



COUNTY of VENTURA
Civil Grand Jury

Annual Inquiry of Detention Facilities

Part 1: TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITIES

June 25, 2026



ANNUAL INQUIRY OF DETENTION FACILITIES - PART 1



Camarillo Patrol Station

Fillmore Patrol Station

Lockwood Valley Substation

Moorpark Patrol Station

Ojai Patrol Station

Oxnard Police Department

Port Hueneme Police Department

Santa Paula Police Department

Simi Valley Police Department

Thousand Oaks Patrol Station

Ventura Police Department

SUMMARY

California Penal Code 919(b) mandates that the Civil Grand Jury “inquire into the condition of the public prisons within the county.” As a result of an opinion of the California Attorney General the term “public prisons” in the state penal code is interpreted to include “local detention facilities,” where persons are detained by law enforcement agencies.

Civil Grand Jury jail inquiry visits are an important vehicle to obtain such information regarding the conditions under which our fellow citizens are confined. The 2025-2026 Ventura County Civil Grand Jury fulfilled its mandate by visiting all the County’s 10 temporary holding facilities between September and October 2025.

During these visits, the Civil Grand Jury observed that these facilities were clean, well-managed and maintained. Personnel at each location were welcoming and knowledgeable, explaining all policies and procedures, as well as providing access to all areas of the facilities.

BACKGROUND

Some cities in the County – Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Ventura – operate their own police departments, while other cities – Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, and Thousand Oaks – contract law enforcement services with the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office (VCSO). Whether the facility is a city police department or a VCSO patrol station, one of their functions is to be a temporary holding facility for people who are either detained or arrested. This is where a person is confined for 24 hours or less, pending release, transfer to another facility, or appearance in court.

When police or patrol officers take an adult into custody, they are transported to these facilities for pre-booking processing. Pre-booking involves data entry into the booking system of general personal

METHODOLOGY

During its visits, the 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury reviewed policy and procedure manuals, recorded its observations during each visit and collected state agency reports, local fire inspection reports, local medical and mental health inspection reports, juvenile logs, and other documentation.

The Civil Grand Jury, in teams of two or three jurors, conducted unscheduled inquiry visits at the temporary holding facilities within Ventura County.

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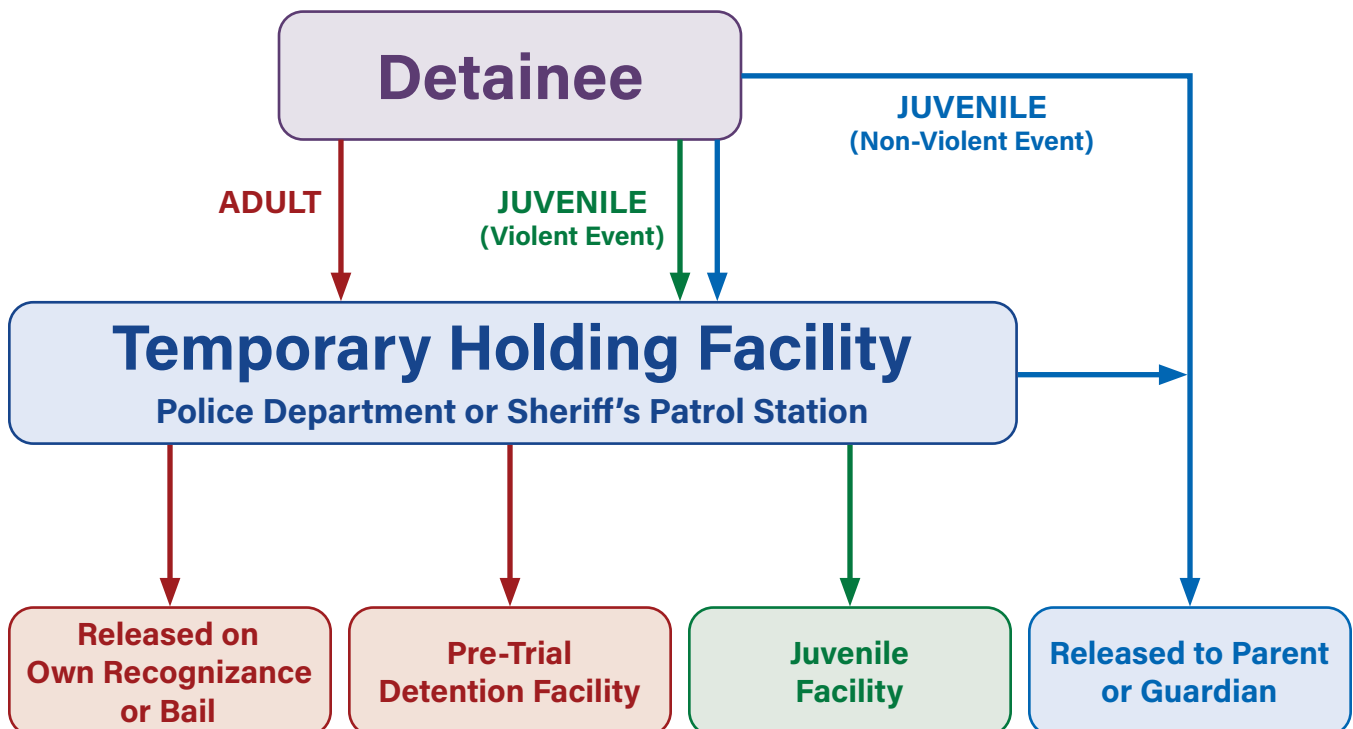
information, such as name and address, securing evidence, and doing a criminal background check. The individual may then be released for a minor offense, but usually they will be transported to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility (Main Jail) at the Ventura County Government Center for complete booking and further processing, including fingerprinting, photo, warrant search (initiated at the scene where detained), full body search, health screening, and search of possessions.

