



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities: A Consolidated Report

Annual Inspections

June 23, 2016



Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities: A Consolidated Report Annual Inspections

Summary

This report summarizes the Grand Jury inspections conducted at the six Placer County jails and holding facilities:

- Historic Courthouse in Auburn (September 10, 2015)
- Burton Creek Sheriff's Substation in Tahoe City (September 24, 2015)
- South Placer Main Jail in Roseville (October 9, 2015)
- South Placer Minimum Security Facility in Roseville (October 9, 2015)
- Santucci Courthouse in Roseville (October 9, 2015)
- Placer County Main Jail in Auburn (September 21, 2015)

On the whole, the grand jury found these facilities to be clean, secure and well managed. The issues found are addressed in the findings for each facility.

Placer County continues to deal with the results of public safety realignment resulting from AB 109 which sought to reduce the overcrowding of California state prisons by:

- Sentencing less-serious, non-violent offenders, with the exception of sex offenders, to a county jail. Before realignment, any felony sentence of greater than one year would routinely be served in a California state prison.
- Sentencing parole violators to serve their sentences in a county jail instead of returning to a state prison.
- Reduction of some felonies to misdemeanors thereby reducing the term of incarceration.

Proposition 47 passed by voters in the November 2014 election reduced the penalties for drug and other non-violent crimes. Inmates have petitioned to have their convictions reclassified from felonies to misdemeanors, with their sentences reduced. Jail, probation and court personnel are utilized to facilitate this process.

Background

Section 919(b) of the California Penal Code mandates that "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within the county."

Investigation Methods

A Grand Jury inspection team visited each facility, interviewed staff, and observed inmates in housing, work and activity areas.

Inspections were led by the following Placer County Sheriff's Officers:

Historic Courthouse:	Deputy Kathryn Raffetto; Officer David Pabst
Burton Creek Substation:	Captain John Weaver; Lieutenant Fred Guitron; Officer Richard Schnoor
South Placer Main Jail:	Stacey Toy-DeNardi, Compliance Officer; Jake Mucher, Facility Officer
South Placer Minimum Security:	Stacey Toy-DeNardi, Compliance Officer
Santucci Justice Center:	Lieutenant Carol Walsh
Placer County Main Jail:	James Rashid, Compliance Officer; Officer Savage; Officer Mark MacKay, Operations Sergeant

Facts

- Three of these six facilities (Historic Courthouse, Burton Creek, and Santucci Justice Center) contain temporary holding facilities, used for a few hours, while inmates are awaiting scheduled court proceedings. Court appearances occur between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. If an inmate is held through lunchtime, a sack lunch and drink are provided.
- The three other facilities (the two South Placer facilities and the Auburn Main Jail) are designed to house inmates awaiting court dates or serving out their sentences. The longest sentence currently being served in Placer County is eight years.
- All six facilities have a sally port through which inmates are brought into a secure area and then escorted by one or more deputies to a cell.
- All six facilities have a weapons screening device, and all bags are subject to inspection. Each facility has at least one monitoring station with numerous security cameras.
- In holding cells that have a toilet, the toilet is out of direct view of officers and the security camera. Some holding cells are capable of housing multiple inmates. Inmates are checked every 30 minutes, but those on suicide, health and/or safety watch are checked every 15 minutes.

- **The Historic Courthouse** has three holding cells and six courtrooms.
 - Exposed and damaged drywall or plaster was observed on the bottom right of doorjamb upon entering the facility through sally port from outside.
 - All exterior windows are in the process of being replaced for energy efficiency and added security.
 - A defibrillator is available on-site.
 - The rear parking lot where judges park their vehicles has no surveillance camera.

- **The Burton Creek facility** was built in 1959. It has four holding cells and one courtroom. Placer County has a contract with the Truckee Jail in Nevada County for housing inmates as needed.
 - The facility is not fully ADA-compliant (some examples: no elevator to the second floor and hallways and bathroom entrances are narrow and will not accommodate a wheelchair). Numerous past grand jury reports have stated the need to replace this facility as the court needs a much larger and more modern way to represent Placer County in the Tahoe Basin.
 - The Sheriff's Department has a program in which patrol vehicles are washed on site by personnel from PRIDE Industries.

- The **Santucci Courthouse** opened in 2008, has 12 basement holding cells (connected via a tunnel to the adjacent Main Jail). There are six holding cells between the courtrooms on the first floor, and four holding cells between courtrooms on the second floor, with nine total courtrooms.
 - This facility was built with the future growth of the county in mind.

- The **South Placer Main Jail** (the main part of the South Placer Adult Corrections Facility or SPACF) at the Santucci Justice Center opened in May 2014 with 200,000 square feet and a rated capacity of 420.
 - Inmates are screened for mental and physical health at intake. The staff is made aware of inmates with mental and physical health issues and works with these inmates to obtain necessary services. There is an on-site medical wing with staff that provides medical services. Mental Health services are available in person or via video conferencing.

