# Ventura County Grand Jury 2014 - 2015



## **Final Report**

## Detention Facilities and Related Law Enforcement Issues

June 1, 2015

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## Detention Facilities and Related Law Enforcement Issues

Note: See "Glossary" for definitions.

#### Summary

Following a mandate of the California State Penal Code, the 2014-2015 Ventura County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) inspected each facility in Ventura County (County) where persons are placed into custody. Although these facilities undergo various required formal inspections by other governmental oversight bodies, the Grand Jury brings a fresh perspective, seeing the facilities from outside the public safety/criminal justice systems.

Assembly Bill 109 (Realignment), discussed in previous Grand Jury reports, continues to have a major effect on the County's law enforcement community. Additionally, the passage of Proposition 47 in November 2014 is causing significant changes that impact the law enforcement environment in the County. The immediate changes due to Proposition 47 include the reclassification of some property and drug-possession crimes to misdemeanors, which require only the issuance of citations.

The Grand Jury followed a well-established methodology: touring facilities, taking notes based on visual inspections, asking questions of facilities' personnel, and documenting the process. In the course of fulfilling its mandate, the Grand Jury observed and documented other factors that might affect the ability of law enforcement agencies to fulfill their responsibilities.

The Grand Jury found that the space limitations of the Oxnard police station have affected the Police Department's ability to efficiently carry out its functions and responsibilities, and that the Santa Paula police department is operating with an inadequate and deteriorating physical facility.

The Grand Jury found that the County has made a major effort to cope with the effects of Realignment with measurable success; however, overcrowding at the Main Jail and Todd Road Jail remains a problem.

The Grand Jury found that Santa Paula and Port Hueneme sworn officer availability is inadequate.

The Grand Jury found that Proposition 47's consequences, both intended and unintended, are only beginning to be evaluated. Early indications are that it may be successful in reducing the State of California (State) prison population, but the effects on local law enforcement agencies and communities are yet to be understood.

The Grand Jury recommends that the City Council of Santa Paula make physical facility improvements at its police department.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Oxnard City Council obtain additional space for the Oxnard Police Department.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) be persistent in their efforts to build the mental health facility at the Todd Road Jail.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Port Hueneme City Council increase police availability consistent with that city's needs.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Paula City Council support an increase in police staffing consistent with that city's needs.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation, and city councils closely track and evaluate the impact of Proposition 47 on local law enforcement agencies and communities and report findings to the Board of Supervisors.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Paula City Council authorize the repair/upgrade of the inadequate and deteriorating facilities of the Santa Paula Police Department.

#### Background

California State Penal Code Section 919(b) mandates that "The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Penal Code section 921 states, "The grand jury is entitled to free access, at all reasonable times, to the public prisons [in this context, a generic term for all detention facilities], and to the examination, without charge, of all public records within the county." [Ref-01, Ref-02]

In Title 15 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, the State has defined a set of standards for detention facility operation and construction. These are the basis for biennial State inspection of detention facilities. [Ref-03, Ref-04]



The Todd Road Jail, a pre- and post-sentencing facility near Santa Paula

There are 15 places of detention in the County including: nine holding cell facilities (Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Ventura); one facility that acts as both a holding cell and a post-sentencing jail (East Valley Facility); two pre- and post-sentencing jails (Main Jail, Todd Road Jail); one County Juvenile Justice Facility (JJF); one work furlough/work-release facility; and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Juvenile Justice Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF). The VYCF is a State-operated facility, while the other 14 are funded and operated by the cities and the County.

#### Realignment

The Main Jail and Todd Road Jail facilities are still experiencing major impacts from the US Supreme Court order of May 23, 2011, to reduce overcrowding in California's prisons to 137.5% of their original design capacity. That court order resulted in a sweeping State-ordered change commonly known as Realignment. One of its major mandates is the relocation of prisoners convicted of lesser felonies—the so-called "non-non-nons" (nonserious, nonviolent, nonsexual)—from State prisons to facilities in their counties of origin. Newly convicted lesser felons normally remain in their counties after sentencing. [Ref-05, Ref-06, Ref-07]

While Realignment has been discussed in previous Grand Jury reports, it continues to have a major effect on the County's law enforcement community and therefore merits continued attention in this year's report.

