



July 22, 2014

FILED Superior Court of California  
County of Butte  
JUL 23 2014  
Kimberly Flener, Clerk  
By *K. Mortensen* Deputy

Honorable, Kristen Lucena Presiding Judge  
c/o Court Administration  
Superior Court of California, County of Butte  
One Court Street  
Oroville CA 95965

RE: RESPONSE TO 2013-2014 GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Judge Lucena:

I would like to thank the members of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury for their many hours of dedicated service to the citizens of Butte County. I had the pleasure of meeting with members of the Grand Jury on a number of occasions and was impressed with their desire to gain meaningful insight into the operation and management of the Butte County Jail. Their commitment to the process is reflected in the comprehensive report they issued. In accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, please accept this response to the findings and recommendations of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury.

BUTTE COUNTY JAIL

Grand Jury Findings:

F1 The Butte County Jail is old and outdated but is run by a professional, dedicated, and competent staff.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F2 The Butte County Jail was not designed to accommodate the long-term inmates who need to be housed under provisions of AB 109.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

F3 Butte County has embraced AB 109 and has endeavored to minimize the effects on the County by instituting a series of programs, including the ACS.

**The respondent agrees with the finding.**

- F4 There is a lack of privacy for inmate/attorney conversations at the jail.

**The respondent disagrees with the finding.**

The Butte County Jail has six (6) attorney/inmate visiting rooms. These rooms allow for private, non-recorded, telephonic contact between attorneys and inmates. In addition, these rooms are effectively soundproof, provided voices are kept at a conversational level. We are unaware of any privacy issues involving attorney/inmate visits as no complaints from attorneys or grievances from inmates have been raised. The attorney visiting rooms were approved and inspected as designed by State Corrections authorities when constructed and have not been modified since that time. The attorney/inmate visiting rooms are also inspected biennially by the Bureau of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for compliance with Title 24 and have passed every inspection.

- F5 Butte County is installing an Internet-based video visitation service at the jail.

**The respondent agrees with the finding.**

- F6 The Butte County Sheriff's [Office] is continually looking for innovative ways to help those individuals who were sentenced by the court to be under the Sheriff's supervision, while keeping public safety as its priority.

**The respondent agrees with the finding.**

- F7 The partnership between the Butte County Sheriff's [Office] and CSUC's Criminal Justice program (through the *Consortium for Public Safety*) has helped the County evaluate the ACS program and is giving students an invaluable internship experience.

**The respondent agrees with the finding.**

Grand Jury Recommendations:

- R1 Butte County should continue its search for adequate funding to enlarge and improve the jail.

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

The Butte County Sheriff's Office is currently seeking approximately \$40 million in funding for the purpose of jail expansion and improvement. We believe we will secure this funding in 2014 or 2015.

R2 Butte County should continue to implement programs like the ACS that have proven to be successful.

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

We are proud of the myriad of programs currently offered by the Sheriff's Office Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) at our Day Reporting Center (DRC). With so many county based stakeholders present at the DRC, we will continue to provide meaningful programming with a constant effort toward improved outcomes and efficiencies.

R3 The Sheriff's Office should continue to monitor the video visitation methodology at the jail and seek improvements to make it more personal, private, user friendly, and less expensive.

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

We continually monitor all inmate communication modalities, including video visitation, with the goal of increased ease of use, privacy, and affordability.

R4 Butte County Sheriff's [Office] should continue its affiliation with CSUC's Criminal Justice program and affiliated Consortium for Public Safety to assist with research on the jail.

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

We rely on our relationship with CSUC's Criminal Justice program and the Consortium for Public Safety Research to provide us and the community accurate and timely information regarding the effectiveness of programming conducted by the Sheriff's Office. We find the research conducted by CSUC invaluable in studying and measuring such crucial topics as recidivism and criminogenic tendencies among the inmate population.

#### RURAL SCHOOLS

F4 When law enforcement questions arise, staff does not have a dedicated deputy sheriff to contact.

**The Respondent agrees with finding.**

R4 The Butte County Sheriff's [Office] should assign a designated deputy position to each of the small rural school districts to be of assistance in possible emergency situations and to develop relationships with students, staff, and parents.

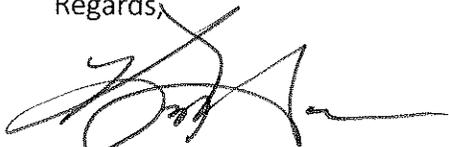
The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in so far as the Butte County Sheriff's Office will assign a Sheriff's Sergeant as the point of contact for

all rural school districts. This assignment will be completed within the next 30 days. (The Sergeant is currently working with the Butte County Office of Education to update all rural school safety plans.) These affected school districts will be provided the name and contact information of the assigned Sheriff's Sergeant. That Sergeant may be contacted for non-emergent and non-urgent law enforcement matters. In urgent, but non-life threatening situations, schools should continue the current practice of contacting the Sheriff's Dispatch Center by calling (530) 538-7321. In emergency situations, the schools should call 911.

Currently, the Sheriff's Office does not have sufficient staff to physically assign a Deputy Sheriff to each rural school district. Deployment of our current resources is setup to address the needs of the community as a whole providing for the best coverage and response to all citizens in need of law enforcement assistance.

This concludes my response to the 2013-2014 Grand Jury report. Once again, I appreciate all the recommendations made by the Grand Jury, and remain convinced that this type of citizen participation in the operations of government is crucial to our successful operation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kery L. Honea', written over a horizontal line.

Kery L. Honea  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Board of Supervisors  
CAO