



# SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

J. PAUL PARKER  
SHERIFF - CORONER

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ENDORSED FILED

August 8, 2016

SEP 22 2016

Honorable Brian R. Aronson - Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California  
County of Sutter

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

## RE: Sheriff's Response to the 2015-2016 Grand Jury Final Report

The Sheriff thanks the Sutter County Grand Jury for their time, effort and commitment in compiling their 2015-2016 final report.

On June 17, 2016 the Sheriff's Office received a copy of the 2015-2016 /final report of the Grand Jury. The areas dealing with the Sheriff's Office and requesting a response from the Sheriff are listed below.

### Criminal Justice

#### Findings

In summary, the SCGJ made the following findings. The Sheriff's response is below each finding.

- F1. The evaporative cooling system in the Sutter County Jail is inadequate.
  - A. *The Sheriff concurs that the cooling system could be improved.*
- F2. An inmate vandalized jail property.
  - A. *The Sheriff concurs that inmates can and do sometimes vandalize jail property.*
- F3. SCSO is testing personal body cameras, storage and related legal issues.
  - A. *The Sheriff concurs that testing and related body camera issues are on-going.*
- F4. YCPD is testing multiple types of body cameras.
  - A. *The Sheriff has no jurisdiction or authority regarding this finding.*
- F5. YCPD is experiencing recruitment and retention issues.
  - A. *The Sheriff has no jurisdiction or authority regarding this finding.*

- F6. The Live Oak sub-station lacks audio/video equipment for the interview room and lacks sufficient ballistic and less than lethal equipment.
- A. *The Sheriff concurs.***
- F7. The Yuba/Sutter/Colusa juvenile hall employees' salaries are not competitive for surrounding areas.
- A. *The Sheriff has no jurisdiction or authority regarding this finding.***

### Recommendations

In summary, the SCGJ made the following recommendations. The Sheriff's response is below each recommendation.

- R1. SCSO Jail research the availability of grants or other funding sources to upgrade the cooling system.
- A. *Although physical plant issues such as air conditioning, sewage and other building related issues come under the authority of Facility Services, the Sheriff and County are actively seeking and will continue to seek funding for upgrading the HVAC system in the jail. Regarding grants for jail construction, over the last nine years, there have been four (4) funding authorization for jail related construction under AB900, SB1022, SB863 and lastly SB844.***
- *The SCSO jail was awarded approximately 10 million in grant funding from AB900 phase II to increase bed space and update medical.***
  - *SCSO jail did not offer a needs assessment for SB1022 as we had just been authorized funding under AB900. Of the 100 million in funding authorized to small counties by SB1022, the State had already received requests totaling 239 million from small counties.***
  - *SCSO Did put in a needs assessment for funding of 20 million dollars under SB 863. We were not awarded.***
  - *SCSO is ineligible for funding under SB844 as we have received previous awards under AB900.***

***In the past we have been advised by medical services that certain psychotropic drugs can be heat intolerant and have been advised that dry bulb temperatures exceeding 90 degrees in the jail are of a concern. When temperatures approach that threshold, we hand out carts of ice, distribute fans, encourage increased fluid consumption, extra showers, move susceptible inmates to cooler areas of the jail, and limit exercise. I will note that we took a sampling of temperatures in six different locations in the hottest areas of the jail over the most recent heat wave of July 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>. The following table shows the results of the readings as reflected at or near 1700 hrs. (5pm), the hottest part of the day.***

Date	Outdoor Temps & Humidity	Max Dorm Temp & Humidity	Max FE2 Temp & Humidity	Max FE3 Temp & Humidity	Max 2 Temp & Humidity	Max 5 Temp & Humidity	Arraignment Room Temp & Humidity
7/22/2016	<b>97/77%</b>	80/65%					
7/23/2016	<b>102/70%</b>	80/72%	80/80%	80/80%	79/55%	81/53%	
7/24/2016	<b>104/56%</b>	90/65%	80/72%	84/60%	79/60%	80/65%	
7/25/2016	<b>100/59%</b>	79/73%	81/70%	85/58%	79/59%	81/52%	
7/26/2016	<b>105/75%</b>	79/73%	82/70%	87/60%	79/60%	84/54%	
7/27/2016	<b>105/61%</b>	79/76%	83/70%	87/60%	81/53%	82/57%	
7/28/2016	<b>102/63%</b>	79/79%	90/70%	90/60%	82/52%	82/59%	
7/29/2016	<b>108/57%</b>	77/70%	80/70%	85/60%	82/60%	82/62%	
7/30/2016	<b>104/53%</b>	78/73%	82/57%	89/53%	81/45%		88/45%
7/31/2016	<b>101/59%</b>	85/57%	84/54%	88/59%	81/55%		90/58%
8/1/2016	<b>98/65%</b>	77/75%	79/65%	82/60%	77/59%		82/52%
8/2/2016	<b>98/45%</b>	77/73%	78/73%	83/61%	79/62%		84/59%
8/3/2016	<b>100/70%</b>	75/75%					
8/4/2016	<b>91/78%</b>		79/73%	83/65%	77/64%		84/62%

