LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Sydnee Purcella, Franklin Elementary School
LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Law and Justice Committee inquires into the condition and management of all State and County prisons as required by California Penal Code §919(b) and §921(a). Under Penal Code §919(a) the Grand Jury may look into the case of every person imprisoned in the jails of Kern County on a criminal charge and not indicted. The Committee also inquires into the management and operation of all law enforcement agencies under the provision of California Penal Code §925 and §925(a). When requested, the Committee will investigate and/or answer citizen complaints assigned by the Grand Jury.

Richard Frank, Chairman
Patrice Kline
William Kundinger
Arletta Norman
ARVIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Arvin Police Department (Department) on March 29, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §919(b) and §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief) of the Department, the Lieutenant and Administrative Assistant. After a briefing the Committee was given a tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND:

The Arvin Police Department is located at 200 Campus Drive, Arvin, California 93203.

FINDINGS:

1. The Department became operational in 1960 and serves a 4.5 square mile area with a population of nearly 23,000. The Chief stated the City of Arvin is the fourth largest in Kern County.

2. The Department consists of the Chief, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, one Corporal, 12 Patrol Officers, six dispatchers, one Administrative Assistant and four Citizen Service Officers.

3. The Chief has been in the position for four years. The Chief stated the Department has a good working relationship with the Arvin City Manager and Council. The Chief stated that since he has been in office the crime rate has steadily declined.

4. The Department has the largest city jail in Kern County consisting of eight two-bed cells but only one cell is used as a temporary holding facility. Utilization of jail space could become a source of future revenue and the Chief stated the jail could be upgraded to a Level One facility with additional staff.

5. In the basement of the Department is a seven station pistol range for training and qualification, which is also used by other law enforcement agencies in Kern County.

6. The basement has a secured storage area for confiscated items including a number of bicycles. The Chief has a program to have the unclaimed bicycles repaired at the Taft Correctional Facility by inmates and returned to the Arvin community.
7. The Department has two mountain bicycles that are outfitted for patrol use at various community events.

8. The Department has one Reserve Officer and two in the process of being hired. The Explorer Program currently has nine cadets.

9. The Chief is largely responsible for establishing the Kern/Tulare County **Street Interdiction Team** (SIT). This is a collective effort of law enforcement agencies to “systematically interdict street level crime in the participating agency area of operation”. The SIT is also called upon to assist in other cities’ special community events as a deterrent to crime. The SIT program has gained such recognition that the Federal Government is now providing funding.

10. The Police Activity League (PAL) consists of between 20 to 50 youth. Every May the Department hosts a “Graffiti Day,” and up to 150 youth participate in cleaning up the city.

11. The Chief is in the process of establishing a Traffic Safety Committee consisting of representatives from school districts and various community organizations to deal with increased traffic flow.

12. The Department Squad Room/Meeting facility is used by city departments and various community organizations.

13. The Kern County Grand Jury Report of 2006-2007 recommended that “asset forfeiture funds be used to benefit the Department”. The Chief stated the recommendation has been implemented.

14. The Department has obtained six hybrid patrol cars through a grant process and is one of two police departments in the state with such vehicles.

15. Animal Control is under the jurisdiction of the Department with one fulltime officer assigned. The City of Arvin has no kennels and all animals are transported to the County animal control facility in Bakersfield.

**COMMENTS:**

The Chief and his staff are commended for their commitment to serve the community of Arvin, for their many outreach programs and for professionalism in performing law enforcement duties.

Further information on the City of Arvin Police Department may be obtained on their website: [www.arvincityhall.com](http://www.arvincityhall.com).
RECOMMENDATION:

The Arvin Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website:  [www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury)

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at; [www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury), click on “Sign up for early releases”.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED.
BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) to inquire into the management and operation of the Department pursuant to Penal Code §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Support Services Division Captain then toured the facilities. The tour included an overview of the Department along with a question and answer session.

BACKGROUND:

The Bakersfield Police Department is located at 1601 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA.

FINDINGS:

1. Bakersfield Police Department received a Federal Stimulus Grant and will hire 17 new officers. The Grant is for three years after Grant expires salaries will be absorbed by the City of Bakersfield. The BPD lost 29 positions due to budget restraints. These positions were vacant due to employee attrition.

2. The Reserve Officer Program is still on going. Currently BPD has 20-30 Reserve Officers who have to go through the same training as regular police officers.

