs, such as silk screening, broadcasting, construction, and landscaping. In addition to their fully accredited high school program, other classes offered include chess, yoga, and origami.

In recent years, the JF staff have been working with Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) to implement a trauma-informed care approach to policies and practices at the JF. This is based on VCBH's estimate that 75 percent of all detainees are victims of some traumatic event in their lives. According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, when there is no inquiry about trauma in behavioral-health care, harm is done or abuse is unintentionally re-created by the use of forced medication, seclusion, or restraints.

### **Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF)**

On November 29, 2017, the Grand Jury inspected the VYCF, formerly known as the California Youth Authority (CYA). Upon entry into the facility reception area, the Grand Jury noted an enlarged poster-size memo to staff dated August 30, 2017, prohibiting all cell phones in the facility.

Prior to the inspection, VYCF staff briefed the jurors on the Farrell Decree. On January 16, 2003, Margaret Farrell filed a lawsuit against the director of CYA. The suit claimed CYA was expending funds on policies, procedures, and practices that were illegal under state law. Farrell also claimed that CYA failed in its statutory duties to provide adequate treatment and rehabilitation for juvenile offenders in its care. The lawsuit also alleged that the youth offenders were denied adequate medical, dental, and mental health care.

On November 19, 2004, both parties entered into a consent decree in which the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) agreed to develop and implement detailed remedial plans in the following areas: safety and welfare, mental health, education, sexual behavior treatment, health care, dental services, and youth with disabilities. One of many goals of the Farrell decree was to reduce overcrowding, limiting the number of offenders in a living unit to 32.

**Pre-Trial Detention Facility (PTDF)**

The PTDF was opened in 1980 and is operated by the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office (VCSO). The VCSO processes more than 29,000 bookings and releases each year.

Programming at the PTDF includes English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, religious services, and Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, as well as a high school equivalency course.

**Todd Road Jail (TRJ)**

The TRJ was constructed in 1995 and sits on 157 acres of agricultural land in a rural area between Ventura and Santa Paula. It is also operated by the VCSO and, according to the VCSO website, the facility prides itself on beautiful landscape and campus-style design and is referred to as the “jewel” of the detention services.

The TRJ is currently undergoing an expansion. The \$61-million project will add 64 beds, 32 for chronically ill inmates and 32 for mentally ill inmates. In November 2015, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) granted the County a partial award of \$25.6 million and approved the remaining \$29.4 million in April 2016. A County match of \$6 million completed the project’s funding. The facility is on track for completion in the spring of 2020.

The TRJ offers more programming opportunities to inmates than its PTDF counterpart. In addition to the ESL classes, high school equivalency course, religious services, and Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous classes, it offers vocational training including print shops, sewing classes, and a culinary training program. It also offers specialized classes in criminal justice to pre-selected inmates based on the Inside-Out Prisoner Exchange Program. With the TRJ expansion project underway, the staff expressed interest in a construction training program. However, the program has encountered union resistance.

The TRJ has also begun a pilot project in conjunction with its medical provider, California Forensic Medical Group, and VCBH involving Vivitrol for opioid addicts. Vivitrol is an injectable drug that works to help addicts in recovery by blocking opioid receptors in the brain. Each injection costs \$1,200 and is effective for 30 days. The injection is given prior to the inmate’s release and is continued through an outpatient narcotics treatment center, Aegis, which is licensed to administer Vivitrol. On September 27, 2017, seven inmates were in the Vivitrol program, with room for eight more.

**Other County Holding Facilities**

The Grand Jury inspected 10 holding facilities throughout the County. The old East County Jail located at Country Club Drive West and Olsen Road in Simi Valley was not inspected. Owned by the City of Simi Valley, the defunct building has been abandoned for more than 20 years, and its only use is for occasional overflow parking for patrons of the Ronald Reagan Library.

## **Methodology**

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) disseminates regulations for juvenile and adult detention facilities and administers significant public safety-related grant funding.

Prior to each of the inspections, the Grand Jury completed the following tasks to fulfill its mandate:

- Devised a rating sheet for the facilities based on the BSCC Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities Title 24 and Title 15
- Conducted witness interviews
- Researched websites
- Reviewed agency mission statements
- Reviewed past Grand Jury reports
- Reviewed reports issued by the BSCC; Department of Justice; and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice
- Scheduled inspections of PTDF, TRJ, JF, and VYCF to include walk-throughs, discussions with staff, and conversations with detainees, followed by a debriefing of all Grand Jury members
- Conducted unannounced inspections of all city holding facilities.

