



County of San Diego

WALTER F. EKARD
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
(619) 531-6226
FAX: (619) 557-4060

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, STE. 209, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472

HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
ASST. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
(619) 531-4940
FAX: (619) 557-4060

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JUL 22 2010

SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

July 13, 2010

The Honorable Kevin Enright
Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Enright,

On July 13, 2010, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved responses to nine Grand Jury reports that addressed findings and recommendations to the County of San Diego. The Board further directed that these responses be sent to your office. The reports for which responses are attached are titled:

- Ethical Political Practices-Enforcement of Campaign and Lobbying Laws
- Transitional Age Youth: Navigating a Difficult Course to Independent Living
- Homeless in San Diego
- San Diego County Detention Facility Inspection Report
- Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act
- The Substance Abuse Recovery Management System (SARMS)
- Ethics in Government- Code of Ethics, Internal Control, Fraud Hotlines
- Efficiency in Government-Managed Competition, Outsourcing, Reengineering and Reverse Auction Within San Diego County
- Medical Marijuana in San Diego

The Board is scheduled to consider the County's response to a 10th report titled "Eye Gnats in San Diego County" on August 3, 2010. That response will complete the County's obligations to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury and will be sent to you as soon as Board approval is obtained. If you have any questions, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
RESPONSE TO 2009/10 GRAND JURY REPORT
“San Diego County Detention Facility Inspection Report”
Issued May 18, 2010**

Finding #01: As a consequence of closing Descanso Detention Facility, its staff was dispersed throughout the remaining adult detention facilities in San Diego County. As a result, facilities are now staffed at an operational level which in turn allows them to run more smoothly and efficiently.

Response: Agree.

Finding #02: The County’s General Services Construction Manager is expecting to issue a Request for Proposal in the Fall 2010 for the contract to build a new woman’s prison to replace Las Colinas.

Response: Agree. The Department of General Services (DGS) is currently engaged in the research and planning associated with the development of a Request for Proposal for the construction of a new women’s prison. Additionally, DGS is coordinating with the State of California to prepare the appropriate recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

Recommendation 10-36: Expedite all phases involved in replacing Las Colinas Detention Facility.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors authorized staff to proceed with the project to replace the Las Colinas Detention Facility on June 22, 2010 (#13). The Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Sheriff’s Department, has submitted a solicitation package that will result in the selection of a design-build entity – a team that includes architects, a general contractor and subcontractors who will design and construct the new jail. The selection process will commence in summer 2010 and the design phase will likely continue through 2011. Pending Board approval of funding and State design approvals, construction on the project should begin in late 2011 or early 2012.

DGS continues to effectively pursue the required authorizations and associated funding in support of a replacement for the existing Las Colinas Detention Facility.

Finding # 04: Single beds may assist in reducing suicide attempts at Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility.

Response: Agree.

Finding #05: Providing free passes for the I-125 toll road would halve lengthy commutes for the employees of East Mesa Juvenile Facility.

Response: Agree in part. The locations of employees’ homes determine, in part, which path employees take to drive to work. However, implementation would cause the County/Probation Department to incur an additional expense in already difficult times.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 10-38: Take steps to deter suicide attempts at Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility by asphyxiation, such as replacing all bunk beds with platform-style single beds (“safe beds”).

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in Fiscal Year 2010-11. The Probation Department has obtained an estimate for bed replacement at Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility. The bed replacement is the Probation Department’s first priority regarding major maintenance projects for FY 10-11 and is scheduled to begin in FY 10-11.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

10-39: Consider taking the steps needed to purchase prepaid FasTrak® electronic transponders (which mount onto vehicles) at a group rate for the staff of East Mesa Detention Facility.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented, in that a Probation representative contacted a South Bay Expressway representative to research the possibility of purchasing a group rate for East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility staff. The Probation employee mentioned that there are three other correctional facilities in the Otay Mesa area, including the George Bailey Detention Facility, the East Mesa Adult Jail, and the Donovan State Prison. Combined, these facilities employ hundreds of sworn and non-sworn personnel that would highly benefit from a group rate on prepaid FasTrak® transponders. Although the South Bay Expressway does not offer group rates at this time, a representative is currently reviewing the possibility of offering such to the law enforcement agencies in the area.