The County received \$17 million from the State to support Realignment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, with some assurances from the State that it will continue to provide funds in the amount derived by the formula set by the Realignment Allocation Committee (RAC). The funding formula for each county is being managed/revised by the RAC, which is composed of the County Executive Officers (CEOs) of nine counties considered a representative cross-section of California's 58 counties. [Ref-08]

As part of Realignment, the State required the County to create the Ventura County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), a coordinating and planning body made up of agencies affected by Realignment. Part of the CCP's plan includes specific measures such as early release, electronic monitoring of some released prisoners, and adding jail capacity by using dayrooms as sleeping facilities. [Ref-09]

The Sheriff's Office and the Ventura County Probation Agency (Probation) bear the major burden of Realignment. The impacts include changes in the populations of County jail inmates, sentence lengths, increased number of different gangs represented by the inmates, and increased incidents of inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff attacks. The impact on Probation has been increased workloads due to reduced portion of inmate sentences served in jail, thus putting more persons on probation. [Ref-09, Ref-10, Ref-11]

#### **Proposition 47**

The passage of Proposition 47 in November 2014 is further causing a changing dynamic in the law enforcement environment in the County. The immediate changes in enforcement policies include the reclassification of some property and drug possession crimes to misdemeanors, which require only the issuance of citations. [Ref-12, Ref-13, Ref-14, Ref-15]

One specific objective of Proposition 47 is the reduction of jail populations at State and County levels by retroactively reclassifying certain felonies as misdemeanors, thereby reducing or ending many inmates' sentences. [Ref-12, Ref-13, Ref-14, Ref-15]

#### Methodology

The Grand Jury followed a well-established methodology: touring facilities, taking notes based on visual inspections, asking questions of facilities personnel, and documenting the process. In the course of fulfilling its mandate, the Grand Jury observed and documented other factors that might affect the ability of law enforcement agencies to fulfill their responsibilities.

The Grand Jury performed the following actions to fulfill its mandate of inspecting detention facilities:

- Created an internal subcommittee to coordinate activities related to touring/inspecting detention facilities
- Developed checklists of key attributes, relevant to the type of facility being inspected (Att-01, Att-02, Att-03)
- Provided facility-specific comments from previous Grand Jury reports to familiarize inspection teams with past results
- Reviewed the Public Safety Realignment Update Report presented to the County Board of Supervisors on September 17, 2014, as well as reports from September 2012 and 2013 [Ref-09, Ref-16, Ref-17]
- Made advance appointments and visited all 15 facilities in the County where persons are detained

When touring detention facilities, the Grand Jury:

- Received pretour briefings on the mission, responsibilities, and values of the facility
- Took notes on its observations and asked candid questions of tour leaders and other officers
- Checked logs for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to verify that the devices are monitored as required
- Requested and viewed Policy and Procedures (P&Ps) documents
- Flushed holding facility toilets and used faucets to check their functioning
- Checked juvenile detention logs and reviewed each facility's procedures for processing juveniles
- Looked for improvements that had been recommended by previous grand juries [Ref-18, Ref-19]

The Grand Jury heard informal presentations from and had discussions with detainees in the Work Furlough Facility and the VYCF.



**The Work Furlough Facility** in Camarillo offers numerous programs to facilitate the transition back into society.

The Grand Jury also:

- Gathered additional information by telephone and email when questions arose
- Reviewed past Grand Jury reports on detention facilities [Ref-18, Ref-19]
- Researched pertinent news reports and articles on issues facing California jails in general (e.g., Realignment, Proposition 47) and County jails in particular [Ref-10, Ref-11, Ref-12, Ref-13, Ref-14, Ref-15, Ref-20, Ref-21, Ref-22, Ref-23, Ref-24, Ref-25]

### Facts

- **FA-01.** The table below summarizes the results of the Grand Jury's inspections of detention facilities in the County. Because there are three different types of facilities (holding cells, jails, and juvenile facilities), three sets of evaluation criteria, with some overlap, were used. These differences are reflected in the structure of the table. The following legend identifies the rating system used by the Grand Jury. (Att-01, Att-02, Att-03)
  - E Excellent
  - S Satisfactory
  - N Needs improvement
  - na Not Applicable