The Grand Jury reviewed the following during the inspections:

- Average Daily Population Report
- Incident Report Log
- Risk assessment tool and booking procedure criteria
- Classification Plan
- Policy and procedure manuals
- DJJ Youth Handbook
- Reviewed VYCF goals pertaining to the Farrell Decree
- Most recent inspections from Fire Marshall and Health Inspector
- Juvenile detention logs and procedures
- Inmate and youthful offender grievances.

## **Facts**

### **Juvenile Facility (JF)**

**FA-01.** The JF was built in 2003 at a cost of \$65 million, largely paid for by federal grants. The complex sits on a five-acre parcel in the community of El Rio. The facility is certified by the BSCC for a maximum rated capacity of 420

youth (240 in detention and 180 in commitment). Prior to completion, the commitment side was designed to house three special populations, including older juveniles in a work program. (Ref-03, Ref-04)

**FA-02.** In California, juvenile arrests decreased 62 percent between 2008 and 2014. (Ref-05)

**FA-03.** In Ventura County, juvenile arrests decreased 58 percent between 2008 and 2014 (from 7,329 arrests in 2008 to 3,058 in 2014). (Ref-06)

**FA-04.** The average daily population at the JF from 2014-2017 was 89.68.

Average Daily Population Totals - Calendar Year Format									
	2014	2015	2016	2017		2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Detention</b>					<b>Commitment</b>				
January	35	36	42	36	January	55	44	46	46
February	43	46	35	40	February	55	52	45	48
March	52	41	35	50	March	46	47	49	55
April	39	38	42	54	April	48	48	44	54
May	45	43	39	51	May	48	54	54	52
June	47	37	33	46	June	54	52	52	54
July	50	36	39	45	July	56	49	50	53
August	43	32	35	41	August	51	50	38	52
September	42	42	31	45	September	47	51	41	49
October	34	43	34	43	October	47	54	48	44
November	28	35	40	48	November	49	52	55	46
December	31	37	32	34	December	39	42	53	45
<b>Annual Avg.</b>	40.75	38.83	36.42	44.42	<b>Annual Avg.</b>	49.58	49.58	47.92	49.83

Facility Annual Average 2014-2017				4 Year Average
2014	2015	2016	2017	
90.33	88.42	84.33	94.25	<b>89.68</b>

**FA-05.** On December 4, 2017, there were 88 youth in custody (50 in detention and 38 in commitment).

**FA-06.** The JF is budgeted for 275 staff (125 sworn staff and 150 support staff). However, on December 4, 2017, there were 13 unfilled positions. The Grand Jury was advised that due to the unfilled positions, all 88 youth were housed together in detention, with none in commitment.

**FA-07.** While the JF has three safety cells, they are rarely used. The Grand Jury was advised only one cell was used on one occasion in the last year.

**FA-08.** The JF does not currently have a PREA manual. VCPA does not have a PREA manual per County Counsel’s advice, however, it recognizes the importance of PREA and its concepts and strives to incorporate them into their practices and policies.” (Ref-01)

- FA-09.** Despite having no PREA manual, the JF staff follow the spirit of the act:
- All youth lodged in the JF are screened to assess their risk of sexual victimization.
  - An orientation is completed with all hired staff including contractors and Community Based Organizations regarding the PREA Act.
  - Upon booking, every youth detained in the facility is required to view a video about sexual victimization (available in both Spanish and English).
  - The staff supervision ratio for sexual abuse victims has been reduced from 1:10 to 1:8.
- FA-10.** According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, while local law enforcement agencies with a juvenile facility or lock-up are not mandated to comply with PREA, they may want to do so voluntarily to avoid liability. (Ref-07)
- FA-11.** Per the VCPA website, the agency mission is: "To promote community safety through a system of graduated sanctions that balance services to the victim, the offender, and the community." (Ref-02)
- FA-12.** Historically, VCPA has had numerous resources that were purposely designed for offender accountability and victim reparation. Facilities and programs including Work Furlough for adults; Juvenile Restitution Project; and Work, Education, Restitution & Competency for juveniles have been eliminated.
- FA-13.** As of December 4, 2017, VCPA was not providing any programming involving victim reparation to adult or juvenile probationers, in custody or out of custody.
- FA-14.** Over the past several years, VCPA has reduced resources available to victims of minor crime, i.e., theft, vandalism, driving under the influence, etc., resulting in fewer services to victims, including those seeking restitution. The VCPA website refers all victims of crime to the Ventura County District Attorney (DA). The DA's office prioritizes victim assistance based on the severity and nature of the crime and states that in some cases the court will proceed to sentencing without giving the DA's office the opportunity to contact the victim. (Ref-02, Ref-08)

**Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF)**

- FA-15.** The VYCF, located in Camarillo, was built in 1962. In 2011, VYCF housed 1,200 committed youth from various counties across the state. From 2012 to 2017, the population at VYCF declined dramatically. (Ref-05, Ref-09)
- FA-16.** On November 29, 2017, the facility housed 200 youth in seven of 12 housing units, leaving five units unoccupied. Of the 200 youth housed at VYCF on November 29, 2017, there were 38 youth in one general housing unit, despite the desired goal from the Farrell Decree of 32 per unit.
- FA-17.** Despite the decline in population at VYCF and throughout all DJJ institutions, costs are increasing. In March 2018, California's governor



proposed a 1 percent increase in spending across adult prisons and the state's youth correctional system. He also proposed an increase in the age of jurisdiction for DJJ from 23 to 25. (Ref-09, Ref-14)

**FA-18.** There are no safety cells in use at VYCF.

**FA-19.** The VYCF has a PREA manual, and the PREA Act has been integrated into its policies, procedures, and the Youth Rights Handbook. Additionally, it has a compliance manager on-site who reports to a PREA coordinator at the DJJ in Sacramento. (Ref-01)

**FA-20.** There are no working cameras used for surveillance at VYCF. When a use-of-force incident occurs, staff are required to video the incident with a hand-held video camera. All videos involving the use of force are reviewed and critiqued on-site and also sent to the DJJ in Sacramento for review.

**FA-21.** The VYCF failed to meet minimum standards pursuant to BSCC Title 15, Section 1280 and Section 1245. The general overall condition of the facility was in disrepair and appeared to lack years of routine janitorial maintenance, as exhibited by the following:

- The ceiling in the visiting area was stained, presumably from water damage.
- The roof in the school area was partially torn off.
- There were missing ceiling tiles, inoperative lighting, stained carpet, and peeling paint in the conference room.
- The toilet bowl in the conference restroom was stained brown.
- Both the men's and women's public restrooms were filthy.
- There were spider webs and grease in the kitchen, as well as dust strings on exhaust fans above the food prep area.
- The tennis court was determined to be unsafe for use.

**FA-22.** On November 29, 2017, VYCF staff stated there were no plans to address the unkempt conditions of the facility.

**FA-23.** The VYCF failed to obtain accreditation for its on-site Mary B. Perry High School. The school is currently operating under a two-year probationary accreditation.

**FA-24.** According to the VYCF, Youth Rights Handbook contraband includes:

- Cell phones and pagers
- Cigarettes/tobacco
- Controlled substances
- Drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Gambling or lottery materials
- Gang writing or materials

- Money
- Sexually explicit drawings, pictures, or prints
- Weapons or explosives.  
(Ref 10)

**FA-25.** On November 29, 2017, VYCF staff told the Grand Jury they used canines to conduct periodic searches of the facility and did not consider contraband to be a problem.

**FA-26.** In February 2017, a counselor employed at VYCF was sentenced to 36 months' formal probation and 180 days in the Ventura County Jail for smuggling cell phones into the facility and selling them to youth for profit over a seven-month period. (Ref-11)

**FA-27.** In July 2017, VYCF purchased a full-body scanner for \$300,000 that could be used to detect contraband. As of November 29, 2017, it had not been installed because of a disagreement with the correctional employees union over radiation exposure.

**Pre-Trial Detention Facility (PTDF)**

**FA-28.** The BSCC states the PTDF has a rated capacity of 828 inmates.

**FA-29.** The PTDF website states the facility can house approximately 890 sentenced and un-sentenced inmates. (Ref-15)

**FA-30.** The PTDF deputies explained that the PTDF housing capacity can vary by more than 100 inmates per day in what is termed overflow housing. The facility has 113 dayroom bunks that are in designated housing sections and used when the population goes over the BSCC rated capacity. The number of inmates housed on the dayroom bunks, or overflow, is tracked daily by the Daily Overflow Report.

