

# **Ventura County Grand Jury 2018 - 2019**



## **Final Report**

### **Annual Detention Facilities and Law Enforcement Report**

**April 16, 2019**

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# **Annual Detention Facilities and Law Enforcement Report**

## **Summary**

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 919(b), the 2018-2019 Ventura County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) inquired into the condition and management of all detention facilities (holding cells, jails, juvenile facilities) in Ventura County (County). The Grand Jury inspected the Pre-Trial Detention Facility (Main Jail); Todd Road Jail; the East Valley Jail; all 10 city holding facilities; and two juvenile facilities, one operated by the State of California (State) and one by the County.

The Grand Jury concluded that the holding cells, jails and juvenile facilities are satisfactory, according to the requirements of the State Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Personnel at each location were welcoming and knowledgeable, explaining all policies and procedures, as well as providing access to all areas of the facilities.

## **Background**

California Penal Code 919(b) mandates that the Grand Jury conduct an annual inspection of County detention facilities. The Grand Jury documented the overall results for each facility in the attached chart, titled "Detention Facilities Inspection Summary" (Att-01).

## **Methodology**

The Grand Jury carried out its annual inspection of County detention facilities and performed the following activities:

- Made announced visits to the following jails and juvenile facilities: Todd Road, Main Jail, Juvenile Justice Complex and the Ventura County Youth Correctional Facility
- Made unannounced visits to the following holding facilities: Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Ventura, Thousand Oaks/East Valley and Simi Valley
- Inspected policies and procedures manuals
- Inspected State agency reports, complaint logs, fire inspection reports, health inspection reports, juvenile logs, demographic reports and other documentation
- Recorded observations during each visit

The attached table summarizes the results of the physical and procedural inspections of each detention facility. The following rating system was used:

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs improvement

Shaded = Not Observed (Att-01)

## **Review of Jails**

**Pre-Trial Detention Facility (Main Jail):** The Main Jail was opened in 1980. On the date of the Grand Jury visit, October 2, 2018, it housed 779 inmates. The facility is certified by the BSCC for a maximum rated housing capacity of 800. Inmates identified as suicidal or a danger to others are segregated from the general population.

The medical personnel at the Main Jail include primary care physicians, psychiatrists, nurses and mental health workers. Nurses are on duty at all times. The medical professionals perform patient care for diseases, injuries and mental-health problems. Inmates are transported to Ventura County Medical Center for medical issues beyond the capabilities of the Main Jail medical facility.

At the time of the Grand Jury visit, the jurors inquired into two recent deaths of inmates. One death resulted from a brain aneurysm and the other from an assault by one inmate upon another.

The Main Jail also operates an electronic monitoring program, which allows up to 34 participants to reside off-site. It provides the ability for defendants and inmates to maintain or seek employment, maintain family ties, and participate in appropriate counseling and programming as necessary while awaiting trial and after sentencing.

**Todd Road Jail Facility:** Todd Road Jail was built in 1995. On the date of the Grand Jury visit, August 21, 2018, there were 800 inmates (240 women and 560 men), with a BSCC maximum rated housing capacity of 796. The facility provides educational, career and mental-health programs. The staff reported that these programs contribute to a lower recidivism rate of 65% versus 70% nationally.

This facility is currently undergoing an expansion to add a 64-bed medical and psychiatric unit.

**East Valley Jail:** The East Valley Jail, located in Thousand Oaks, housed 10 inmates on the date of the Grand Jury visit on October 15, 2018. It has a maximum rated housing capacity of 34.

Inmates housed at the East Valley Jail are carefully screened by the Classification Unit at the Main Jail prior to transfer to this facility. They are trustees who perform unsupervised duties for the Sheriff’s Department.

**Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF):** Located in Ventura County, this co-ed facility is managed by the State and houses 13- to 23-year-olds from any county within the State.

On the day of the Grand Jury’s visit, February 12, 2019, there were 187 residents. This population count reflects the continued decline in statewide youth detention.

The Mary B. Perry High School, located within the facility, provides programs to help the youth achieve either a high school diploma or GED. College courses for credit are also provided. Additional programs are offered in vocational training, work experience, counseling and, if needed, psychiatric and psychological help.

Some of the vocational training has been utilized in making renovations within the facility. Programs such as sports and social activities are included to prepare the VYCF youth to return to society.

**Juvenile Justice Facility:** This facility for youth pre-trial detention and post-sentencing confinement is located in Oxnard and is managed by the Ventura County Probation Agency. The capacity is 420 youth; on the day of the Grand Jury visit on January 24, 2019, there was a total of 67 youth residents in detention and confinement. The campus also includes Providence High School and the juvenile courthouse. A Boys and Girls Club has been on-site since 2006.

