The Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
1354 Johnson Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Neil P. Cunningham, Foreperson
2013-2014 El Dorado County Grand Jury
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Judge Kingsbury and Foreperson Cunningham,

This letter is in response to your findings and recommendations noted in your letter dated March 28, 2014, to Mike Kaslin, Unit Chief in the Amador El Dorado Unit. We thank and appreciate the El Dorado County Grand Jury for their visit to Growlersburg Conservation Camp on September 30, 2013, and allowing us the opportunity to respond to the noted findings and recommendations.

**Grand Jury Findings**

1. "The CDCR staff and CAL FIRE staff at Growlersburg appear to interact well with each other and do a good job managing Growlersburg Conservation Camp."
   
   Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

2. "Although built in 1967, this facility has been well maintained."
   
   Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

3. "The jury members observed good morale at Growlersburg Fire Camp based on positive comments from several inmates."
   
   Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

4. "This facility is reasonably self-sufficient. The inmates manage kitchen and laundry services, as well as most repair and maintenance issues. This facility has an on-site garden, which produces over 3,000 pounds of produce each year for camp consumption."

   Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."
5. “We were served the same food as the inmates, and found it quite satisfactory.”
Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

6. “This facility prepares inmates for life after incarceration. This includes teaching skills in carpentry, mechanic, lumber milling and firefighting.”
Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

7. “Recreational time is supported by the above mentioned wood working and mechanics shops, an arts and crafts area, library, and physical fitness area.”
Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

8. “Growlersburg operates an 18-wheeler “mobile kitchen” for use at fire sites. It is capable of providing up to 5,000 meals per day.”
Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding. CAL FIRE is in the design phase to replace this unit with a new model in 2015.

9. “The facility has a family-friendly area for inmates’ families to visit during times when inmates are not out on fire suppression activities.”
Response: CAL FIRE and CDCR agrees with this finding.

**Grand Jury Recommendations**

1. “At some point in time, in spite of the excellent maintenance, this facility will need to be replaced with modern buildings.”
Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, as directed by the CAL FIRE Major Capital Outlay Plan. The facility was designated for replacement in 2008, however, budgetary constraints required the design phase of construction to cease. In discussion with our CAL FIRE Civil Engineer, it is anticipated that the design phase will resume in early 2015. Reconstruction of the facility is planned for 2017, at its earliest, based on the completion and approval of the design phase and budgetary funding of bonds by the State of California.

2. “Additional physical fitness equipment is needed. Citizen donations are allowed and encouraged.”
Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Citizen donations are appreciated, however, the timeframes of such donations are at the will of the public and community.
3. “This facility needs a new ‘cryovac’ (food sealing) machine to better service their off-site firefighting food provision role.”

Response: This recommendation has been implemented, however, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) was able to facilitate repairs of the existing cryovac machine in 2013 to meet the needs of our firefighting food provision. Based on budgetary constraints, CDCR will seek funding for an additional, new cryovac machine in 2014.

Again, on behalf of CAL FIRE and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation we thank the members of the El Dorado County Grand Jury for their visit to Growlersburg Conservation Camp on September 30, 2013. We strive to provide a safe and secure facility while offering our fire crews for community conservation work and emergency response. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or need further clarification.

Respectfully,

Joe Tyler
Camp Division Chief
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Mike Hill
Camp Commander
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