**FA-31.** On October 29, 2017, there were 831 inmates (815 males, 16 females) in custody at the PTDF. By October 30, 2017, the population had dropped to 818. Nonetheless, the Intake Unit was notably crowded, with at least 14 men and women waiting to be booked, and one inmate sleeping in one of the print/mugshot rooms.

**FA-32.** The PTDF staff estimate that 20 percent to 30 percent of inmates are classified as mentally ill.

**FA-33.** A large recreation area, or exercise yard, is located on the roof of the PTDF. It is enclosed by chain-link fencing and divided into separate compartments. Inmates are allowed out in the exercise yard for two 90-minute sessions per week. A drinking fountain is located outside the compartments; however, there is no free access to a toilet, as required by BSCC Title 24 Section 1231.2.10.

**FA-34.** Many rival gang members are housed at the PTDF. They consist of not only local street gangs, but also active members of prison gangs as designated by the California Department of Corrections. One of the major challenges

with the inmate population at the PTDF is the number of different gangs that must be managed.

- FA-35.** In the past year the VCSO purchased six programming chairs, at a cost of \$1,600 each. The purpose of programming, or security, chairs is to provide therapeutic programming and education to high-security offenders. Per PTDF staff, the programming chairs are used as a motivational tool to reward good behavior, i.e., used to watch movies, instead of the intended purpose of providing a safe environment for inmate programming. (Ref-16)
- FA-36.** The PTDF did not have a comprehensive PREA manual. (Ref-01, Ref-07, Ref-17)

**Todd Road Jail (TRJ)**

- FA-37.** Per BSCC, the TRJ currently has a rated capacity of 796 inmates. On September 27, 2017, there were 815 inmates in custody (582 males, 233 females). Of the 815 inmates, 201 were housed in bunk beds set up in an open area of the facility for the overflow population.
- FA-38.** On a daily average the jail houses 30 to 40 inmates with serious psychiatric issues. (Ref-12)
- FA-39.** On September 27, 2017, the TRJ met the facility requirements of BSCC Title 24. The facility interior and exterior were well maintained. Each of the quads, cells, and showers appeared to be clean. Restrooms were in good repair. Particularly impressive was the jail’s 10,000-square-foot kitchen and bakery. The kitchen prepares more than 2,500 meals daily for staff and inmates, including those on dietary restrictions, yet still maintained cleanliness standards.
- FA-40.** Many rival gang members are housed at TRJ. They consist of not only local street gangs, but also active members of prison gangs designated by the California Department of Corrections.
- FA-41.** The TRJ has 12 new programming chairs at a cost of \$1,600 each. According to TRJ staff, the programming chairs have proven useful to both faculty and inmates, particularly when instructing rival gang members. Safety of both staff and inmates is increased, and the inmates learn how to socialize and assimilate with each other. (Ref-16)

**Port Hueneme Police Department (PHPD)**

- FA-42.** On January 29, 2018, PHPD failed to meet minimum standards required by BSCC Title 15, Section 1280. The temporary holding cells had peeling paint and graffiti and lacked general cleanliness, with litter on the floor.
- FA-43.** On January 29, 2018, PHPD was understaffed by five of the 22 authorized sworn officers. The January 2018 calendar displayed numerous sign-ups for overtime shifts that month.
- FA-44.** On January 29, 2018 there was only one sworn officer at the PHPD holding facility.

**FA-45.** The PHPD separates juvenile offenders from adults in temporary detention by placing them in the sergeant’s office or the staff breakroom. The juvenile offenders have no direct access to toilet facilities. If a juvenile needs to use the toilet, he or she must be escorted either into the secure cell area where adults are kept, or to the toilets in the public lobby, where the juvenile’s confidentiality could be jeopardized.

**Santa Paula Police Department (SPPD)**

**FA-46.** On February 12, 2018, SPPD failed to meet minimum standards required by BSCC Title 15, Section 1280. The building was in poor condition. The paint on the exterior and interior walls was chipped and peeling, and graffiti was found in the holding cells. Ceiling panels were missing, wiring in the evidence room was exposed, and fixtures did not provide sufficient light.

**FA-47.** Due to increased sales tax from the passage of Measure T, planning is now underway for Santa Paula officials to renovate the existing SPPD building and expand it from 7,123 square feet to 13,455 square feet.