|                                       | Camarillo | Fillmore | Moorpark | Ojai | Oxnard | Port Hueneme | Santa Paula | Simi Valley | Ventura | East Valley/TO | Main jail | Todd Road   | Work Furlough | Juvenile Justice | Ventura Youth<br>Corrections |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|------|--------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Policy/Procedures                     |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         |                |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Training for natural disasters        | S         | S        | S        | S    | S      | S            | S           | S           | S       | S              | E         | E           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Medical incidents                     | S         | S        | S        | S    | S      | S            | S           | S           | S       | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Crisis intervention                   |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Routine operations procedure          | S         | S        | S        | S    | S      | S            | S           | S           | S       | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Inmate classification procedure       |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | E         | E           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Inmate request procedure              |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Grievance procedure                   |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Physical Facility Observations        |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         |                |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Capacity (See notes below)            | 4         | 7        | 10       | 2    | 75     | 4            | 14          | 25          | 6       | 20             | 828       | 796         | 100 *         | 150 #            | 600 <b>&amp;</b>             |
| Average population/crowding?          | n/a       | n/a      | n/a      | n/a  | n/a    | n/a          | n/a         | n/a         | n/a     | 10             | 868       | 850         | 67            | 80               | 234                          |
| Certifications current?               | S         | S        | S        | S    | S      | S            | S           | S           | S       | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Average detainee stay                 |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | 60d            | 8m        | <b>21</b> m | 45d           | 60d              | 9.5m                         |
| Cell cleanliness/sanitation           | s         | S        | S        | S    | S      | S            | S           | s           | s       | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | N                            |
| Clothing/personal hygiene             |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Bedding linens                        |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | S         | S           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Toilet accessibility                  | s         | S        | N        | s    | S      | S            | S           | s           | S       | S              | S         | S           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Shower accessiblity                   |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | S         | S           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Bodily fluids cleaners/drainage       | s         | s        | S        | s    | S      | s            | S           | s           | n/a     | S              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Safety/maintenance                    | s         | s        | s        | s    | S      | S            | N           | s           | s       | s              | S         | S           | S             | s                | N                            |
| Lighting/environment                  |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | S         | S           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Phone accessibility                   | s         | s        | s        | s    | S      | S            | s           | s           | s       | s              | S         | S           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Food/snacks/water                     | s         | S        | S        | S    | S      | S            | S           | s           | S       | S              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Kitchen cleanliness/adequacy          |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | Е         | Е           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Food/preparation                      |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | S              | E         | Е           | s             | s                | s                            |
| First aid/AED, log                    | s         | s        | s        | N    | S      | S            | s           | s           | s       | s              | S         | S           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Medical infrastructure                |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | n/a            | s         | S           | n/a           | s                | s                            |
| Accommodation for restraints          | s         | s        | s        | s    | S      | S            | s           | s           | s       |                |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Exercise/recreation facilities        |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | s              | s         | S           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Appropriate English/Spanish signage   | s         | s        | S        | s    | s      | s            | s           | s           | s       | s              | s         | s           | s             | s                | s                            |
| Other                                 |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         |                |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Staff Spanish ability                 | s         | S        | S        | s    | S      | S            | S           | S           | S       | S              | S         | S           | S             | S                | S                            |
| Staffing adequacy                     | s         | s        | s        | s    | s      | N            | N           | s           | N       | s              | s         | s           | s             | s                | S                            |
| Inmate programs                       |           |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | E              | s         | s           | Е             | Е                | S                            |
| Holding Facility Accom. For Juveniles | 5         |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         |                |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Appropriate use of restraints         | s         | S        | s        | s    | S      | S            | s           | s           | S       | S              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Segregation from adults               | s         | s        | s        | s    | S      | s            | s           | s           | s       | S              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Shouting distance to staff            | s         | s        | s        | s    | s      | s            | s           | s           | s       | s              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Phone call to parents                 | s         | S        | S        | S    | S      | S            | S           | s           | S       | S              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Pretransfer interview                 | s         | s        | s        | s    | s      | S            | s           | s           | s       | S              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Log                                   | s         | s        | s        | s    | s      | s            | s           | s           | s       | s              |           |             |               |                  |                              |
| Average time held (hrs.)              | 0.5       |          |          |      |        |              |             |             |         | 2              |           |             |               |                  |                              |

\*: 100 capacity set by staffing level. Facility has 235 beds.

#: 150 capacity set by staffing level. Facility has 435 beds.

&: 600 capacity set by staffing level. Facility has 800 beds.

Capacity for Todd Road, Main Jail, and East Valley set by State of California.

- **FA-02.** The State-certified maximum capacity for the Main Jail, Todd Road Jail, and East Valley Jail totals 1,644 detainees. The total population routinely exceeds 1,680. At the time of inspections the total population was 1,728: Todd Road Jail had 868 inmates (45 over its certified capacity) and the Main Jail had 850 inmates (54 over its certified capacity). [Ref-09]
- **FA-03.** Realignment has heavily impacted all branches of the public safety system: the Sheriff's Office, Probation, Behavioral Health Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, local law enforcement, and numerous community-based organizations (CBOs). [Ref-09]

Principal impacts are:

- Supervision of some felony offenders (non-non-nons) already on parole has shifted from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to Probation, which must provide Post-Release Community Supervision, including "direct treatment and court services to each offender." Since the implementation of Realignment on October 1, 2011, approximately 1,076 Post-Release Community Supervision offenders and 266 Mandatory Supervision (MS) offenders have been released to the County. [Ref-09, Ref-26]
- For most inmates jail time served has been reduced to 50% of the sentenced time. Including good behavior/work-time credits, inmates can now serve as little as 45% of their sentences. This in turn puts added pressure on the Sheriff's Office, Probation, and CBOs that cope with inmates who are released early. [Ref-26, Ref-27]
- The goal of Mandatory Supervision (MS)—a new form of supervision—is to help lower reoffense rates. MS requires that probationers spend a court-ordered period of time in the community under the supervision of Probation. Probation must connect the probationers to community services and/or programs and use assessment tools to hold probationers accountable. [Ref-09, Ref-28]
- The Sheriff's Office, Probation, Behavioral Health Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, local law enforcement, and relevant CBOs must now collaborate on Realignment implementation plans and updates. [Ref-09, Ref-16, Ref-17]
- **FA-04.** In July 2013 the Sheriff's Office applied to the State for funds to expand the Todd Road Jail by adding a mental health facility with a capacity of 64 beds. This expansion would free up cells being used as mental health housing at the Main Jail and provide increased safety for mental health inmates. For mental health use, each cell holds one inmate. Adding the mental health facility at the Todd Road Jail and assigning two general population inmates to the newly available cells at the Main Jail would result in a combined certified capacity increase of approximately 100 inmates. The initial application to the State was not successful; however, on December 16, 2014, the BOS authorized the Sheriff's Office to reapply to the State for the mental health facility construction funds. [Ref-29, Ref-30]