3. The Crime Analysis (Unit) if requested will train and give classes on what to look for regarding drugs, code enforcement violations etc. at schools and multi-housing units and other entities as requested. Through a Grant received from State Farm the unit holds clinics for the proper use of children’s car seats. The unit may provide care seats for those in need.

4. In the last few months the BPD has sent 500 lbs of drugs to be disposed of at a burn site in Los Angeles. The process is a very long and expensive. Extensive searches are made to get property back to the legal owners after case is resolved. Bar codes are put on all property. Only employees of the of property room are allowed in property room.

5. Each officer’s vehicle will be equipped with a (MDC) Mobile Data Computer. Installation is scheduled for October 2009. The computer will enable the officer to take a thumb print and get results in 18 seconds. A new program called Cop/link will enable the officers to check on persons/license plates in other areas and get immediate results. The system will soon be available in all western states.
6. The Dispatch Center operates twenty-four/seven and has 33 dispatcher positions. Fifteen 911 telephone lines and nine non-emergency lines. To become a dispatcher takes one year takes and is done in phases with 120 hours spent at the dispatch academy. Dispatching has a high turnover rate of 50%. If the system goes down BPD has two diesel engines one on each side of the building. The Dispatch Center receives approximately one million calls a year. The Dispatch Center will be receiving a Federal Grant to be used to upgrade dispatch work area.

7. Investigation Unit has 48 detectives when fully staffed 56. Eighty percent of all crimes are drug related. Some other areas of investigation are drugs, financial, and child abuse.

8. The Records Management staff consists of 22, down from 29, due again to budget restraints. Approximately 500 people come through in one day and 60,000 reports are filed annually. Approximately 2000 arrests are made per month and the staff has 48 hours to do the reports with 100% accuracy required.

9. The Crime Scene Unit has a staff of seven. The staff responds to all major crime scenes. Using any computer staff can make composite of suspects by working with victim.

10. The BPD has two holding cells approximately 8’ by 10’, one secure, one not. Logs are kept on both, with one person in a cell at a time: juveniles are kept separate. Cells are only used as temporary housing until the detainees can be transported to respective holding facilities i.e. (Sheriff’s, Juvenile Hall, Jamison Center).

11. The Bakersfield Police Department will continue to register and monitor the Penal Code Section 290 sex offenders at their 1215 Truxtun location

COMMENTS:

The Committee would like to commend all participants in the tour of the BPD for their professionalism and courtesy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

The BPD should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Reponses can be accessed through the Kern County Library system and on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.
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**NO RESPONSE REQUIRED**
CALIFORNIA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On March 15, 2010, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the California City Police Department (CCPD) to observe the facilities, interview personnel and review current activities pursuant to Penal Code §925(a).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Chief of Police, Mayor and City Manager and was taken on a tour of the CCPD.

BACKGROUND:

The California City Police Department facility is located at 21130 Hacienda Boulevard, California City, California. The 15,000 square foot facility is approximately 16 years old and was designed with the dispatch area centered in the middle of the facility. California City is 204 square miles and has a population of approximately 14,700.

FINDINGS:

1. California City Police Department has sixteen officers. Officers living in California City are permitted to take vehicles home. Most officers (60%) live in Lancaster, Ridgecrest or Bakersfield. The CCPD has five dispatchers and a part time evidence clerk. Dispatch center operates 24 hours a day. Officers work twelve hour shifts. The CCPD has eleven reserve officers.

2. The facility has four jail cells and prisoners are held no longer than 12 hours and are monitored by the dispatcher. Prisoners to be held longer are transported to Central Receiving in Bakersfield. Hostile and special needs prisoners are taken directly to Central Receiving in Bakersfield.

3. California City Police Department has an excellent working relationship with the Federal prison facility at California City. The prison currently employs 550. Of the eleven reserve officers eight of them are full time correctional officers at the prison. Approximately one-half of the population of California City departs each day and works elsewhere.

4. The CCPD is involved in many community outreach activities, e.g. Historical Society, Explorer Program (eight students), Neighborhood Watch, Broken Arrow (special needs children), Cal Pals instructs dirt bike training for children and Volunteers in Public Service.
5. Grants received by the CCPD are $176,000 for Desert in Response Team (DIRT), $23,000 for communications upgrades, $202,000 over three years’ for one officer and $240,000 for the 911 system overhaul.