**FA-48.** On February 12, 2018, SPPD was understaffed by eight of 34 authorized sworn officers. At times, sworn officers are required to work as dispatchers. In addition to regular dispatch duties, dispatchers may be assigned to monitor inmates in holding cells.

**FA-49.** On February 12, 2018, one cell at SPPD had a blind spot due to the angle of the camera. The inmate was not visible to any SPPD staff.

**Other Holding Facilities**

**FA-50.** Of the 10 city holding facilities visited, only Oxnard Police Department (OPD), Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD), and Camarillo Police Department had up to date fire-life safety certificates available at the time of the Grand Jury inspection. Fire inspections are required once every two years. (BSCC Title 15, Section 13146.1(a)(b)).

**FA-51.** The 10 city holding facilities visited did not have policies or procedures incorporating PREA standards.

**FA-52.** The SVPD is the only city police agency in the County that does not use body cameras. City officials state the city’s low crime rate does not justify the expense.

**FA-53.** The 2016-2017 Grand Jury found that body cameras have become a law enforcement best practice. (Ref-13)

**Conclusions**

**Juvenile Facility (JF)**

**C-01.** The Grand Jury concluded that the JF has been seriously underutilized since 2008 due to its design limitations. (FA-01, FA-02, FA-03, FA-04, FA-05, FA-06, FA-07)

- C-02.** The Grand Jury concluded that the JF is lacking a formal PREA manual. However, the staff have undertaken numerous measures to become PREA compliant, including researching the issue with County Counsel and integrating PREA standards into their screening and intake policies. (FA-08, FA-09)
- C-03.** The Grand Jury concluded that VCPA no longer operates any facilities or has any active programs specific to victim reparation. (FA-12, FA-13)
- C-04.** The Grand Jury concluded direct services to victims of crime once provided by VCPA have significantly diminished over time. While this may be consistent with VCPA’s current priorities, it may not be consistent with VCPA’s mission statement. (FA-11, FA-12, FA-13, FA-14)

**Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF)**

- C-05.** The Grand Jury concluded that the declining population of juvenile offenders at the state level has resulted in the VYCF’s having been seriously underutilized for its intended purpose since 2011. (FA-15, FA-16, FA-17, FA-18)
- C-06.** The Grand Jury concluded that despite increased costs and more than a decade of changes, VYCF has not met and/or maintained goals set by the Farrell Decree, specifically regarding housing and education. (FA-16, FA-17, FA-21, FA-22, FA-23)
- C-07.** The Grand Jury concluded that contraband is a problem at VYCF. Furthermore, VYCF’s failure to activate the video cameras and the body scanner in the facility impedes efforts to control contraband and monitor offender violence in the facility. (FA-20, FA-24, FA-25, FA-26, FA-27)
- C-08.** The Grand Jury concluded that VYCF’s \$300,000 body scanner, which has remained inoperative since its purchase in 2017, has done nothing to improve conditions at the facility there by wasting taxpayer money. (FA-27)
- C-09.** The Grand Jury concluded that VCYF has failed to meet minimum cleanliness and maintenance standards as defined in BSCC Title 15, Section 1280. (FA-21, FA-22)

**Pre-Trial Detention Facility (PTDF)**

- C-10.** The Grand Jury concluded that programming chairs at the PTDF are not being utilized for their intended purpose. (FA-34, FA-35, FA-40, FA-41)
- C-11.** The Grand Jury concluded that the PTDF is not providing free access to toilet facilities in the exercise yard, as required by BSCC Title 24, Section 1231.3. (FA-33)
- C-12.** The Grand Jury concluded that the PTDF is lacking a formal PREA manual and does not fully integrate PREA standards into its policies and procedures. (FA-10, FA-36)

**Todd Road Jail (TRJ)**

**C-13.** The Grand Jury concluded that while the TRJ’s \$61-million expansion will help with overcrowding, it will serve only a small fraction of the estimated mentally ill inmates when it is completed in 2020. (FA-31, FA-32, FA-37, FA-38)

**Port Hueneme Police Department (PHPD)**

**C-14.** The Grand Jury concluded that the PHPD holding cell was in disrepair and lacked cleanliness, failing to meet the requirements of BSCC Title 15, Section 1280. (FA-42)