FA-05. There has been a countywide emphasis on programs that help prepare inmates for reentry into useful societal roles. Examples include: Thinking for a Change (T4C), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); Aggression Replacement Training (ART); Jobs & Opportunity = Better Success (JOBS); Specialized Training and Employment Project for Success (STEPS); the Integrated Behavior Model (IBM); and Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT®). [Ref-09]



The Main Jail at the Government Center has been greatly impacted by Realignment.

- **FA-06.** Main Jail inmates who are not on disciplinary status spend about half of each day in dayrooms, which permits them to shower, move around freely, watch television, and interact with other inmates.
- **FA-07.** Todd Road Jail has a solar-panel farm system, which provides 45% of its electrical energy needs. It has its own gray water processing facility. It recycles food containers, composts food and plant waste, and recycles kitchen food waste. Its kitchen facility prepares 1.5 million meals per year.
- **FA-08.** In the years since Realignment, inmate-on-inmate assaults at the Todd Road Jail have increased 25% (average) year to year, and inmate-on-staff assaults have increased over 30% (average) year to year. [Ref-31]
- **FA-09.** Twenty bunk beds have been added in the common area of the male housing units at the Todd Road Jail to increase capacity. [Ref-09]
- FA-10. Todd Road Jail has a set of programs to decrease recidivism and prepare inmates for reentry to society. These programs include General Education Degree preparation, computer skills, Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT®), English as a Second Language (ESL), and Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT), with instruction provided by 10 teachers.
- **FA-11.** The Juvenile Justice Facility (JJF) houses Providence High School, which is managed by the Ventura County Office of Education.

- **FA-12.** The JJF staff facilitate Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for the inmates. Other programs include Baby Elmo (a teen parenting program), Boys and Girls Club, Computer Repair/Robotics, construction trade skills, journaling, and the Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP).
- **FA-13.** The JJF is clean and well maintained. It has a bed capacity of 420. Although its current staff can support 150 inmates, at the time of the inspection the facility had 80 inmates.
- **FA-14.** The Work Furlough facility provides low-risk offenders the opportunity to work, attend school, and/or receive job training while serving a jail sentence. The facility has a capacity of 235 inmates but current staffing would accommodate 100 inmates. At the time of this inspection, only 67 inmates were housed at the Work Furlough facility and enrolled in the Work Furlough Program. Inmates are carefully screened prior to admission to the program, so the population is limited to the number that meet the screening criteria.
- **FA-15.** The Work Furlough's JOBS training curriculum is designed to improve inmates' chances of success after leaving the program.
- **FA-16.** The State's Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF) has a housing capacity of over 800 wards. Current staffing levels support 600. At the time of this inspection, 234 were in residence: 209 males and 25 females. Several buildings on the grounds appeared to be unoccupied. In accordance with the proposed 2014-2015 State budget, the average annual cost to incarcerate a ward is estimated at \$274,000. [Ref-32]
- **FA-17.** The VYCF has implemented the IBM program for all wards. This program employs individualized behavior modification and positive reinforcement/rewards to teach wards attitudes, behaviors, and skills that will help them reenter society upon release and reduce their chances of recidivism.
- **FA-18.** The VYCF provides vocational instruction, including construction skills, dog grooming, and computer skills, as well as online training in various trade areas.
- **FA-19.** The East Valley Facility serves as the Thousand Oaks' Police station, including a holding cell, booking cells serving multiple incorporated and unincorporated areas of the East County and the Highway Patrol. It also serves as a post-sentencing jail for inmates from the County referred to as trusties. The trusties participate in a work program involving duties on site and off site during the day. The East Valley Facility does not house women, juveniles, or those with psychiatric or serious physical health issues.
- **FA-20.** The East Valley Facility has a bed capacity for 20 trusties and had a population of 10 trusties at the time of inspection.
- **FA-21.** The Fillmore police station is undergoing a significant facility reconfiguration to make better use of available space. All recommendations made in the 2013-2014 Grand Jury report have been completed. [Ref-18]

