

August 28, 2007

Honorable Judge Rodney S. Melville
Superior Court, Santa Maria Division
312-M East Cook Street
Santa Maria, California 93455-5165

**Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2006-07 Civil Grand Jury Report on:
"Detention Facilities Inspections"**

Dear Judge Melville:

During its regular meeting of Tuesday, August 28, 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following responses as its response to the 2006-07 Grand Jury's report on "*Detention Facilities*".

The Board of Supervisors thanks the Grand Jury for its findings and recommendations on this important matter.

Finding 1

In all inspections of detention facilities throughout Santa Barbara County, none were found to be sub-standard with respect to regulations.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 1

Supervisory staff should continue to encourage personnel to use initiative to have a positive impact on the work environment.

Response: The Board adopted the Probation Department's and the Sheriff Department's responses as its response: The recommendation has been implemented.

Probation Response: The recommendation has been implemented and will be further implemented with the following formal process within 180 days. The Probation Department concurs that encouraging staff to use initiative to have a positive impact on the work environment is very important. Probation has informally implemented the recommendation over the years by fostering an environment in which staff feedback is valued and encouraged.

To further implement this recommendation, the Probation Department is developing a staff survey instrument to be used in the Institutions Division in order to solicit regular feedback and suggestions regarding operational issues and programming. This survey will be conducted on a semi-annual basis and is tentatively scheduled for distribution in July and January. In addition to the semi-annual survey, Probation staff will have ready access to the Facility Operation/Procedure/Program Form that is pending development and can ultimately be submitted at any time for administrative review, consideration, and implementation. Submitted forms will require a written administrative response within 30 days.

Sheriff Response: The Sheriff's Department will continue to implement this recommendation.

Finding 2

Inspections revealed no major flaws or shortfalls in staff performance.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 2:

The Sheriff's Department should pursue a course of action aimed at implementing video arraignment procedures in the jail system

Response: The Board adopted the Sheriff Department's response as its response: the recommendation requires further analysis.

Sheriff Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. The Sheriff's Department will revisit the previous study on Video Arraignment (copy of the 1994 Study attached) and provide an update on December 18, 2007. Sheriff's Department staff will confer with other justice system members to determine if new technological advances and staffing issues would facilitate implementation of a video arraignment system.

Finding 3

Staff have used initiative and ingenuity to achieve positive results during periods of reduced resources.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Finding 4

The Sheriff's Department currently has to move detainees for arraignment to Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara Superior Court locations on a daily basis.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Sincerely,

Brooks Firestone, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: Grand Jury Foreperson
Bill Brown, Sheriff
Patricia Stewart, Chief Probation Officer