**Santa Paula Police Department (SPPD)**

**C-15.** The Grand Jury concluded that SPPD failed to meet minimum maintenance standards as required by BSCC Title 15, Section 1280. In addition, the camera blind spot in the holding cell poses a safety risk to inmates and potential liability to SPPD staff and the city. (FA-46, FA-49)

**Other Holding Facilities**

**C-16.** The Grand Jury concluded PHPD and SPPD are significantly understaffed. This potentially compromises staff and public safety. (FA-43, FA-44, FA-48, FA-49)

**C-17.** The Grand Jury concluded the absence of PREA standards in the 10 city police departments’ policy and procedure manuals exposes the cities to potential liability. (FA-51)

**C-18.** The Grand Jury concluded that it was unsatisfactory for safety and liability purposes that seven out of 10 holding facilities did not have current fire-life safety certifications available for inspection. (FA-50)

**Recommendations**

**R-01.** The Grand Jury recommends that the BOS and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation -DJJ, investigate chronically unused space at the juvenile facilities and consider developing plans to re-purpose the facilities so that underutilized space is minimized. (C-01, C-05)

**R-02.** The Grand Jury recommends VCSO and VCPA consider seeking accreditation to become fully compliant with PREA standards in order to avoid potential liability and to qualify for federal and state grant monies. (C-02, C-12)

**R-03.** The Grand Jury recommends that PHPD, SPPD, OPD, SVPD and VPD consider incorporating PREA standards into their policy and procedure manuals. (C-17)

**R-04.** The Grand Jury recommends VCPA consider reviewing its mission statement’s assertion regarding victim services, as it appears to be incongruent with current practices. (C-03, C-04)

**R-05.** The Grand Jury recommends that the VCSO comply with BSCC Title 24, Section 1231.3 regarding free access to toilet facilities in the exercise yard. (C-11)

- R-06.** The Grand Jury recommends VYCF comply with BSCC Title 15, Section 1280 regarding minimum standards of cleanliness, repair, and safety. (C-06, C-09)
- R-07.** The Grand Jury recommends that all adult jails and holding facilities incorporate biennial fire-life safety inspections into maintenance schedules. (C-18)

## **Responses**

### Responses Required From:

Ventura County Board of Supervisors (C-01, C-13, R-01)  
Ventura County Sheriff (C-11, C-12, C-13, R-02, R-05, R-07)  
City Council, City of Port Hueneme (C-14, C-16, C-17, C-18, R-03, R-07)  
City Council, City of Santa Paula (C-15, C-16, C-17, C-18, R-03, R-07)  
City Council, City of Oxnard (R-03)  
City Council, City of Simi Valley (C-17, R-03, R-07)  
City Council, City of Ojai (C-18, R-07)  
City Council, City of Ventura (C-17, C-18, R-03, R-07)  
City Council, City of Camarillo (C-17)  
City Council, City of Thousand Oaks (C-17, C-18, R-07)  
City Council, City of Moorpark (C-17, C-18, R-07)  
City Council, City of Fillmore (C-17, C-18, R-07)

### Responses Requested From:

Ventura County Probation Agency (C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04, R-02, R-04)  
Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (C-05, C-06, C-07, C-08, C-09, R-06)

## **Commendations**

The Grand Jury commends VCPA and all law enforcement agencies identified in this report for their excellent collaboration with County, State, and national firefighters in keeping Ventura County citizens safe and informed during the Thomas Fire in December 2017. The Grand Jury also commends the VCPA and all law enforcement agencies for their courtesy and cooperation with the Grand Jury inspections conducted during this unprecedented disaster.

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**Glossary**

<b><u>TERM</u></b>	<b><u>DEFINITION</u></b>
BSCC	Board of State and Community Corrections
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
County	County of Ventura
DA	Ventura County District Attorney
DJJ	Division of Juvenile Justice
Grand Jury	2017-2018 Ventura County Grand Jury
JF	Juvenile Facility
OPD	Oxnard Police Department
PHPD	Port Hueneme Police Department
PTDF	Pre-Trial Detention Facility
SPPD	Santa Paula Police Department
State	State of California
SVPD	Simi Valley Police Department
TRJ	Todd Road Jail
VCBH	Ventura County Behavioral Health
VCPA	Ventura County Probation Agency
VCSO	Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
VPD	Ventura Police Department
VYCF	Ventura Youth Correctional Facility