- **FA-22.** The data transmission rate between the Fillmore police station and Sheriff's Headquarters is reportedly very slow, resulting in communication delays and observed staff frustration.
- **FA-23.** The Moorpark Police Service Center has no holding cells per se. It uses supervised interview rooms instead. The one toilet facility used by detainees is not equipped with tamper proof fixtures commonly found in holding cells.
- **FA-24.** The Moorpark police station shares facilities with the California Highway Patrol, creating a unique relationship within the State.
- **FA-25.** At the time of inspection, holding cells in the Oxnard police station had no seats or mattress pads, although chairs and pads were available if requested or needed for health reasons. The Grand Jury observed two benches being prepared for installation into the holding cells.
- **FA-26.** The City of Oxnard receives one-third of the total post-release offenders sent to Ventura County by the State. [Ref-20, Ref-24]
- **FA-27.** The Grand Jury observed dual use of rooms and highly confined facilities for staff and equipment at the Oxnard police station.
- **FA-28.** At the time of the inspection of the Ojai police station, the AED log was not available for review.
- **FA-29.** The Port Hueneme police station has two holding cells with a total capacity of seven detainees.
- **FA-30.** The Port Hueneme police station has limited supplies and equipment to clean up soiled detainees.
- **FA-31.** In the Port Hueneme police station, water was not operational in one of the cells.
- **FA-32.** The Port Hueneme Police Department officer availability was well below the authorized level due to injuries.
- **FA-33.** The Santa Paula police station had an inoperable men's restroom (redtagged due to asbestos contamination) and station roof damage due to recent rains.
- **FA-34.** The Santa Paula police station has inadequate space for its staff. As a result, detectives are stationed in a trailer adjacent to the police station and use restrooms across an alley in City Hall.
- **FA-35.** Santa Paula police officers do not have access to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) or Computer Aided Dispatch System (CADS) in patrol cars. The officers must call in to get key information.
- **FA-36.** The Santa Paula Police Department has 26 officers, 4 below the current allocation of 30 set by the City Council.
- **FA-37.** The Ventura City police station has holding cells, but they are not used.

- **FA-38.** The Ventura City police station acquired an AED for its holding area and staff has been trained in its use.
- **FA-39.** The Ventura City Police Department is staffed at the same levels as in 1976 when the city had approximately half the current population. [Ref-33]
- **FA-40.** The Ventura City Police Department depends heavily on a paper-based rather than computer-based system for information management.
- **FA-41.** During 2014 the City of Ventura had the highest "Part 1" crime rate (defined by the FBI as violent and certain property crimes) in Ventura County. It had a higher than national average property crime rate and lower than national average violent crime rate. [Ref-34, Ref-35]
- **FA-42.** Law enforcement agencies in the County have implemented all but one of the 2013-2014 Ventura County Grand Jury's site-specific recommendations. The installation of raised seating at the Oxnard Police Department is the exception. [Ref-18]
- **FA-43.** Juveniles detained in all holding facilities are released to parents/ guardians if the offense doesn't require transfer to the JJF. Proper juvenile-detention logs were observed at all holding cell facilities.
- **FA-44.** At the Ventura Youth Corrections Facility (VYCF), all routine janitorial functions are done by the wards. The facility was not clean.
- **FA-45.** The VYCF has many programs for education, rehabilitation, and improving life skills for its wards.
- **FA-46.** City police departments and Sheriff's Office staffs operating the holding facilities affirmed that they conform to their written policies and procedures for processing juvenile detainees.
- **FA-47.** California voters passed Proposition 47 on November 4, 2014. [Ref-12, Ref-13, Ref-14, Ref-15]
- **FA-48.** Proposition 47 reclassifies a number of crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. The retroactive nature of the proposition's mandate provides the possibility for currently convicted, eligible inmates to have their sentences reviewed and modified. [Ref-12, Ref-13, Ref-14, Ref-15]
- **FA-49.** Proposition 47 changes the crimes of shoplifting, theft (including firearms), receiving stolen property, writing bad checks, and check forgery to a misdemeanor if the values involved are less than \$950. [Ref-12, Ref-13, Ref-14, Ref-15, Ref-36]
- **FA-50.** Depending on the amount and type, Proposition 47 reclassifies possession for personal use of most illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, heroin, and date-rape drugs) to a misdemeanor. [Ref-13, Ref-14, Ref-36]
- **FA-51.** As of December 31, 2014, 966 people statewide have been released from State prison as a result of Proposition 47. [Ref-37]
- **FA-52.** Proposition 47, by downgrading some felonies to misdemeanors, abolishes the ability of law enforcement to collect DNA from some offenders. [Ref-36]

- **FA-53.** As a result of its biennial inspections of the facilities under its jurisdiction, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) found no issues of noncompliance with the minimum standards as set forth in Title 15. [Ref-03]
- **FA-54.** The BSCC found Todd Road and the Main Jail noncompliant with Title 24. Their useful area for recreation and other dayroom activities was below minimum requirements as a result of the addition of beds in the dayrooms. [Ref-04]
- **FA-55.** Personnel at all facilities inspected are aware of the need for disaster preparedness, including plans to manage detainees. Within the limits of resources, they conduct regular training and simulations to prepare for disasters. Often these are done in coordination with other emergency service providers and other city/County resources.

