



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT NO. 1310  
"CONTRA COSTA DETENTION FACILITIES: GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE BUT..."

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' RESPONSE

**FINDINGS** – California Penal Code Section 933.5(a) requires a response to the designated findings of the Grand Jury.

**2. A review of adult detention facility capacity measured against detainees shows that 14% of the space remains available. Taken at face value this figure can be misleading. Forty percent of the space at Marsh Creek is unfilled, while the figure for West Count is 13.5% and for Martinez, 9%. To obtain a realistic view of available detention space in the county, the type of facility must be compared against the level of security required. Given this approach, the county is in good shape with low-security inmates (Marsh Creek), less well of for medium-security (West County), and faces potential problems in the high-security area (Martinez). This situation may be exacerbated if AB109 pushes more long-term, high risk offenders into county facilities.**

*Response: Agree.* At the Martinez Detention Facility (MDF) the 9% available bed space is reserved for Administratively Segregated inmates requiring "house alone" status and cannot be filled. At the West County Detention Facility (WCDF) the 13.5 % available bed space represents female beds on Building 8. The male capacity is often times met, but the empty beds on the female housing unit cannot be used by male inmates, thus they must remain empty.

**3. The computer-based maintenance and repair Corrigo system has the capability to track work requested, to evaluate work submitted and completed against established "best practice" targets and to measure service levels and employee performance.**

*Response: Agree.*

**4. Grand Jury Report No. 1210, completed last year, recommended that an effort be made to implement a system whereby voluntary inmate labor could be used to carry out minor repairs and maintenance in detention facilities. Reports indicate that grievances have been filed by the GSD/Public Works union objecting to the use of inmates for minor maintenance and repairs. The resolution reached allows only yard work on a very limited basis.**

*Response: Agree.*

**5. The renovation of the Martinez Intake Area remains uncompleted despite the passage of two and on-half years, with little likelihood that it will be finished in the immediate future.**

*Response: Partially Disagree.* Although the renovation has not yet occurred, the Sheriff's Office and Health Services Department continue to actively meet regarding the renovation plans with the goal of implementing the renovation in the current fiscal year.

**6. Without a computer-based case management system, the Probation Department is unable to track follow-up care, recidivism and program effectiveness in a timely and cost effective manner.**

*Response: Partially Disagree.* The Probation Department has been tracking this information without the benefit of a formal case management system for several years in an accurate and effective manner. The addition of a formal case management system would increase efficiencies for Probation Department staff, but is unlikely to generate significant cost savings.

**7. Classes beyond the high school level are not available at the Juvenile facilities. Incarcerated youth who complete high school or obtain a GED are unable to continue their education.**

*Response: Partially Disagree.* Although college level courses are not offered at juvenile facilities, the Probation Department has worked with the Contra Costa County Office of Education to establish vocational education programs for Wards to participate in while being housed in juvenile detention facilities.

**8. Marsh Creek and the Boy's Ranch are isolated and difficult for families to visit, especially if they rely on public transportation.**

*Response: Partially Disagree.* The facilities are isolated, but accessible by vehicle. It is accurate that the facilities are not easily accessible if using public transportation as the primary mode of travel.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** - California Penal Code Section 933.05(b) requires a response to the designated recommendations of the Grand Jury.

**1. Future analyses of adult detention facility capacity take into consideration the anticipated impact of AB109, particularly from the perspective of high-security and longer-term offenders.**

*Response: The recommendation has been implemented.* The County plans to pursue grant funding through SB 1022 for upgrades to the West County Detention Facility to expand living and programming spaces within the Facility, in part, to mitigate the potential impacts of housing AB109 inmates in the future.

**2. The County utilize the Corrigo system to track and measure the performance of Public Works facilities maintenance and repair efforts and personnel against established standards for work completion.**

*Response: The recommendation has been implemented.* The Corrigo system has the capability to measure performance against established standards of the Public Works department. The standards for work completion are subject to staffing models, by trade, in place at any given time. Current staffing levels require prioritization of responses to work orders based on criticality and need, which may result in prolonged response to other maintenance and repair issues.

**3. The County engage appropriate unions in discussion to expand the program of voluntary labor in the detention facilities with respect to inmates carrying out minor maintenance and repairs beyond yard work.**

*Response: The recommendation has been implemented.* The County continues to support allowing inmates to perform voluntary labor in adult detention facilities and has engaged labor on this issue. The current arrangement with labor does provide only limited opportunities for inmate participation, which could be expanded in the future.

**4. The County investigate the delay in completed work associated with the renovation of the Martinez Intake Area and establish necessary procedures to enable the completion of emergency projects on a timely basis.**

*Response: The recommendation has been implemented.* A meeting with executive staff from the County Administrator's Office, Sheriff's Office and Health Services Department will occur in August to review the plan and address any remaining issues that departments may have regarding the renovation.

**5. The County develop and implement a computer-based case management system as soon as possible.**

*Response: The recommendation has been implemented.* The County has completed two comprehensive Request for Proposals (RFP) for case management systems; one for the Probation Department and one for the District Attorney's Office. Both systems will be entering the implementation phase beginning in January 2014.

**Governing Board**

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July 24, 2013

Marc Hamaji, Foreperson  
2012-2013 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury  
725 Court Street  
P.O. BOX 431  
Martinez, California 94553-0091

**Re: 2012-2013 Grand Jury Report 1310, "Contra Costa Detention Facilities"**

Honorable Marc Hamaji, Foreperson:

On behalf of the Contra Costa Community College District (District), I am responding to the 2012-2013 Contra Costa County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) *Report 1310: Contra Costa Detention Facilities*.

Pursuant to California Government Code §933.5(a), the District is required to report on each finding and recommendation. For each finding, the District is required to report one of the following responses:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees with the finding.
- (3) The respondent partially disagrees with the finding.

In the case of responses (2) and (3), the District is to specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and is to include an explanation of the reasons why this finding is in dispute. Following is the District's response to each finding and recommendation.

**Finding 7**

*Classes beyond the high school level are not available at the Juvenile facilities. Incarcerated youth who complete high school or obtain a GED are unable to continue their education.*

**Response**

The District agrees with the Grand Jury finding.

In addition, as required by §933.05(b) of the California Government Code, the District is providing its reply to the report's recommendation. For each recommendation, the District is required to respond by stating one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary describing the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis. This response should explain the scope and parameters of the analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury report.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation thereof.

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**Recommendation 6**

*The Contra Costa Community College District determine what it can do to begin serving residents at both John A. Davis Juvenile Hall and Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center to provide educational and training programs while they are incarcerated and after they are released.*

**Response**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The District currently provides over 300 online sections accessible via the internet. These courses are open to all students who meet the requisite requirements including the incarcerated population. Offering physical instruction within the secure juvenile facilities will prove challenging for the District. Per Title 5, Section 51006, and according to Governing Board Policy 3022, unless specifically exempted by statute or regulation, every course, course section, or class, reported for state aid, wherever offered and maintained by the District, shall be fully open to enrollment and participation by any person who has been admitted to the college(s). Instruction offered at the juvenile facility will not meet the fully open enrollment requirements as the courses would have to be limited to the incarcerated population. Upon release, previously incarcerated students are eligible, and in fact do enroll at our colleges.

We welcome the opportunity to address any questions the Grand Jury may have regarding our responses. Please do not hesitate to contact me (925-229-6820, [hbenjamin@4cd.edu](mailto:hbenjamin@4cd.edu)) should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Helen Benjamin, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

cc: Governing Board  
Chancellor's Cabinet