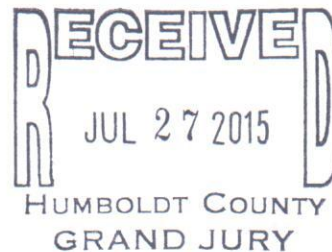


**DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS**

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 790  
Susanville, CA 96127



July 23, 2015



Humboldt County Grand Jury  
Ms. Sam Giannandrea  
825 Fifth Street  
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Dear Ms. Giannandrea:

The letter serves as a response to the recent concerns/findings in a report prepared by the Humboldt County Grand Jury regarding the Eel River Conservation Camp's North Coast Warehouse located on camp grounds. Specifically, the report states, "It was noted that the cleaning supplies necessary for maintenance are stored in the warehouse but not locked up. Anyone has access to these potentially hazardous materials." The course of action that the Grand Jury recommends is to secure the hazardous materials at the Eel River Conservation Camp.

The Eel River Conservation Camp North Coast Warehouse opened on February 1, 1967. The warehouse distributes food, clothing, cleaning supplies, stationary supplies and a variety of other products to support 11 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation inmate fire camps.

The North Coast Warehouse has and is currently securing the cleaning/hazardous materials as recommended. Enclosed are two photographs that depict the warehouse is locked and secured. Specifically, photograph #1 was taken outside looking in the warehouse off the main loading dock, illustrating two separate doors or gates that must be opened to access the storage area of the warehouse. This photograph shows that the main outer door of the warehouse is open, but the inside security gate is closed. Photograph #2 is a close-up image of the inner security gate. This photograph shows that a pad lock secures the gate when not in use, securing the warehouse.

Throughout the day, both gates are open while work is being conducted. Supplies for all coastal correctional camps are stored in the warehouse and during times of business, staff and inmates pull supplies, load pallets and semi-tractor trailers for transporting supplies to each camp, including cleaning supplies listed the Grand Jury's report. It is virtually impossible to close both the outer door and the inside security gate when loading the semi-tractor trailer for transport of the goods. However, when inmates are working in the back of the warehouse, they are under constant supervision. There are two Materials and Stores Supervisors I's, who work in the warehouse and supervise inmates during their work hours.

Additionally, the statement that, "Anyone has access to these potentially hazardous materials", is not accurate. At Eel River Conservation Camp, we currently employ 11 correctional staff, 5 non-custody, and 14 CAL FIRE and house 106 inmates. Staff members that routinely work and

Ms. Sam Giannandrea, Foreperson

Humboldt County Grand Jury

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have access to the warehouse are the 5 non-custody with 8 inmate workers. While the correctional staff and CAL FIRE staff can respond and enter the warehouse on an as-needed basis, accessing the warehouse is not normally part of their work day. The warehouse is absolutely off limits to any inmate not assigned to work there. Also, during non-regular work hours, both the inner gate and outer doors, as shown in photographs #1 and 2 are closed, locked and secured preventing access to the supplies inside.

There are different type of cleaning supplies stored in the warehouse for eventual transport and use at other facilities or camps. Special attention is kept to safely store all cleaning supplies. Certain cleaning supplies that could possibly have toxic effects if mixed are stored safely on pallets for easy mobility and are separate from each other. They are labeled with the product name and item number. Material data safety sheets for each product are kept in a safety data sheet binder that is kept in an easy accessible area for staff and inmate use. Both staff and inmates are trained on how to locate, access, read and understand each safety data sheet so that immediate first aid measures can be taken, if necessary. A safety data sheet for Break Out, Multipurpose Cleaner and Degreaser is enclosed as an example.

The warehouse supervisors track the distribution and usage of all cleaning supplies on an on-going daily and monthly inventory. We have not noted a discrepancy in the inventory of any chemicals during the inventory process.

The warehouse staff hold weekly Injury Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP) meetings with all staff and assigned inmate warehouse workers. The topics of these weekly IIPP meetings cover a wide array of safety topics to include, but are not limited to, safe lifting techniques, safe chemical storage, proper loading techniques that include weight distribution and cross contamination precautions, eye protection, slips and falls, and safety data sheets. Copies of this training are kept in the warehouse made available upon request. Additionally, Eel River Conservation Camp passed its semi-annual audit that was conducted in December 2014 and has passed each and every audit conducted by the Department and outside entities since its opening. Eel River Conservation Camp has met all CAL OSHA standards for safely warehousing these chemicals.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Fred Money, Camp Commander, Eel River Conservation Camp at (530) 923-2755.

Sincerely,



R. L. GOWER

Warden

California Correctional Center

Enclosures

cc: Fred Money, Camp Commander, Eel River Conservation Camp