Juveniles detained for a minor offense are normally detained in the field by the police or patrol officer and released to the custody of a parent or guardian. On occasion, when the parent or guardian cannot be located or cannot respond to the scene, juveniles are transported to a temporary holding facility, where they are supervised and detained until they can be released to a responsible adult or guardian. Juveniles detained for a serious offense are transported either to the temporary holding facility for pre-booking or directly to the Juvenile Justice Center in Oxnard for booking and further processing.

In instances where an individual has sustained an injury or has a severe medical condition, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are called to assist the police or patrol officer with administering first aid or health care in the field. If greater aid is required, with the help of EMTs, the individual is taken to the Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) or the closest medical center for treatment and evaluation. Throughout the hospital stay, the police or patrol officer remains with the individual. Once they are stable, medically released adults are taken directly to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility for booking and further processing. Juveniles detained for a serious offense are taken directly to the Juvenile Justice Center for booking and further processing.

Temporary Holding Facilities Overview

The following diagram (Att.-001) further highlights what happens when an individual is lawfully detained.



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Camarillo Patrol Station

Law enforcement services for the City of Camarillo have been provided on a contract basis by VCSO since 1965. The on-duty Sheriff Sergeant met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of the facility.

- **Number of staff assigned:** 127 on staff, with 81 sworn deputies covering the city and unincorporated areas, plus 11 sworn deputies assigned to VCSO's Homeless Liaison Unit which works primarily in Camarillo-adjacent County unincorporated areas. Four of the city-funded deputies are School Resource Officers (SRO).
- **Number of holding cells:** The facility can accommodate two or three detainees in the one locked temporary holding room, which has a bench for cuffing. Usually, an arrestee is promptly transported to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility. There are no temporary holding, safety, or sober cells at this patrol station. A sober cell provides supervised, temporary holding for an intoxicated arrestee who is a danger to themselves or others.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** Two hours maximum.
- **Pre-booking activity:** This involves data entry only (no fingerprinting or photo) and securing evidence, including collecting urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at this patrol station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** Detainees are not held long enough to arrange release on bail from the patrol station.

Fillmore Patrol Station

Law enforcement services for the City of Fillmore have been provided on a contract basis by VCSO since 1987. The Chief of Police and the on-duty Sergeant met with the Civil Grand Jury team to tour the facility.

- **Number of staff assigned:** 31 on staff, with 26 sworn deputies, including two SROs. Among the five non-sworn staff are two cadets and one student worker.
- **Number of holding cells:** The facility can accommodate between four to six detained adult individuals in two temporary holding cells, each with a bench for cuffing. Generally, there is one arrestee per cell given the short detention time; there are no safety or sober cells. If a juvenile is brought to the patrol station, they are typically placed in a non-secure room under constant supervision.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** One hour, unless taken directly to the Main Jail.
- **Pre-booking activity:** This involves data entry (no fingerprinting or photo) and securing evidence, including collecting urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at this patrol station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** Detainees are not held long enough to arrange release on bail from the patrol station.

