



YUBA-SUTTER JUVENILE HALL  
CAMP SINGER YOUTH GUIDANCE CENTER

FRANK D. SORGEA  
Superintendent of Institutions



August 14, 2009

FILED

SEP 28 2009

The Honorable Christopher R, Chandler  
Sutter County Superior Court  
446 Second Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By Julie A. Russell Deputy

**RE: Response to 2008/2009 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations**

Dear Judge Chandler:

This letter, provided pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, is the Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall response to the 2008/2009 Grand Jury Final Report – Findings and Recommendations concerning the annual investigation into the operation of the Bi-County Juvenile Hall and Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center.

I would first of all wish to express my gratitude to the Criminal Justice Committee for their time and their commitment to conducting a thorough investigation. I met with committee member on several occasions and found that they were very interested in both our facilities and programs. I am pleased with the report of their investigation and offer the following in response to their findings and recommendations:

**Finding 1**

*The Grand Jury finds the roof at Yuba – Sutter Juvenile Hall is in need of repair. The contract is planned to go out for bid in March 2009.*

We agree with this finding. The roof of the Juvenile Hall is currently being replaced with work expected to be completed August 24, 2009

**Finding 2**

*The Grand Jury finds the worn floors discussed in the 2007/08 grand jury report have been replaced.*

We agree with this finding. The area noted included the entrance area as well as central control and the booking areas. These areas have had carpet removed and ceramic tile installed. It should be noted that the Carpet in the boys' day room area has also recently been replaced.

**Finding 3**

*The Grand Jury finds the security doors have not been replaced; however, reinforcement was added and reported to provide adequate security.*

We agree with this finding. Replacing the cell doors is a project which will require a substantial amount of work. All doors within the facility are functional and are provided maintenance as required.

**Finding 4**

*The Grand Jury finds the cafeteria has a modern kitchen providing the daily nutritional needs for the wards.*

We agree with this finding. Our kitchen staff works very hard to provide a high quality food service program to the minors in our care.

**Finding 5**

*The Grand Jury finds Camp Singer has a focus on self improvement for all wards housed at this facility. There are opportunities to attend a basic building class and learn a trade, as well as general education classes. The goal is to help each person be an asset to the community upon release.*

We agree with this finding. The Camp Singer program provides a range of opportunity for minors who wish to redirect themselves. Camp staff are dedicated to the proposition that behavior can be changed and that we can be instrumental in that change.

**Finding 6**

*The Grand Jury finds several areas at the Yuba – Sutter Juvenile Hall in need of repair, paint, and remodel. The visitors' area needs to be refurbished, with updated security. The control room needs to be updated and modernized. The cell windows have been compromised with the insertion of paper and are in need of replacement.*

We agree with this finding.

**Recommendation 1**

*The Grand Jury recommends updating the control room equipment, visitors' center, and cell windows. The Grand Jury recommends a general refurbishment relative to the Juvenile Hall building.*

The recommendation has partially been implemented. Building maintenance is an ongoing concern at this aging facility. We have begun a process of upgrading the facilities as funds become available. The replacement of the roof and floor surfaces were projects we could accommodate with available funds. An architectural plan to modify the visiting areas has been completed. This plan will be completed incrementally until such time as funding for the full project can be obtained. We are working to clear the paper debris from the window areas, a project which has been frustrated by frozen window locking mechanisms. The windows while unsightly; are secure.

**Finding 7**

*The Grand Jury finds the Secure Housing Unit (SHU) has not been used in the last two or three years. In a recent update Mr. Sorgea advised the Grand Jury he is in the process of hiring qualified staff to reopen the SHU.*

We agree with this finding.

**Recommendation**

*The Grand Jury also recommends utilization of the Secure Housing Unit (SHU).*


The recommendation has been implemented. The SHU was opened on May 10, 2009. The unit is currently occupied with eight minors who are being prosecuted in the adult court system.

**Recommendation**

*The Grand Jury recommends continuing current educational and self-improvement classes.*

The recommendation has been implemented. We are committed to the principal that our mission is to improve the lives of the children in our care. New programs are evaluated and implemented as a need arises.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Frank D. Sorgea  
Superintendent

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
TRAFFIC DIVISION