



EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2009-2010

EL DORADO COUNTY JAIL

PLACERVILLE

Case No. GJ 09-024

REASON FOR REPORT

The California Penal Code §919(a) and §919(b) requires the Grand Jury to annually inspect all correctional facilities within the County.

BACKGROUND

The El Dorado County Jail located in Placerville was built in 1988. It is a Type II facility which holds detainees pending arraignment, during trial, and upon sentencing. The maximum capacity is 303 inmates. The jail population at the time of the Grand Jury's inspection was 243 inmates.

METHODOLOGY

Members of the Grand Jury inspected this facility on November 3, 2009. The inspection commenced at Prisoner Intake and moved through Special Holding, Medical, Kitchen, Laundry, Control Centers, Gang Monitoring Office, Inmate Living Areas including Dayrooms, Training Rooms, and Exercise Areas. The inspection concluded at the Prisoner Discharge and Out-Transportation Area.

A follow up inspection of the Jail's attorney/inmate interview booths was conducted on May 4, 2010.

People interviewed:

- Commander of El Dorado County Jail, Placerville
- Assistant Commander
- Chief of the Gang Monitoring Office
- Correctional Staff

Documents reviewed:

- Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) 2008-2010 Biennial Inspection Report dated October 22, 2009;
- El Dorado County Environmental Management Department Annual Inspection Report dated February 3, 2010;
- Grand Jury Report with responses to the Recommendations 2008-2009.

FINDINGS

Jail Commander reported:

- Staffing at the jail is adequate. There are eight correctional officers during each shift plus medical, transportation, and other support personnel;
- Staff and inmates have positive interaction;
- During the past year, 35 inmates received their GED.

The building and grounds inspection found neat and well-maintained training and day rooms for inmates.

The Grand Jury reviewed the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department Report dated February 3, 2010 and noted there were no problems or concerns.

The Grand Jury reviewed the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) Report dated October 22, 2009 which contained several key findings:

- Fire clearance was granted despite notice of minor deficiencies (9/18/07);
- Medical, environmental and nutritional inspections were conducted and no significant issues were noted;
- Corrections Officer, Jail Supervisory and Jail Management training were all found to be in substantial compliance;
- Records pertaining to inmates confined to special cells, such as Safety and Sobering Cells, were reviewed and CSA determined that the applicable procedures and regulations were consistently being followed;
- A majority of inmate grievances filed during the CSA inspection cycle were reviewed. Each one was resolved during prescribed time limits with appropriate Lieutenant and higher level review;
- A representative sample of inmate discipline events was examined. In all cases reviewed, discipline was proportional to the offense in accord with written policy. Management oversight existed in all cases.

In accordance with the California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, each finding and recommendation below will be responded to by the government entity to which it is addressed. The responses are to be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

The 2009-2010 El Dorado County Grand Jury has arrived at the following findings:

1. The facility continues to use a VHS recording system to monitor selected locations in the jail. As reported in the 2008-2009 Grand Jury Report, this system is outdated and can be expensive to operate and maintain.
2. The attorney/inmate interview booths, on both the secure and general floors of the jail, are not properly sound proofed. Voices coming from both the attorney and the inmate sides of a booth can be heard by people standing outside the booth even when the booth doors are closed. Further, voices from both sides of an interview booth can be heard in an adjoining interview booth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2009-2010 El Dorado County Grand Jury has arrived at the following recommendations:

1. The Sheriff should pursue all possible sources of funding to enable the Department to replace the VHS recording system with a digital system capable of recording the same locations in the jail presently being monitored.
2. The Sheriff should determine that all attorney/inmate interview booths are properly sound proofed so that attorney/client communications are not violated.

RESPONSES

A response to the findings and recommendations in this report is required in accordance with California Penal Code §933.05. Address responses to: The Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury, Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court, 1354 Johnson Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.