Lockwood Valley Substation

Law enforcement services for Lockwood Valley have been provided on a contract basis by VCSO since the 1950s. Lockwood Valley is unique in that it does not have any holding facilities. The area is staffed by two sworn deputies and two support staff. Deputies make every effort to cite and release detainees. Should a booking be required, detainees are transported directly to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility. In some instances, the deputies will stop at either the Fillmore or Ojai stations to expedite the pre-booking process. There was no Civil Grand Jury tour of the Lockwood Valley Patrol Station. ([Att. – 002](#))

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Moorpark Patrol Station

Law enforcement services for the City of Moorpark have been provided on a contract basis by VCSO since 1983. Moorpark Patrol Station shares its building with the California Highway Patrol. The Chief of Police and the on-duty Investigative Officer met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of the facility.

- **Number of assigned staff:** 49 on staff, with 43 sworn deputies, including one SRO.
- **Number of holding cells:** The facility can accommodate one detainee in each of the three temporary holding rooms. Up to five detainees can be secured with handcuffs on benches for cuffing. There are no temporary holding, safety, or sober cells.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** One hour to 90 minutes on average.
- **Pre-booking activity:** This involves data entry (no fingerprinting or photo) and securing evidence, including collecting urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at this patrol station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** This occurs typically with misdemeanor arrests when the individual has a verified local address and does not have prior failures to appear in court for criminal arrests. In those instances, instead of being taken into custody, the person is released after signing a citation to appear in court on a specified date.

Ojai Patrol Station

Law enforcement services for the City of Ojai have been provided on a contract basis by VCSO since 1980. The Patrol Sergeant, the ranking officer on duty, met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of the facility.

- **Number of assigned staff:** 39 on staff, with 35 sworn deputies. There are no assigned SROs.
- **Number of holding cells:** The facility can accommodate up to two detained individuals in each of the two temporary holding cells. There are no safety or sober cells.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** It can vary, but it's less than 12 hours. There are no overnight stays.
- **Pre-booking activity:** This involves data entry only (no fingerprinting or photo) and securing evidence, including collecting urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at this patrol station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** Usually, detainees are not held long enough to arrange release on bail from the patrol station.

Oxnard Police Department

Law enforcement services for the City of Oxnard have been provided by the police department since 1903. The on-duty Police Service Officer met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of their facility.

- **Number of assigned staff:** 371 on staff, with 242 sworn officers, including eight SROs.
- **Number of holding cells:** The facility can accommodate up to 49 individuals among seven temporary holding cells for adults and one non-secure room with a bench for cuffing, which is also used for temporary holding of juveniles. Rarely does the police station have more than eight detainees due to safety policy. Two of the seven cells have benches for cuffing, and there are no safety or sober cells.

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- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** Three to four hours.
- **Pre-booking activity:** Complete booking through the Pre-Trial Detention Facility's booking system. The booking process involves data entry, background check, fingerprinting, photos, obtaining statements, medical information, property inventory, and securing evidence, including urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at the police station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** Detainees may call a bail-bond agent to arrange release on bail from the police station. The agents respond directly to the Oxnard Police Station and post bond to have detainees released.

Port Hueneme Police Department

Law enforcement services for the City of Port Hueneme have been provided by the police department since 1984. The Police Commander on duty and Community Relations Officer met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of their facility.

- **Number of assigned staff:** 34 on staff, with 22 sworn officers, including one SRO.
- **Number of holding cells:** The facility can accommodate up to six individuals in three temporary holding cells. One of the temporary holding cells is a sober cell, and there are no safety cells.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** A maximum of six hours.
- **Pre-booking activity:** Data is entered into the Pre-Trial Detention Facility's booking system, with fingerprinting, photos, background check, obtaining a statement, medical information, property inventory, and securing evidence, including a urine sample. Blood samples are not collected at the police station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** Detainees may call a bail-bond agent to arrange release on bail from the police station. Bail-bond agents respond directly to the Port Hueneme Police Station and post bond to have detainees released.

Santa Paula Police Department

Law enforcement services for the City of Santa Paula have been provided by the police department since 1923. The Police Commander on duty met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of the facility.