6. California City has a new high school and CCPD works closely with the school in spite of budget constraints. The CCPD conducts an annual disaster preparedness class for the high school students.

7. The Off Road Highway Vehicles (OHV) Permit Program is a major responsibility for CCPD. The City is home to a vast area of ultra terrain composites which require off road permits. The OHV Permit Program and DIRT plays a public safety role for all visitors to the community. DIRT also maintains the Borax Bill Park located along Twenty Mule Team Public Review Parkway. Fees collected from the OHV Permit Program pay for infrastructure maintenance of roads, sewer, water and park maintenance for OHV areas.

8. The CCPD is also responsible for the Animal Control Unit (ACU) and completed a new roof for the Animal Control Building and improved the adoption program with less euthanasia. The ACU has one officer and two kennel helpers.

COMMENTS:

The CCPD is to be commended for the strong support received from the Mayor, City Manager and City Council. The CCPD is also very involved in community activities especially where children are concerned as well as patrolling OHV activities. Further information on the CCPD may be obtained on the website: www.calcitypd.org

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The California City Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On August 19, 2009, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi (CCI) to inquire into the condition and management of the facility according to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Litigation Coordinator and the Public Information Officer (PIO) escorted the Committee to the Conference Room for a meeting with the majority of the CCI Management Staff. The Committee was given an overview of CCI by the acting Warden and several staff members. The Committee was then taken on an extensive tour of CCI including the Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY).

BACKGROUND:

The California Correctional Institution was built in 1932 and opened in 1933 as a women’s prison. After the 1952 earthquake the institution was refurbished and reopened in 1954 as a men’s prison. The prison covers 1,800 acres and is located at 24900 Highway 202, Tehachapi, CA 93581 and functions as a general population prison and a reception center. Maximum capacity for the institution is 5,778 inmates and currently houses 5,647 inmates.

FINDINGS:

1. Approximately 100 new inmates arrive weekly, are processed and assigned to permanent housing.

2. CCI broke ground on a new Water Treatment Plant in May of 2008 and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2010.

3. The PIO officer has over 150 volunteers from religious to self-help programs. Volunteers come from Los Angeles, Tulare and Bakersfield.

4. The pharmacy at CCI has been upgraded to a state wide computerized system for medication dispensing. All medication is dispensed from the central pharmacy and sent to the various housing units for distribution. When a prisoner is transferred from one facility to another all medical records in the computerized program are transferred with no delay in inmate receiving his medications.
5. CCI has a contract with a medical provider for a recycled pill system. Beginning in May 2009 CCI received a credit of approximately $19,000 for one month for discarded pills. The program will continue on a monthly basis. No one is allowed in the pharmacy except pharmacy personnel. No cameras are present and most likely will not be installed due to budget restrictions.

6. The proposed 500 bed addition at CCI has been put on hold indefinitely.

7. The State of California has implemented a three year plan to replace the 38 caliber revolvers with the 40 caliber semi-automatic hand guns, starting with the transfer officers, security teams, etc. until all 38 caliber hand guns have been replaced.

8. Medical records have not been centralized but the problem is being corrected.

COMMENTS:

The Law and Justice Committee commends the Litigation Coordinator as well as all the personnel who accompanied the Committee on the tour of CCI for professionalism, knowledge and courtesy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The California Correctional Institution should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Library system and the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED
PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On January 27, 2010, members of the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall (JH) to inquire into the condition and management of the facility pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Assistant Division Director of JH and was taken on a tour of the facility including the medical section, classrooms and Pathways Academy.

BACKGROUND:

The James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall is located at 1831 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, California. Juvenile Hall is operated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by the Kern County Probation Department as a secure detention facility for minors under the age of 18 years. In addition to the detention function, JH’s administration is responsible for two commitment programs: Pathways Academy and Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation Program.

The minors detained at JH are alleged to have committed a law violation and are detained for the protection of juveniles and/or the community. Juvenile Hall houses several juvenile facilities including Pathways Academy and elementary through high school classrooms. Juvenile Hall is usually at maximum capacity and is used as a “holding” center for juveniles waiting for court dates.

FINDINGS:

1. The facilities were clean, orderly and the landscape manicured.

2. The minors detained at JH are provided with necessities including food, clothing, living quarters, mental health counseling, medical and dental care.