- The floor of the kitchen area has missing, torn, and/or worn non-slip floor tapes in the food storage and preparation areas.
- Cracks in the concrete floor were observed throughout the building.
- Educational and vocational programs have been implemented. Staff stated that they are interested in adding a cake decorating class.
- Officers stated that they are committed to working with inmates to help them be successful upon their release.
- Officers stated that the booking facility will open in the future. Once opened, this will allow officers from the south county area to book at the facility rather than driving to Auburn Main Jail.
- The **South Placer Minimum Security Facility** opened in May 2014. Inmates were moved from the World War II U.S. Army hospital warehouse barracks built in 1941 in the DeWitt Center in Auburn.
 - The facility consists of two pods that can each house up to 60 inmates.
 - Inmates are given the opportunity to do work that can build self esteem, learn new skills, work off time served and gain additional privileges.
- The **Auburn Main Jail** opened in 1985 with a California State Board of Corrections (BOC) rating of 108 inmates, a population which was immediately exceeded. A new housing wing was built in 1992 to bring the rating up an additional 260 beds. This wing contains three medium-security dorms or pods, two with a capacity of 92 inmates each, and one with a capacity of 44 inmates. One maximum-security module has a capacity of 32 inmates. The dormitory housing units are of the direct-supervision type, with a custody officer stationed inside each of the dorms, and indirect supervision from a protected observation booth. With BOC approval, most of the cells have been double-bunked. After the recent Phase I transfer of 120 inmates to South Placer Main Jail, the Auburn facility now houses about 420 medium and maximum-security inmates.
 - Inmates are screened for mental and physical health at intake. The staff is made aware of inmates with mental and physical health issues and work with these inmates to obtain necessary services. An on-site clinic provides medical services. Mental Health services are available in person or via video conferencing.
 - Educational and Vocational Programs are available via a contract with the Sacramento County Office of Education. The focus is on providing basic education and developing computer and job seeking skills.
 - An Inmate Welfare Fund is financed by a small voluntary fee on items purchased from the commissary. This fund is used to purchase educational equipment.

- Inmates are permitted to "govern" some of their own activities (TV programs, etc). They are given the opportunity to earn privileges by following jail rules and lose privileges by not following rules.

Findings

The Grand Jury found that:

- F1. All six Placer County Jails and Holding Facilities were clean, well maintained and well managed with the exceptions noted. It was apparent that staff takes great pride in their facilities.
- F2. The Burton Creek Substation Jail/Holding Facility is functional and operational, in spite of its age and the fact that it is not ADA compliant. The staff does an exceptional job in utilizing a very outdated facility.
- F3. AB109 has impacted Auburn Main Jail and the South Placer Main Jail. With some inmates now spending up to 8 years in a county facility, long-term rehabilitation and medical services as well as educational/vocational opportunities are more critical than ever.
- F4. The opening of the booking facility at the South Placer Main Jail will enable south county law enforcement officers to return to duty more quickly than the current system. It will also enable smaller facilities run by cities to expedite their own booking routines.
- F5. The floor of the kitchen area in the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility has missing, torn, and/or worn non-slip floor tapes in the food storage and preparation areas.
- F6. The floor in the kitchen area of the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility has cracks that could harbor bacteria.
- F7. On the day of the inspection of the Historic Courthouse, exposed and damaged drywall or plaster was observed on the bottom right of the doorjamb entering the facility through the sally port.

Conclusion

As a result of the shifting of responsibilities from the state to counties, the jail population now consists of individuals incarcerated for more serious offenses and for longer terms. Progress is being made in providing educational, vocational, mental and physical health services. These services are necessary to meet the needs of this evolving inmate population and potentially reduce recidivism rates.

All Placer County Jails and holding cells are secured, well managed, and in overall good condition with the exception of the recommendations noted below.

The limitations of the old Burton Creek facility hinder the county's ability to provide adequate services to the eastern end of the county.

Recommendations

The Grand Jury recommends the following:

Auburn Historic Courthouse

- R1. Repair the drywall or plaster that is exposed on the bottom right of the doorjamb entering the facility from the sally port.

Burton Creek

- R2. Implement changes to make the facility ADA compliant.

South Placer Main Jail

- R3. Repair or replace missing, torn, or worn non-slip floor tapes in the kitchen, food storage, and food preparation areas.
- R4. Repair the floor cracks throughout the building with special emphasis in sealing the cracks in the kitchen area.

South Placer Minimum Security Facility

No recommendations

Auburn Main Jail

No recommendations

Santucci Courthouse

No recommendations

Request for Responses

	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
Mr. Edward Bonner Placer County Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal 2929 Richardson Drive Auburn, CA. 95603	R1, R2, R3, R4	August 31, 2016

Copies sent to:

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603