

**Response to 2017-2018 Grand Jury Final Report  
Annual Detention Facilities and Law Enforcement Reports  
From Ventura County Board of Supervisors**

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**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

**Report Title** Annual Detention Facilities and Law Enforcement Reports

**Report Date:** September 11, 2018 **Responding Agency/Dept.:** Board of Supervisors

**Response by:** Frank Chow **Title:** County Executive Office

**FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

- I (we) agree with the findings/conclusions numbered: C-13
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings/conclusions numbered: C-01

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings/conclusions that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommendation numbered R-01 has been implemented and is continuing.
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8-31-18

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Number of pages attached 1

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**Grand Jury Conclusions:**

**C-01 (BOS).** *The Grand Jury concluded that 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)*

**RESPONSE:** The Board of Supervisors agrees the JF has been underutilized in recent years, but it has not been due to design limitations. The reasons are two-fold: 1) VCPA implemented a philosophy and policy change to better address the needs of our juvenile offenders which the Board continues to support and 2) a large local and statewide decline in the juvenile crime rate over the past 10 years has contributed to the lower JF population. Starting in 2002 with the JDAI program funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Probation Agency (VCPA) found that these evidence-based detention alternative programs for lower-risk juvenile offenders produced significantly improved results in terms of lower recidivism and rehabilitation, while maintaining community safety. VCPA continues to build their operations around these community oriented programs to serve our juveniles and their families

Concurrently, VCPA has launched many on-site programs to better meet the needs of the higher-risk juveniles at the JF and also has been open to various proposals to repurpose the vacant space. The design only becomes an issue when a proposal involves housing a different age group than what the facility was intended by the State. However, VCPA has been open to asking the State for waivers and remodeling the structure of the vacant space. Currently, there is a bill in the state legislature that proposes to allow juvenile offenders, ages 18-21, to be housed and treated at juvenile facilities such as the JF. If the bill becomes law, VCPA intends to fully explore this opportunity.

**C-13 (BOS).** *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)*

**RESPONSE:** The Board of Supervisors agrees with this Grand Jury conclusion. The original purpose for this expansion as approved by the BSCC is to address the needs of the more seriously impacted inmates with medical or mental health conditions. The facility may also provide additional program space to serve the larger inmate population.

**Grand Jury Recommendations:**

**R-01 (BOS).** **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)**

**RESPONSE:** The Board of Supervisors will continue to support VCPA in its efforts to repurpose the JF, while being in compliance with all state regulations governing this facility.