3. The kitchen at JH serves two hot meals, breakfast and dinner, which are prepared at Crossroads. A sack lunch is prepared at the JH kitchen. The kitchen is fully operational for emergency use.

4. Counseling and guidance are available to help minors with problems that may occur due to detention.
5. While detained, the individual minor’s behavior patterns are observed and documented. A report detailing these observations is provided to the Probation Department and the Court to aid in a better understanding of the minor.

6. Total staff for the facility is now 180 including Pathways Academy.

7. The current population of minors is 218 of which 158 are in single cells and 60 in dorm rooms.

9. Pursuant to State Code, Title 15, Safety Checks are made every 10 minutes though the Code only requires safety checks to be made every 15 minutes.

10. The intake process is handled by qualified Juvenile Correctional Officers. Clerks assist with the “pat down” and processing procedures.

11. Detainees level of security risk is indicated by the color of their tee shirt:
   - Yellow is limited risk.
   - Blue is medium risk.
   - Maroon is high risk.
   - Orange is maximum risk.
   - White is new/intake detainees

12. Detainees are graded daily on the neatness of their cells/rooms and receive rewards such as dayroom privileges for meeting the standards.

13. The dayroom was clean, bright and inviting. Evening programs include reading, television, and games during the hours of 7 PM to 9 PM.

14. The Kern County School District conducts classroom instruction for elementary through high school grades at JH. A graduation ceremony was recently held to present diplomas for high school graduates. Family members are invited and encouraged to attend these ceremonies.

15. Pathways Academy is a separate program for females that attempt to restore self esteem and deals with victimization. It involves two periods of completion. A participant must complete a successful 12 week period followed by an additional successful 18 week period. There is also a Furlough, Treatment and Rehabilitation Program that can last two to three days up to 30 days at a time. Juvenile Hall is attempting to track this program for success rates.

16. The Pathways Academy budget has been cut in half due to budget constraints since June 2009.

17. The Assistant Division Director of JH also serves as the Director of the Pathways Program.
18. Juvenile Hall charges the family of each detainee $480.00 for each month and/or a pro-rated portion of the time housed. When a family receives public assistance, a determination is made what amount, if any, is to be charged for the Ward.

19. Juvenile Hall does not have an overcrowding problem because Wards with the least amount of time remaining to serve are released as new intakes are processed.

20. There is an underground tunnel that serves as a secure means to transport detainees from JH to the Juvenile Hall Administrative Court Building approximately two blocks away.

21. DNA samples, pursuant to California Penal Code §296.1(A), will be taken from all intakes in the near future as the necessary equipment is acquired.

COMMENTS:

Overall, the JH is extremely organized, well supervised and runs smoothly. The Committee observed numerous staff that consistently displayed a positive approach working with the Wards throughout the facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Every effort should be made to restore the funding to Pathways Academy through grants and/or other means of funding. It is an asset to the females that are enrolled and can be a positive life changing experience.

The James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed at the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website:  www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CA  93301

cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Reports

LARRY J. RHOADES KERN CROSSROADS FACILITY

Response to Findings:
The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendations:
The Probation Department will continue to prioritize its operations with full consideration of the resources available. The department will also continue searching for grants in support of its operations.

JAMES G. BOWLES JUVENILE HALL

Response to Findings:
The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury's findings are substantially correct and joins the Grand Jury in its compliments on the facility's operations and staff.

Response to Recommendations:
The Probation Department will continue to prioritize its operations with full consideration of the resources available. The department will also continue searching for grants in support of its operations.
KERN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
CENTRAL RECEIVING FACILITY
AND COURT HOLDING FACILITIES

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Central Receiving Facility (CRF) and the court holding facilities on February 9, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the CRF Commander and Lieutenant. An extensive tour was provided of the CRF holding facilities and the holding facilities at the Justice Court building.

BACKGROUND:

The CRF is a four story building with a basement located behind the Superior Court building at 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield. The holding facility at the Justice Court building is located at 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield.

FINDINGS:

1. The CRF is the main booking and receiving facility in the County. Maximum capacity, both male and female, is 292. On the day of the visit the count was 133. CRF processed an estimated 50,000 inmates during 2008-2009.

2. Inmates that appear in Superior Court are sent down a connecting corridor between CRF and the Superior Court building to holding cells located behind the courtrooms. The corridor also serves as a temporary holding cell for court overflow.

