



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE JUDGE WATSON, PRESIDING JUDGE - SUPERIOR COURT
FROM: NIKKI TURNER, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2011-12 GRAND JURY REPORT 2012-JAILS-01
DATE: MAY 14, 2012

The 2011-12 Grand Jury has issued report 2012-JAILS-01 and the Board of Supervisors is required to respond to recommendations R1 through R6. I recommend that the Board respond as follows:

Recommendation R1: Humboldt County Correctional Facility

1. *Repair the glass windows within the inmate visitation and consultation area.*
2. *Consider the establishment of a sequestered fund devoted specifically to the maintenance of the facility.*

Recommendation 1 will be implemented, when funds are available.

Although the Board of Supervisors agrees that the windows within the Jail visitation area should be replaced; such repairs will not be made until financial resources are available. The windows are still secure and due to the limited resources available for facility maintenance are not currently considered a priority project.

Recommendation 2 will not be implemented, because it is not warranted.

The County currently has a sequestered fund devoted specifically to the maintenance of facilities. However due to budget constraints the amount of money that can be allocated to the fund is not sufficient to cover required maintenance costs. Creating an additional fund devoted specifically to the Correctional Facility will not create the availability of additional funding. The Board of Supervisors supports maintenance of all County facilities however recent economic conditions have resulted in minimal options for funding these projects.

Recommendation R2: Evidence Room

1. *Improve the communication between the Court and the Evidence Room in regard to the disposition of cases in order to allow old evidence to be cleared out.*
2. *Install physical restraints to all storage shelves and evidence contained therein.*
3. *Consider better maintaining or remediation of the water damage in the ceiling area.*

Recommendation 1 has been implemented and will continue to be implemented.

The disposition of evidence as related to court cases and communication between the Courts and the Evidence section of the Sheriff's office has improved as the result of continued implementation of a records management system. The Sheriff's office has indicated that they will continue to work on improving communications with the Courts and clearing out old evidence.

Recommendations 2 and 3 will be implemented as resources allow.

According to the Sheriff some of the evidence shelving has been secured and a request has been made to secure the remaining shelving in the evidence room. The water damage is an ongoing problem that occurs during periods of heavy rain. Repairs are performed when damage occurs. Facility improvements are a priority for the Board of Supervisors. Unfortunately adequate funds are not available to take immediate action regarding permanent repairs or construction to solve drainage issues around the courthouse.

Recommendation R3: Hoopa Sheriff's Station

1. *Retain the services of a qualified electrician to examine the electrical wiring within the building and repair or replace faulty components.*
2. *Repair or replace the overhead lighting fixtures in the office area.*
3. *Repair, replace or remove non-functioning A/C unit in garage as well as automatic garage door opener.*

The three recommendations will be implemented as resources allow.

The Hoopa Tribe has notified the Sheriff's office that they will be pursuing a major remodeling project on the Hoopa station. Preliminary information indicates that the project will upgrade or replace lighting, electrical and water systems in the facility. These plans are tentative and a date for implementation of the project has not been set. The Board of Supervisors supports the Hoopa Tribe's plans for improvements to the Hoopa Sheriff's Station. Facility improvements for the Sheriff's Department in the Hoopa/Willow Creek area are a priority for the Board of Supervisors. Unfortunately currently County funds are not available to fund improvements to the facility.

Recommendation R4: Garberville Sheriff's Station

1. *The informational sign on the roof needs to be repaired and the information updated.*
2. *Provide additional signage to help with locating the station.*

Recommendation 1 will be implemented.

The Sheriff has indicated that a request has been made to have the sign updated and repaired by the next available sign painter assigned through the Sheriff Work Alternative Program (SWAP). The Board of Supervisors supports the Sheriff's implementation of this recommendation.

Recommendation 2 will be implemented.

The Board of Supervisors agrees that additional signage to assist the public with locating the Garberville Station is a reasonable recommendation.

Recommendation R5: Juvenile Hall

1. *The Grand Jury recommends that the County appropriate matching funds for the upgrading of the facility.*

This recommendation has been implemented.

As part of the FY 2011-12 budget adoption the Board of Supervisors allocated \$900,000 in matching funds for the new Juvenile Hall Facility from the Criminal Justice fund. This funding was appropriated to provide funding for development of the project. On April 10, 2012 the Board of Supervisors authorized the County Treasurer-Tax Collector to develop a financing plan to provide the remaining required matching funds of \$2,319,625, for construction of the new Juvenile Hall Facility.

Recommendation R6: Coroner/Public Administrator

1. *Continue to work with the ventilation contractor to remedy the inadequacies of the ventilation system since the "upgrade" in October 2011. The health and welfare of the Coroner's staff should be of prime importance.*
2. *Continue to pursue the relocation of the Deputy Coroner's office to a better ventilated area.*
3. *Follow up on the awarding of a contract to repair the loading ramp and get the project finished before a regrettable accident occurs.*

Recommendation 1 has been implemented and will continue to be implemented.

On October 9, 2009 the Board of Supervisors authorized a project award for the Mental Health Branch Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. At that time the project scope was expanded to include ventilation upgrades in the Coroner's Office.

The project was completed July 2010, but some issues with ventilation persist. The Board of Supervisors is aware that these vapors can potentially pose a health risk. The County will continue to work with the contractor to make improvements to the ventilation system to improve air quality as this impacts health for County employees.

Recommendation 2 has been implemented and will continue to be implemented.

In an effort to address air quality issues the three Deputy Coroners have been put in one office in the front of the facility. This is a better ventilated area but is too small to reasonably accommodate three Deputies. Unfortunately adequate space is currently not available in the building to take further action on this recommendation. The County Administrative Office and the Public Works Department continue to work on facility improvements, consolidation options, and possible courses of action to be taken to address facility/infrastructure issues in County facilities such as this one.

Recommendation 3 has been implemented.

On November 15, 2011 a contract for construction of a new concrete entrance loading ramp for the Coroner's facility was awarded. The Board of Supervisors accepted the project as substantially complete on May 8, 2012.