### Findings

- **FI-01.** The Grand Jury rated all holding cells or equivalent physical facilities in the County as satisfactory or better for the areas reviewed, except for the lack of raised seating in the Oxnard police station holding cells, lack of tamper proof lavatory fixtures at the Moorpark police station area serving detainees, and an inoperative water tap in one holding cell in the Port Hueneme police station. (FA-01, FA-23, FA-25, FA-31)
- **FI-02.** Realignment has put more demands and stress on public safety workers and County facilities. Changes in the inmate population, including gang complexity, mental health issues, and increasing average stays and headcounts, as well as the amount of multiagency coordination and documentation, pose major challenges to the County corrections community. Overcrowding at the Todd Road and Main Jail facilities is one of these challenges, which could be mitigated by the construction of the proposed mental health facility at Todd Road. (FA-02, FA-03, FA-04, FA-08, FA-09)
- **FI-03.** At the Ojai police station, the lack of an accessible AED log precluded verification of its operational readiness. (FA-28)
- **FI-04.** The Santa Paula Police Department is significantly understaffed in sworn officers and operating with an inadequate and deteriorating physical facility. This limits its ability to respond to detainee and city needs. (FA-33, FA-34, FA-35, FA-36)
- **FI-05.** The Port Hueneme Police Department officer availability is below authorized levels, which limits its ability to respond to detainee and city needs. (FA-32)
- **FI-06.** The space limitations of the Oxnard police station have affected the Police Department's ability to efficiently carry out its functions and responsibilities. (FA-26, FA-27)
- **FI-07.** Proposition 47's consequences, both intended and unintended, are only beginning to be evaluated. Early indications are that it may be successful in reducing the State prisoner population, but the effects on local law

enforcement agencies and communities are yet to be understood. (FA-47, FA-48, FA-49, FA-50, FA-51, FA-52)

- **FI-08.** The County has made a major effort to cope with the consequences of Realignment with some success. Overcrowding continues to be evident at the Main Jail and Todd Road Jail. (FA-01, FA-02, FA-03, FA-04, FA-05, FA-08, FA-09)
- **FI-09.** Electronic data communications improvements are needed between the Fillmore police station and the Sheriff's communication center. (FA-22)
- **FI-10.** The City of Ventura Police Department is operating with staffing and infrastructure constraints, which may be contributory factors in dealing with that city's crime rate. (FA-39, FA-40, FA-41)

#### Recommendations

- **R-01.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Office be persistent in their efforts to build the mental health facility at the Todd Road Jail. (FI-02)
- **R-02.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation, and city councils closely track and evaluate the impact of Proposition 47 on local law enforcement agencies and communities and report findings to the Board of Supervisors. (FI-07)
- **R-03.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Oxnard City Council direct the Police Department to install raised seating in its holding cells. (FI-01)
- **R-04.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Oxnard City Council obtain additional space for the Oxnard Police Department. (FI-06)
- **R-05.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Fillmore City Council provide funds and direct the Sheriff to improve electronic data communications in order to reduce communication delays between the Fillmore police station and the Sheriff's communication center. (FI-09)
- **R-06.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Ojai City Council direct the Ojai Chief of Police to maintain a readily available AED logbook at the Ojai police station. (FI-03)
- **R-07.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Paula City Council support an increase in police staffing consistent with that city's needs. (FI-04)
- **R-08.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Paula City Council authorize the repair/upgrade of the inadequate and deteriorating facilities of the Santa Paula Police Department. (FI-04)
- **R-09.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Port Hueneme City Council increase police availability consistent with that city's needs. (FI-05)
- **R-10.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Port Hueneme City Council ensure that all water fixtures in the holding cells are operational. (FI-01)

- **R-11.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Moorpark City Council upgrade the Moorpark Police Service Center lavatory used for detainees with tamper-proof fixtures of the type commonly found in holding cells. (FI-01)
- **R-12.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Ventura City Council improve the Police Department information systems infrastructure and increase staffing levels consistent with that city's needs. (FI-10)

#### Responses

Responses required from:

Board of Supervisors of Ventura County (FI-02, FI-07, FI-08) (R-01, R-02)

City Council, City of Camarillo (FI-07) (R-02)

City Council, City of Fillmore (FI-07, FI-09) (R-02, R-05)

City Council, City of Moorpark (FI-01, FI-07) (R-02, R-11)

City Council, City of Ojai (FI-03, FI-07) (R-02, R-06)

City Council, City of Oxnard (FI-01, FI-06, FI-07) (R-02, R-03, R-04)