3. Inmates going to Justice Court building are brought to the first floor of CRF and then transported by bus or van across “L” Street to the Justice Court building. The bus/van enters a secure garage referred to as a “Sally Port.” The inmates are then sent to holding cells on the second floor of the Justice Court building.

4. Medical staff is available 24/7 and mental health services on an as needed basis.
5. During intake processing inmates are classified as to special needs and are segregated for various reasons such as violence, suicide, rapists, child molesters and gang members.

6. Central Receiving Facility has been re-wired for video cameras and a vendor’s bid will go to the County Administrative Office and then to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). If approved, installation should begin in May 2010. The Kern County Sheriff’s Department is also looking into the feasibility of using Inmate Welfare Funds to help fund the project.

7. The Sheriff’s Department receives no revenue from the incarceration of County inmates (PC 1203.1c), and the matter was last discussed in May 1995 with County Counsel. A quote from the memorandum,\(^1\) dated July 10, 1995, states: “The concern expressed is that, despite recovery of some incarcerated costs, unless substantial revenues are collected, staff and court time of all concerned will cause the program not to be cost efficient.”

**COMMENTS:**

The Committee would like to thank the CRF personnel for the courtesy, professionalism and knowledge displayed during the inquiry.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Even though the charges for inmate incarceration were discussed in 1995 the economy has changed and the Committee believes this issue should be revisited in hopes of saving taxpayer dollars for housing inmates.

The Sheriff’s Department should post a copy of this report where it would be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed at the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website: [www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury)

\(^1\) Complete memorandum is attached
RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CA  93301

cc:  FOREMAN
     KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
     1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 6TH FLOOR
     BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
April 30, 2010

The Honorable Michael B. Lewis, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

On February 9, 2010, members of the Kern County Grand Jury (Law and Justice Committee) visited and toured the Central Receiving Facility (CRF) located at 1415 Truxtun Avenue, adjacent to the Superior Court building. The CRF section is an integral part of the Detentions Bureau, Downtown Services Division. Commander Brian Wheeler currently manages the Downtown Services Division and was present during the visit.

I appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury during its annual review of operations at the Central Receiving Facility. Providing the public with objective reviews ultimately facilitate a stronger foundation for community trust. As always, the Kern County Sheriff's Office is appreciative of the Grand Jury's valuable insight.

I agree with the Grand Jury's findings but would like to offer comment on the only recommendation cited. The recommendation reads as follows:

- Even though the charges for inmate incarceration were discussed in 1995 the economy has changed and the Committee believes this issue should be revisited in hopes of saving taxpayer dollars for housing inmates.

Some of the key obstacles to a cost effective implementation of PC 1203.1c were covered in the 1995 report. Several of those obstacles are still relevant and include the following five factors:

- **Hearing Costs**: The key factor in a cost/benefit analysis are the hearings required by PC 1203.1c to assess inmates' ability to pay the fees and then to order the fees. The costs of conducting such hearings, which include the provision of legal counsel, were not readily available from the Bakersfield Superior Court (BSC) at the time of this report. However, in an informal
discussion, administrative staff at the BSC expressed concern that such hearings would impinge upon an already overcrowded judicial schedule in which other types of hearings are already being postponed for lack of available “judicial time.” Thus, while an internal analysis of feasibility by the courts would be necessary to more definitively assess this factor, it appears that limited “judicial time” would be a principle obstacle in implementing a cost effective program pursuant to PC 1203.1c.

- **Applicability:** Another obstacle is the limited portion of the inmate population to which PC 1203.1c would apply. The code allows for reimbursement from a defendant who is, “...convicted of an offense and is ordered to serve a period of confinement in a county jail...” Thus, strictly interpreted, this would limit the program’s applicability to inmates sentenced to county time (as opposed to those sentenced to time in state prison), which comprised approximately 26.6% of bookings in 2009.

- **Inmate’s Ability To Pay:** Another cost/benefit factor that must be considered is the degree to which inmates would be able to pay the fees assessed. Given that Kern County’s current unemployment is at a record-high 18.3%, this would not appear to be promising prospect. Unlike other court fines, fees assessed pursuant to PC 1203.1c would be based on the defendant’s ability to pay. The cost of incarceration set by the Board of Supervisors establishes a maximum amount, but the defendant’s affluence serves as the basis for the actual amount assessed. Thus, the affluence of the inmate population serves as a limiting factor on how much revenue could be generated.

