



July 22, 2015

Superior Court of California
County of Butte
AUG 12 2015
FILED
By: *K. Honea* Deputy

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

RE: RESPONSE TO 2014-2015 GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Judge Lucena:

I would like to thank the members of the 2014-2015 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 two 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 2014-2015 Grand Jury.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO THE BUTTE COUNTY JAIL

Grand Jury Findings:

F1 The Butte County Jail is operated by a professional and dedicated staff.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F2 The Butte County Jail is not designed for long-term inmate housing as mandated by AB109.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F3 Butte County is in need of a new jail facility.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F4 The Butte County Sheriff has been innovative in managing the jail and helping those individuals sentenced by the court and who are placed in his custody with a priority for public service.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F5 Valuable internship experience for students was achieved through a partnership between the Sheriff and CSUC's Criminal Justice Program.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F6 The Butte County Sheriff-Coroner website contains little information regarding the DRC programs.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

R1 The Butte County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff should continue to search for adequate funding for a new jail facility.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office and County are in the process of preparing an application for funding pursuant to SB 863. That application is due on August 28, 2015, and funding awards will be made on November 12, 2015. Butte County is seeking \$40 million, which is the maximum amount available to medium size counties such as Butte County.

R2 The partnership between the Sheriff and CSUC's Criminal Justice Program should continue.

This recommendation has been implemented. The partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the CSUC Criminal Justice program has been an invaluable collaboration that has benefited the Sheriff's Office as well as the criminal justice students participating in the research projects. The Sheriff's Office has received valuable data which has enabled us to measure our progress in dealing with the impacts of Public Safety Realignment (AB109) and students have gained valuable real world experience. As an added benefit, a number of the students have been hired into full time positions with the Sheriff's Office and/or the vendor providing recidivism reduction programs to the Sheriff's Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) program.

R3 ACS and visitation programs that have been successful should continue.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Alternative Custody Supervision program was established to deal with the impacts of Public Safety Realignment (AB109). Currently the program has the capacity to supervise 200 offenders within the

community. Correctional Deputies assigned to the ACS unit supervise the offenders by conducting regular and unannounced home visits; ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of participation in the program and provide basic case management. The offenders in the program are required to participate in evidenced based classes designed to address their individual criminogenic needs and reduce recidivism.

- R4 The Sheriff should provide additional information on the Sheriff-Coroner website regarding the array of programs available to participants.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office website has been updated to include additional information about the Alternative Custody Supervision program, the Sheriff's Day Reporting Center and the programs offered to offenders designed to address their individual criminogenic needs and reduce recidivism. Please visit www.buttecounty.net/sheriffcoroner/acsdrc.aspx for more information.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO POWER OUTAGE PREPAREDNESS

Grand Jury Findings:

- F1 The jails in Butte County have backup generators with enough fuel to last three days.

The Sheriff's Office does not agree with this finding. The Sheriff's Office is equipped with a number of back-up generators which are set to automatically engage in the event of a power outage. The generators are powered by natural gas with propane as a back-up in the event of a natural gas outage. With this system, the generators can run indefinitely on natural gas. In the event of a natural gas outage, the propane tanks can sustain operation for several days depending on the load placed on the generator. The propane tanks can be refilled while the generators are in operation, so there is no disruption in service.

- F2 There is no long term power outage plan for the jail system.

The Sheriff's Office does not agree with this finding. As noted above, the Sheriff's Office has a number of back-up generators which form the foundation of our plan to deal with long term power outages. Additionally, the jail has manual override capabilities on all electronic control systems and the staff is trained to deal with any number of emergency and/or unusual situations which would allow them to adapt to and effectively deal with a long term power outage.

- F3 The prisoners released to the community with ankle bracelets are tracked by these bracelets. They cannot be tracked if the bracelets are damaged by EMP's.

The Sheriff's Office does not agree with this finding. The Sheriff's Office uses GPS ankle monitors to assist with the supervision of offenders placed on the Alternative Custody Supervision program. The ankle monitors are just one component of the overall approach

to supervising those offenders in the community. In addition to monitoring the offenders electronically, they are routinely visited and monitored by correctional deputies. Each offender has a hardcopy file with information about where the offender lives and works and who his or her associates are. With that information, we would be able to locate the offender and continue supervising them, just as we did prior to the advent of GPS ankle monitors.

- F4 There are no hard copy backups for the information needed in order to locate these released prisoners.

The Sheriff's Office does not agree with this finding. As noted above, each offender has a hardcopy file with information about where the offender lives and works and who his or her associates are. With that information, we would be able to locate the offender and continue supervising them, just as we did prior to the advent of GPS ankle monitors.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

- R2 That the Butte County Jail also develop a plan for longer term power outages to protect electronic equipment, including the locking system, prisoner locator devices, and prisoner records.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office has a number of back-up generators which form the foundation of our plan to deal with long term power outages. Additionally, the jail has manual override capabilities on all electronic control systems, hard copy files with information pertaining to inmates and the staff is trained to deal with any number of emergency and/or unusual situations which would allow them to adapt to and effectively deal with a long term power outage.

- R3 That police and fire vehicles be updated to include electronic hardening similar to those of the military.

This recommendation will not be implemented. The current manufactures of law enforcement vehicles do not offer such upgrades as a standard option and it is not economically feasible to retrofit law enforcement vehicles in the manner recommended given the remote possibility of the specified threat.

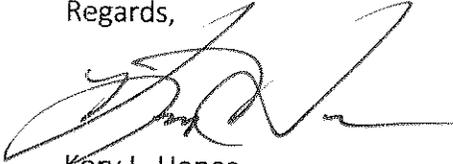
- R4 That police and fire vehicles have alternate methods of communications with the county dispatch that can bypass the present mountain top relay system.

This recommendation will not be implemented. The majority of deputies working in the field have access to cellular telephones which can be utilized as an alternative form of

communication with the dispatch center. Beyond that, it is not feasible to invest funds and/or resources in developing an alternative system given the remote possibility of the specified threat. We need to use available funds and resources to upgrade the current radio communication system, thereby improving its reliability and function.

This concludes my response to the 2014-2015 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 'Kory L. Honea', written over a horizontal line.

Kory L. Honea
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Board of Supervisors
CAO