**Review of Holding Cells**

**Ventura County Sheriff’s Office:** Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai and Thousand Oaks

**City Police Departments:** Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley and Ventura

Holding cells are for short-term detention prior to release or transfer to a jail facility. Unannounced walk-through inspections were conducted of holding cells.

The Grand Jury found that each facility follows mandated procedures for juveniles, maintaining separation from adult detainees. Juveniles are held in interview rooms rather than cells and are under constant observation. Food and water are provided as appropriate. Separate detailed logs are maintained on all juvenile detentions. The general practice is to return juveniles to parents or guardians within BSCC guidelines of four hours.

Some holding-cell locations had toilet facilities and drinking fountains within the cells; at other locations, toilet facilities were outside the cells. At a minimum, holding cells have a bench. Except for Santa Paula, cells did not have mattresses. At other locations a mattress could be provided if needed. During the initial inspection of one holding facility, the Grand Jury identified plumbing deficiencies, which were subsequently corrected.

The Grand Jury found that routine operational policies and procedures are documented, current and available to all staff in a manual and via Lexipol, a police-management software program.

The Grand Jury inspected all fire, safety and health certifications, including the BSCC annual inspection report. No significant discrepancies were noted in the documentation.

**Commendations**

The Grand Jury commends the Sheriff’s Office and the Board of Supervisors for their proactive stance in advancing the medical and mental-health facility addition to the Todd Road Jail.

The Grand Jury further commends the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility for receiving accreditation of the Mary B. Perry High School.

The Grand Jury also commends both the Juvenile Justice Facility and the Ventura County Youth Facility for improving emergency evacuation plans by developing reciprocal agreements with juvenile facilities in neighboring counties.

**Delivered To:**

- Ventura County Board of Supervisors
- Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
- City Council, City of Camarillo
- City Council, City of Fillmore
- City Council, City of Moorpark
- City Council, City of Ojai
- City Council, City of Oxnard
- City Council, City of Port Hueneme
- City Council, City of Santa Paula
- City Council, City of Simi Valley
- City Council, City of Thousand Oaks
- City Council, City of Ventura
- Ventura County Probation Agency
- Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

**Attachment**

**Att-01.** Detention Facilities Inspection Summary

**Glossary**

<b><u>TERM</u></b>	<b><u>DEFINITION</u></b>
BSCC	Board of State and Community Corrections
County	Ventura County
Detention Facilities	Holding cells, jails and juvenile facilities
Grand Jury	2018-2019 Ventura County Grand Jury
State	State of California
VCSO	Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
VYCF	Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

## **Attachment 01**

### **Detention Facilities Inspection Summary**



Detention Facilities Inspection Summary										Jail Facilities				
										Adult Jails			Juvenile Facilities	
	Camarillo	Fillmore	Moorpark	Ojai	Oxnard	Port Hueneme	Santa Paula	Ventura	Simi Valley	East Valley / TO	Main Jail	Todd Road	Juvenile Justice	VYCF
<b><u>Policy And Procedure Manuals</u></b>														
Medical incidents	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Routine operations procedures	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Inmate classification procedure										S	S	S	S	S
Inmate request procedure										S	S	S	S	S
Grievance procedure										S	S	S	S	S
<b><u>Physical Facility Observations</u></b>														
Certifications current	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Average population/crowding										S	S	S	S	S
Average detainee sentence/stay										S	S	S	S	S
Cell cleanliness/sanitation	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Clothing/personal hygiene										S	S	S	S	S
Bedding/linens										S	S	S	S	S
Toilet/accessibility	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Shower/accessibility										S	S	S	S	S
Bodily fluids cleaners/drainage	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Safety/maintenance	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Lighting/environment										S	S	S	S	S
Phone accessibility	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Kitchen cleanliness/adequacy										S	S	S	S	S
Food/preparation										S	S	S	S	S
Food/snacks/water	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
First aid/AED, log	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Medical infrastructure										S	S	S	S	S
Exercise/recreation facilities										S	S	S	S	S
Accommodation for restraints	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
English/Spanish signage	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Staff Spanish ability	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Staffing adequacy	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Inmate programs										S	S	S	S	S
<b><u>Accommodation for Juveniles</u></b>														
Appropriate use of restraints	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
Segregation from adults	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
Shouting distance to staff	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
Phone call to parents	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
Pre-transfer interview	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
Log	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
Average/longest time held	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					

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