While it is difficult to assess an inmates’ ability to pay with readily available data, the amount of money inmates have in their jail accounts may provide some insight into their affluence, albeit a limited one. For example, on a randomly selected day in April, 18.6% of the inmates in custody had no money in their commissary accounts, while 59.5% had funds of less than $10. Only 13.5% had more than $100. The median account balance was $3.55.

For reference, the average cost of incarceration for Kern’s jails in the FY08/09 calculation for state reimbursements was $70.53 per day. At this rate, the average 21-day jail stay could result in a fee of $1,481.13. If the funds in their jail accounts are indicative of inmates’ ability to pay incarceration fees, these figures do not improve the prospect of a cost effective program.

- **Revenue Split with Other Fines:** As pointed out by County Counsel in 1995, any inmate monies available to be assessed pursuant to PC 1203.1c would likely be apportioned between the cost of incarceration and any other fines or reparations an inmate is already required to pay. This splitting of the assessed fees would further reduce the cost effectiveness of the program.

- **Costs of Collection:** Once the courts assessed a fee, initial collection of the fee would probably fall to the Revenue Recovery Division of the Bakersfield Superior Court. In the event that a defendant failed to make payments as
required, either the Revenue Recovery Division or the Civil Division of the Sheriff’s Office would take action to recover the funds owed. The Revenue Recovery Division is self funded by the fines they collect. However, this dynamic may not hold for PC 1203.1c recoveries because they are limited by an inmate’s ability to pay. As use of the Sheriff’s Office Civil Unit involves Deputy Sheriffs going to people’s places of employment or banks to recoup funds, this would likely prove a more expensive recovery option.

I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury to better serve the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff Marty Williamson
Chief Deputy Willy Wahl
Chief Deputy RoseMary Wahl
Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
Chief Deputy Francis Moore
Clerk of the Board
Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Reports

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CENTRAL RECEIVING FACILITY AND KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LERDO DETENTION FACILITY

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury’s findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendations:

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff’s responses to the Grand Jury.
OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL
COUNTY OF KERN

MEMORANDUM

B. C. Barmann, Sr.
County Counsel

John M. Gallagher, Chief Deputy
General Government Section

TO: Members, Board of Supervisors

FROM: B.C. Barmann, County Counsel
By John R. Irby, Deputy

DATE: July 10, 1995

SUBJECT: Report on Charging Prisoners Cost of Incarceration

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file a report.

CONCLUSION

Penal Code section 1203.1c authorizes the courts to assess county prisoners the cost of their incarceration in county jail to the extent of their ability to pay if your Board enacts an ordinance authorizing the assessment and designating an officer to implement the program.

REPORT

This matter was referred by your Board to this Office on May 16, 1995. You asked that we report on whether County prisoners can be charged the costs of their incarceration.

The Law: Penal Code section 1203.1c allows the courts to assess prisoners for the cost of their incarceration if an ordinance implementing the program is enacted. The ordinance must appoint an officer to assist the court in determining the defendant's ability to pay and to collect any sums ordered by the courts. Pertinent provisions of section 1203.1c read:

§ 1203.1c. Payment of costs of incarceration in local facility as condition of probation
(a) In any case in which a defendant is convicted of an offense and is ordered
to serve a period of confinement in a county jail, ... as a term of probation or
a conditional sentence, the court may, after a hearing, make a determination
of the ability of the defendant to pay all or a portion of the reasonable costs
of such incarceration, including incarceration pending disposition of the case.
The reasonable cost of such incarceration shall not exceed the amount determined by the board of supervisors ... to be the actual average cost thereof on a per-day basis.

A payment schedule for reimbursement of the costs of incarceration pursuant to this section based upon income shall be developed by the county officer designated by the board of supervisors ... and approved by the presiding judges of the municipal and superior courts.

(d) This section shall be operative in a county upon the adoption of an ordinance to that effect by the board of supervisors.... Such ordinance shall include a designation of the officer responsible for collection of moneys ordered pursuant to this section and shall include a determination, to be reviewed annually, of the average per-day costs of incarceration in the county jail....