Finding 06: Pet Encounter Therapy should be implemented because the financial benefits of curbing the recidivism rate far outweighs the financial burden that “revolving door” criminals impose on taxpayers.

Response: Disagree. Animals have shown to have a calming effect on children and assisted in relieving anxiety with those who have been traumatized and victimized. The Probation Department has moved forward in the area of Evidence-Based Practices. In our research efforts, we have not found any evidence that pet therapy reduces recidivism in juveniles.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 10-40: Incorporate a Pet Encounter Therapy program into the other types of successful programs presently implemented at juvenile facilities.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. Animals have shown to have a calming effect on children and assisted in relieving anxiety with those who have been traumatized and victimized. The Probation Department has moved forward in the area of Evidence-Based Practices. In our research efforts we have not found any evidence that pet therapy reduces recidivism in juveniles. With this in mind we have piloted a pet therapy program

at Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility in Unit 70 in hopes of assisting youth with coping and reducing anxiety while incarcerated.

Finding #07: The Juvenile Ranch Facility's exterior maintenance has been neglected and is deteriorating. Clarification needs to be made regarding whose responsibility it is to maintain and repair the buildings on this historic site. If any physical upgrades or changes are questionable, within the scope of repair and maintenance, there needs to be communication among San Diego County's General Services, San Diego's Historic Site Board, and the Juvenile Ranch Facility's management.

Response: Agree in part. Maintenance and repair responsibility of County buildings is clearly defined. It is a respective County/client department responsibility to review and prioritize major maintenance projects as well as identify project funding in accordance with Board of Supervisors Policy G-16. It is the responsibility of the Department of General Services (DGS), in accordance with County Code of Administrative Ordinances (section 398.5), for the repair of County facilities. Repairs, replacements or upgrades to the building envelope, structure, mechanical and electrical systems, or large scale painting and associated exterior maintenance work are beyond the scope of Routine Operations and Maintenance and are identified under a Major Maintenance Requirements Summary. This list is reviewed annually with the client department and the respective Group Finance Director for those major maintenance projects to be approved and funded in the coming year. The final list of projects is approved by the Facilities Planning Board and included in the Group Operational Plan for funding by the client department. The existing list of identified Major Maintenance projects for the Juvenile Ranch Facility is currently estimated at more than \$9.8 million.

Effective communication exists between DGS and the Juvenile Ranch Facilities management (reference previous discussion) and the San Diego Historic Site Board. Communication with the San Diego Historic Site Board is neither an issue nor an impediment to affecting the building repairs. In fact, DGS coordinated with the Historic Site Board and provided a formal update regarding the status of general maintenance at the facility as recently as January 25, 2010.

Finding #08: The Juvenile Ranch Facility's badly worn carpet poses a trip and fall hazard which is dangerous to the children and employees.

Response: Agree.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

Recommendation 10-41: Direct San Diego County General Services to repair and restore the building facades at the Juvenile Ranch Facility and develop a schedule for routine maintenance.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented, if funding can be obtained. DGS will again review identified Major Maintenance requirements for priority and funding with the respective client department in the Fall 2010. Following this review, DGS will proceed with the required maintenance and repairs upon receipt of the appropriate authorization and funding from the client department or the Facilities Planning Board. It should be noted, however, repairs of this nature are beyond the scope of Routine Operations and Maintenance and, therefore, addressed via the Major Maintenance process.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 10-42: Replace the carpet in the classrooms and medical clinic at the Juvenile Ranch Facility in order to be compliant with safety standards.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented. The request to remove and replace the carpet was approved for the medical clinic and an estimate for replacement in the classrooms will be obtained. Carpet replacement in both areas will be scheduled for completion in FY10-11.

Finding #09: The badly worn surface of the floors at the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility poses a safety hazard for the youth and employees. Potential accidents and possible lawsuits amount to monetary loss that inevitably trickles down to taxpayers.

Response: Agree.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 10-43: Resurface the floors in the Unit 60 hallway at Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility in order to be compliant with safety standards.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented. The Probation Department has contacted the Department of General Services for a price estimate. The floor will be resurfaced during FY10-11.