- **Number of assigned staff:** 28 on staff, with 26 sworn officers, including two SROs.
- **Number of holding cells:** The facility can accommodate up to 15 detainees in five temporary holding cells (four temporary holding cells and one sober cell). Additional space within the station and the secured garage entry area can accommodate 20 to 30 more detainees, but this has not happened for safety and law enforcement-staffing reasons. Rarely does the police station have more than eight detainees. There are no safety cells.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** One hour to 90 minutes for adults up to a maximum of nine hours. Juveniles can be detained for a maximum of six hours.
- **Pre-booking activity:** A complete booking is done, which involves data entry, background check, fingerprinting, photos, obtaining a statement, medical information, property inventory, and securing evidence, including urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at the police station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.

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- **Posting bail:** Detainees can call a bail-bond agent to arrange release on bail from the police station, provided it is done promptly and the warrant document has a bail amount. In those cases, bail-bond agents respond directly to the Santa Paula Police Station and post bond to have detainees released.

Simi Valley Police Department

Law enforcement services for the City of Simi Valley have been provided by the police department since 1971. The on-duty Sergeant met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of the facility.

- **Number of assigned staff:** 173 on staff, with 119 sworn officers, including two SROs.
- **Number of holding cells:** There are seven temporary holding cells with a rated capacity for four adults per cell. Six of the cells have single benches, and one cell has three benches. There are two other temporary holding cells with a rated capacity for four juveniles, and those cells have benches. There is a report-writing area next to the temporary holding cells for juveniles that has a bench, which would only be used if a juvenile could be legally secured. There are no safety or sober cells at the police station.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** Two hours on average.
- **Pre-booking activity:** This involves data entry only (no fingerprinting or photo) and securing evidence, including collecting urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at the police station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** Detainees are not held long enough to arrange release on bail from the patrol station.

Thousand Oaks Patrol Station

Law enforcement services for the City of Thousand Oaks have been provided on a contract basis by VCSO since 1964. Since 1988, East Valley police services have been housed at the Thousand Oaks station to provide law enforcement services for unincorporated East County areas such as Bell Canyon, Casa Conejo, Hidden Valley, Kelly Estates, Lynn Ranch, and Oak Park.

The Thousand Oaks patrol station is a unique facility as it also houses the East Valley Jail (EVJ), which is managed by VCSO's Detention Services and is classified as a Type I facility instead of a temporary holding facility. No incarcerated people are permanently housed at the EVJ. Detainees are usually held at EVJ from 6 to 12 hours depending on such factors as time of day, day of week, and transportation availability. Incarcerated individuals are transported from another jail facility to the EVJ three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) to perform deputy-supervised, in-custody work, such as car washes of patrol cars or jail laundry services. The work schedules vary between four and five hours per day, with EVJ serving as the drop-off and pick-up location.

The Watch Commander for the patrol station met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of the facility.

- **Number of assigned staff to the Thousand Oaks Patrol Station:** 154 staff, with 134 sworn deputies, inclusive of the East Valley police services. Three deputies and one senior deputy are assigned as SROs.
- **Number of staff assigned to East Valley Jail:** Nine on staff, with five sworn deputies.

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- **Number of holding cells:** The Thousand Oaks station can accommodate up to nine detainees in eight locked temporary holding rooms with benches for cuffing, and there is one temporary holding cell. There are no safety or sober cells.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** Less than two hours.
- **Pre-booking activity at Thousand Oaks Patrol Station and East Valley Jail:** This involves data entry only (no fingerprinting or photo) and securing evidence, including collecting urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at this patrol station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** People arrested for certain crimes, such as DUIs and thefts, can be cited and released from the facility after posting bail.

Ventura Police Department

Law enforcement services for the City of Ventura have been provided by the police department since shortly after the city was incorporated in 1866. The on-duty Commander met with the Civil Grand Jury team to give a tour of the facility.

- **Number of assigned staff:** 190 on staff, with 141 sworn officers. Additionally, the Ventura Police Department has 30 to 40 part-time staff and three SROs.
- **Number of holding cells:** Four temporary holding cells and one temporary holding room with a bench for cuffing. It is rare that two or three individuals are detained in the facility at the same time; there are no safety or sober cells.
- **Length of time detainees are usually held:** One hour.
- **Pre-booking activity:** This involves data entry only (no fingerprinting or photo) and securing evidence, including collecting urine samples. Blood samples are not collected at the police station. Instead, blood samples are collected either at the local hospital or the Pre-Trial Detention Facility by medically licensed clinicians.
- **Posting bail:** Detainees are not held long enough to arrange release on bail from the patrol station.