We have spoken with Mr. Klimusko at the Bakersfield Municipal Court; and, if the Board elects to go forward with the program, it would be both proper and practical to consider assigning this function to BMC and its Revenue and Recovery division. The Probation Department is an alternative choice.

Feasibility: Each department in the criminal justice system contacted raised the issue of the feasibility of such a program. In addition to routine collection costs, section 1203.1c requires a determination of the defendant's ability to pay. This can require interviews, paperwork, court hearings and appointment of counsel. In these respects, section 1203.1c provides as follows:

The court may, in its discretion before such hearing, order the defendant to file a statement setting forth his or her assets, liability and income, under penalty of perjury, and may order the defendant to appear before a county officer designated by the board of supervisors to make an inquiry into the ability of the defendant to pay all or a portion of such costs. At the hearing, the defendant shall be entitled to have the opportunity to be heard in person or to be represented by counsel, to present witnesses and other evidence, and to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses. A defendant represented by counsel appointed by the court in the criminal proceedings shall be entitled to such representation at any hearing held pursuant to this section. If the court determines that the defendant has the ability to pay all or a part of the costs, the court may set the amount to be reimbursed and order the defendant to pay that sum to the county ... in the manner in which the court believes reasonable and compatible with the defendant's financial ability.
The concern expressed is that, despite recovery of some incarceration costs, unless substantial revenues are collected, staff and court time of all concerned will cause the program not to be cost efficient.

Staff stated that the existence of other fines, penalties and assessments was a concern because these must be taken into account in determining ability to pay and, as a practical matter, may affect the amounts actually collected. It is probable that money collected would have to be apportioned between these other charges and incarceration costs as payments are received. Illustrations of other charges that prisoners may be required to pay under the Penal Code, in addition to routine criminal fines, are:

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On April 20, 2010, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited Golden State and Central Valley Community Correctional Facilities in McFarland to inquire into the condition and management of the facilities according to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Warden of Golden State and Central Valley Facilities and the Captain of the California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The Committee was taken on a tour of the kitchen, medical and pharmacy facilities, exercise yards, dormitories and control center.

BACKGROUND:

Golden State and Central Valley Community Correctional Facilities are located at 254 Taylor Avenue, McFarland, CA. The facilities are owned and operated by the GEO Group, Inc. The facilities opened in December 1997 with a ten year contract which has been extended for another ten years with the CDCR. The maximum population for each facility is 640. On the day of the Committee’s visit Central Valley had 641 and Golden State had 617.

FINDINGS:

1. Both facilities have separate kitchen and dining areas. The inmates provide all services, cooking, serving and cleaning. The facilities provide three hot meals a day.

2. Visiting hours are conducted at both facilities on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

3. Both facilities have been updated with a state of the art camera monitoring system that records 24 hours a day. Video records are kept for one month. The officers in the control booth can monitor all areas of the facilities, yard and perimeter fences and can zoom in on any area at any time.

4. Each facility has two separate housing units (pods) consisting of four dormitories with 80 beds per dormitory. Both pods are monitored by a single control booth. Since opening the facilities there have been no escapes.
5. The majority of inmates are between 25 and 35 years of age with population at both facilities being 85% Hispanic. Illegal aliens are monitored by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). Upon release from the facilities ICE Agents transport twice a week for deportation.

6. One facility houses general population; the other holds Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) protective custody inmates. Both facilities contract for inmates sentenced for up to three years. The approximate cost for housing is $60 per day and takes into account all the costs associated with housing an inmate.

7. The facilities have training classes for janitorial, landscaping, plumbing, heating/air conditioning and horticulture.

**COMMENTS:**

The Law and Justice Committee commends the GEO Group and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation staff for the overall cleanliness and appearance of the facilities inside and out.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Central Valley and Golden State Community Correctional Facilities should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website: [www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury)

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**NO RESPONSE REQUIRED**
KERN COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT
LERDO DETENTION FACILITIES

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Kern County Sheriff’s Department Lerdo Detention Facilities (LDF) on February 23, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Facilities Manager, Detentions Lieutenant and Sergeants. The Committee was taken on a tour of the facilities and then conducted an interview with the Detentions Chief Deputy, Commanders, Lieutenants, Sergeants and others.

BACKGROUND:

The LDF are located at 17635 Industrial Farm Road and are divided into four separate complexes: Lerdo Pre-Trial, Maximum-Medium (Max/Med), Male Minimum and Female Minimum. The daily population varies, on average, from 2,200 to 2,400 and the count on the day of the visit was 2,411.