City Council, City of Port Hueneme (FI-01, FI-05, FI-07) (R-02, R-09, R-10)

City Council, City of Santa Paula (FI-04, FI-07) (R-02, R-07, R-08)

City Council, City of Simi Valley (FI-07) (R-02)

City Council, City of Thousand Oaks (FI-07) (R-02)

City Council, City of Ventura (FI-07, FI-10) (R-02, R-12)

Ventura County Sheriff's Office (FI-02, FI-03, FI-07, FI-08, FI-09) (R-01, R-02, R-05)

#### Responses requested from:

Ventura County Probation Agency (FI-07) (R-02)

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### Attachments

- Att-01. Holding Facility Review Form
- Att-02. Jail Review Form
- Att-03. Juvenile Facility Review Form

#### Glossary TERM DEFINITION AED Automated External Defibrillator: An external defibrillator that is capable of cardiac rhythm analysis and will charge and deliver a shock, either automatically or by user interaction, after electronically detecting and assessing ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia ART Aggression Replacement Training; techniques to teach youths how to control their angry impulses and take perspectives other than their own; provides opportunity to learn prosocial skills in place of aggressive behavior; Biennial Every other year BOS Board of Supervisors of Ventura County Board of State and Community Corrections -BSCC principle functions are to: provide its leadership to the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems, expertise on Public Safety Realignment issues, and technical assistance on a wide range of community corrections issues; and promulgate regulations for adult and juvenile detention facilities and conduct regular inspections of these facilities CBO Community-Based Organization: includes faith-based and secular organizations which are in partnership with law enforcement and help provide needed services for probationers CBT Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: "a common type of mental health counseling...[that] helps you become aware of inaccurate or negative thinking, so you can view challenging situations more clearly and respond to them in a more effective way...It can be an effective tool to help anyone learn how to better manage stressful life situations." (Mayo Clinic staff) Ventura County County A person held in custody Detainee East Valley Facility A facility serving as the Thousand Oaks' Police station, including a holding cell, booking cells

| <u>TERM</u>  | <b>DEFINITION</b><br>serving multiple incorporated and unincor-<br>porated areas of the East County and the<br>Highway Patrol, and a post-sentencing jail for<br>the County  |
|--------------|--|
| IBM          | Integrated Behavioral Model; a treatment<br>program that focuses on five components that<br>directly affect behavior: knowledge and skills<br>to perform the behavior, salience of the<br>behavior, intention or decision to perform the<br>behavior, environmental constraints, and<br>habit  |
| Grand Jury   | The 2014-2015 Ventura County Grand Jury  |
| Inmate       | An incarcerated person   |
| JJF          | Juvenile Justice Facility in El Rio  |
| JOBS         | Jobs & Opportunity = Better Success, a program designed to increase the probability that an inmate will find and retain a job after release.   |
| Main Jail    | Ventura County Main Jail in the Victoria<br>Avenue Government Center complex; serves<br>as a pre- and post-trial facility  |
| MRT          | "Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT®) is a cognitive-behavioral program that leads to enhanced moral reasoning, better decision making, and appropriate behavior. The word reconation comes from the psychological term conative, which refer to the process of making conscious decisionsStudies show MRT-treated offenders have re-arrest and re-incarceration rates 25% to 75% lower than expected." |
| MS           | Mandatory Supervision: a Realignment-<br>created form of court-ordered probation<br>requiring a period of time in the community<br>under the supervision of the County Probation<br>Agency   |
| Non-non-nons | Inmates who have committed non-serious, non-violent, nonsexual offenses  |
| PDAP         | Palmer Drug Abuse Program; a peer-based support group and 12-step program  |

| <u>TERM</u>      | <b>DEFINITION</b><br>specializing in helping children and youths age<br>5 to 17 with the issues surrounding their own<br>or a family members drug and/or alcohol<br>abuse   |
|------------------|---|
| Probation        | Ventura County Probation Agency   |
| Realignment      | "[California] Assembly Bill 109, which went<br>into effect on October 1, 2011, changed the<br>definition of a felony offense, shifted lower<br>level offenders from state prisons to local<br>jails, transferred the supervision of<br>designated parolees from the California<br>Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation<br>(CDCR) to county probation agencies as post-<br>release community supervision offenders and<br>created a new form of sentence requiring a<br>new form of supervision known as mandatory<br>supervision." (AB 109) |
| Sheriff's Office | Ventura County Sheriff's Office   |
| State            | State of California   |
| STEPS            | Specialized Training and Employment Project<br>for Success, a program designed to provide<br>sufficient job related training to increase the<br>chances of being hired into and retaining jobs<br>in specific trade areas.  |
| Trusties         | Inmates trusted to work outside of their cells with little or no staff supervision  |
| T4C              | Thinking for a Change; a cognitive-behavioral<br>[CBT] curriculum developed by the National<br>Institute of Corrections that focuses on<br>changing the criminogenic thinking of<br>offenders; includes cognitive restructuring<br>and development of social and problem-<br>solving skills   |
| VYCF             | Ventura Youth Correctional Facility, the<br>popular name for the California Department<br>of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of<br>Juvenile Justice Ventura Youth Correctional<br>Facility (formerly CYA/California Youth<br>Authority)   |