*We will continue to seek funding for air conditioning in the jail.*

- R2. SCSO Jail fine or add additional charges when jail property is damaged by an inmate.
  - A. The jail has and does impose legal sanctions and prosecution against inmates for damage done to the jail and/or jail property. The only time we would not is if the guilt of the suspect(s) could not be proved beyond a reasonable doubt or if prosecuting the offense would be counter-productive to the needs of the jail. However, we do impose legally authorized sanctions against offenses committed by inmates such as loss of good-time/work-time credits, loss privileges, loss of visits, housing restrictions, etc.*
- R3. Each respective department /office continue researching body cameras.
  - A. SCSO will continue research into this technology with the goal of implementation.*
- R4. The YCPD continue their program to sponsor potential employees...
  - A. The Sheriff has no jurisdiction or authority regarding this recommendation.*
- R5. The SCSO Live Oak division use the “COPS” Grant or other funding sources to install live streaming/recording video systems in their interview room. If there are any remaining funds they should be prioritized in the order of “less than

lethal” weapons for all officers, ballistic helmets for each officer, and at least one ballistic shield in an on duty vehicle at all times.

***A. The Live Oak Sub Station will be equipped with all items in this recommendation within the upcoming fiscal year.***

R6. The Yuba-Sutter-Colusa juvenile hall conduct a comprehensive salary survey...

***A. The Sheriff has no jurisdiction or authority regarding this recommendation.***

## Sutter County Education

### Findings

F2. Sutter Union High School and Brittan Elementary School are without a School Resource Officer.

***A. The Sheriff agrees.***

### Recommendations

R1. The hiring of a School Resource Officer for split use by Sutter Union High School District (SUHD) and Brittan Elementary School (BES). Funding for this position should be pursued by applying for grants. Any shortfall of funding should be provided by a split of 75% by SUHD and 25% by BES.

***A. The Sheriff is supportive of this recommendation. However, be aware that the Sutter County Sheriff's Office has law enforcement duties that cover 12 school districts, with over 21 schools plus four major private schools with a county enrollment of over 15,000 students.***

***With that said, funding for peace officer position(s) that are available to the Sheriff's Office are administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Each program has its own specific requirements and qualifiers. We have in the past obtained two (2) school resource officers (SRO)'s in 2001, receiving a grant total of \$250,000. Grant funding for those positions has since expired and we currently do not have any dedicated SRO's. The USDOJ is not currently offering any Cops in Schools (CIS) grants, however this changes from year to year and we will continue a search for funding in this area.***

## Sutter County Public Buildings

### Findings

- F7. In summary the findings of the SCGJ were that the Sutter County Jail has internal equipment problems due to age. The security gate hardware is often not commercially available requiring costly custom solutions, the evaporative cooling system is inadequate for certain inmates suffering from medical conditions or treatments and there are additional plumbing maintenance issues increasing pressure on antiquated plumbing.
- A. *The Sheriff Agrees although we believe we have resolved the security gate issue.*

### Recommendations

- R4. Aging buildings and facilities should be upgraded or replaced as soon as possible. The Sutter County Jail, CPS modular buildings and the Oswald-Tudor Fire stations should be top priorities.
- A. *In regards to the Jail, the Sheriff agrees with the findings of the SCGJ is in need of upgrading although we will point out that the upgrading of the jail is a constant and ongoing process. As a point of further illumination, the Sheriff will point out to the SCGJ that the Sutter County Jail was originally opened in 1977 after the old jail at 2<sup>nd</sup> and C Street was deemed unfit. The new jail opened with a total capacity of approximately 78 beds. Several times since then, the jail has upgraded and/or added bed space including a 62 bed dormitory, a 148 bed male and female medium security complex, a 48 bed maximum security facility, and added video arraignment and video surveillance throughout. Our current bed capacity is 352.*

*Within the next few months, a 10 million renovation will begin (AB900 State/Local Funding) that will increase our rated bed capacity to 394. This project will renovate over 25,000 square feet of the existing jail, add over 5,000 square feet of usable space and includes:*

- *28-Bed Men's Maximum Housing Addition*
- *14-Bed Women's Medium Housing Addition*
- *Major Medical office expansion and renovation*
- *Kitchen Addition*
- *Kitchen Renovation*
- *Sober Cell Renovation*
- *Safety Cell Renovation*
- *Office Renovation*
- *Seismic Joint refit between Jail and Administration buildings*

*The Sheriff and the County will continue to seek funding opportunities to improve the physical capabilities of the jail. The highest priorities of these would be an upgraded HVAC system for all housing units of the jail and to upgrade the sewage system, possibly installing an industrial grinder between the jail and the city sewage lines. Also, see response to R1 on page 2 of this report.*

This concludes the Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator's response to the findings and recommendations of the 2015-2016 Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report.

Respectfully submitted,



J. PAUL PARKER  
SHERIFF-CORONER

cc: Sutter County Board of Supervisors  
Curt Code, Interim County Administrative Officer  
Donna M. Johnston – County Clerk

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 08 2016**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
TRAFFIC DIVISION**