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### Attachment 01

**Holding Facility Review Form** 

|                                    |                    |    | Rev 2.2 |          |            |          |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----|---------|----------|------------|----------|--|
| Facility                           | Point of           |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| Date                               | Juror nar<br>N/S/E | ne |         | Comments | (N/E Obsei | vations) |  |
| Policy and Procedure Manuals       | 14/3/1             |    |         | comments |            | vacions/ |  |
| 1.Training for natural disasters   |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 2.Medical incidents                |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 3.Routine operations procedures    |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| Physical Facility Observations     |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 4.Certifications current?          |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 5.Cell cleanliness/sanitation      |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 6.Toilet/accessibility             |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 7.Bodily fluids, cleaners/drainage |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 8.Safety/maintenance               |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 9.Phone accessibility              |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 10.Food/snacks/water               |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 11.First aid/AED, logs             |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 12.Accomodation for restraints     |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 13.Appro. Eng./ Spanish signage    |                    |    | _       |          |            |          |  |
| Other                              |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 14.Staff Spanish ability?          |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 15.Staffing adequacy               |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| Acommodation for Juveniles         |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 16.Appropriate use of restraints   |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 17.Segregation from adults         |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 18.Shouting distance to staff      |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 19.Phone call to parents           |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 20.Pre transfer interview          |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 21.Log                             |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| 22.Average/longest time held       |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| U                                  |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
| Host key comments/ other observ    | ations             |    |         |          |            |          |  |
|                                    |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
|                                    |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
|                                    |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |
|                                    |                    |    |         |          |            |          |  |

## **Attachment 2**

Jail Review Form

|                                 | Jail Revie | w Form   |                  |              | Rev 2.0     |       |  |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--|
| Facility/rated cap.             |            | Point of | Point of contact |              |             |       |  |
| Date                            |            | Juror na |                  |              |             |       |  |
|                                 | N/S/E      |          | Comment          | s (N/E relat | ed observat | ions) |  |
| Policy and Procedure Manuals    |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Training for natural disasters  |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Medical incidents               |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Crisis Intervention             |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Routine operations procedure    |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Inmate classification procedure |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Inmate request procedure        |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Grievance procedures            |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Physical Facility Observations  |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Certifications current?         |            |          |                  | _            |             |       |  |
| Average population/crowding?    |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Average detainee sentence/stay  |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Cell cleanliness/sanitation     |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Clothing/personal hygiene       |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Bedding /linens                 |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Toilet accessibility            |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Shower accessibility            |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Bodily fluids cleaners/drainage |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Safety/maintenance              |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Lighting/environment            |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Phone accessibility             |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Kitchen cleanliness/adequacy    |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Food/preparation                |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| First aid/AED, log              |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Medical infrastructure          |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Exercise/recreation facilities  |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Appro. English/Spanish signage  |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Other                           |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Staff Spanish ability?          |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Staffing adequacy               |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |
| Inmate programs                 |            |          |                  |              |             |       |  |

## **Attachment 3**

Juvenile Facility Review Form

|                                 | Juvenile Facility Review Form |  |           |                  |               |             | Rev 2.0 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------|------------------|---------------|-------------|---------|---|--|
| Facility/rated cap.             |                               |  |           | Point of contact |               |             |         |   |  |
| Date                            |                               |  | Juror nam | _                |               |             |         |   |  |
|                                 | N/S/E                         |  |           | Comments         | s (N/E relate | ed observat | ions)   |   |  |
| Policy and Procedure Manuals    |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         | ļ |  |
| Natural disaster response       |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Medical incidents               |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Crisis intervention             |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Routine operations procedures   |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Inmate classification procedure |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Inmate request procedure        |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Grievance procedure             |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Physical Facility Observations  |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Certifications current?         |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Average population/crowding?    |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Average detainee sentence/stay  |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Cell cleanliness/sanitation     |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Clothing/personal hygiene       |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Bedding /linens                 |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Toilet/ accessibility           |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Shower accessibility            |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Bodily fluids cleaners/drainage |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Safety/maintenance              |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Lighting/environment            |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Phone accessibility             |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Kitchen cleanliness/adequacy    |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Food/preparation                |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| First aid/AED, log              |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Medical infrastructure          |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Exercise/recreation facilities  |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Appro.English/Spanish signage   |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Other                           |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Staff Spanish ability?          |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Staffing adequacy?              |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Inmate programs                 |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |
| Appropriate use of restraints   |                               |  |           |                  |               |             |         |   |  |