FINDINGS:

1. The Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) profits derived from the jail commissary are used to provide services for the inmates such as education, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs and purchases of televisions. The IWF is managed by a Detention Lieutenant and audited annually by the Kern County Auditor Controller’s Office.

2. The kitchen at LDF is located in the Pre-Trial complex and is used to prepare meals for the complete facility including Central Receiving at 1415 Truxtun Avenue. The inmates receive two hot meals and a sack lunch daily. The meals are provided by a contract agency assisted by inmate laborers. The daily calorie count per inmate is 3,200 and meets the State nutritional standards.

3. Approximately 85% of the LDF population are sentenced felons. The average length of stay of a sentenced inmate is up to one year. The population is 60% to 70% gang affiliated.

4. The LDF offers vocational classes in auto body repair, food service and cooking for all inmates.
5. The physical condition of the Pre-Trial and Max-Med complexes although over 30 years old, appear to be in good condition and well maintained.

6. The Lerdo Male Minimum complex, unlike the concrete Pre-Trial and Max-Med complexes, consists of 22 wooden barracks with 42 beds in each. Seven barracks were closed on the day of the visit because of deterioration, disrepair and other maintenance issues. These same issues have been documented in prior Grand Jury Final Reports. Due to budgetary constraints funds have not been available for upkeep or new construction.

7. The Lerdo Female Minimum complex consists of three wooden barracks with a maximum capacity of 96 inmates. The population count on the day of the visit was 96. The physical facilities are in the same state of disrepair as the Male Minimum complex.

8. The LDF staff stated that the population of Kern County detention facilities has increased by more than 40% in the last 20 years. Construction of new detention facilities has not kept pace with this increase. The last new construction at the LDF occurred in 1987 in the Pre-Trial complex.

9. AB 900 approved funding for building a new facility to replace the Male and Female Minimum complexes. The estimated cost is $137 million with the State providing $100 million and Kern County $37 million. Given the current economic situation the LDF staff hopes that the new facility will be completed within the next five years.

COMMENTS:

Sheriff’s Department personnel are to be commended for doing a professional job handling the day to day security and maintenance issues that must be dealt with in the sub standard housing conditions in the Minimum complexes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Kern County Board of Supervisors should make every effort to find an additional source of revenue to fund the day to day operation and maintenance of the Lerdo Male and Female Minimum complexes. This would create another reason to enact the Inmate Incarceration Fees recommendation (PC 1203.1c) as mentioned in the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Final Report on the Kern County Sheriff’s Department Central Receiving and Court Holding Facilities.

2. Each member of the Kern County Board of Supervisors should make an annual visit to the Lerdo Detention Facilities to see firsthand the overall condition of each complex.
The Sheriff’s Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed at the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, click on: Sign up for early releases.

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CA  93301

cc:       FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 6TH FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
April 30, 2010

The Honorable Michael B. Lewis, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

On February 23, 2010, members of the Kern County Grand Jury (Law and Justice Committee) visited and toured the Kern County Sheriff's Office Lerdo Detentions Facilities. The Lerdo Detentions Facilities are an integral part of the Kern County Sheriff's Office Detentions Bureau. Commander Kevin Zimmermann currently manages the Lerdo Detentions Facilities and was present during the visit.

I appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury during its annual review of operations at the Lerdo Detentions Facilities. Providing the public with objective reviews ultimately facilitate a stronger foundation for community trust. As always, the Kern County Sheriff's Office is appreciative of the Grand Jury's valuable insight.

I agree with the Grand Jury's findings but would like to offer comment on one of the recommendations cited. The recommendation reads as follows:

_The Kern County Board of Supervisors should make every effort to find an additional source of revenue to fund the day to day operation and maintenance of the Lerdo Male and Female Minimum complexes. This would create another reason to enact the Inmate Incarceration Fees recommendation (PC 1203.1c) as mentioned in the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Final Report on the Kern County Sheriff's Department Central Receiving and Court Holding Facilities._

The following information was also presented on the response drafted for the Central Receiving Facility visit. Some of the key obstacles to a cost effective implementation of PC 1203.1c were covered in the 1995 report. Several of those obstacles are still relevant and include the following five factors:

- **Hearing Costs:** The key factor in a cost/benefit analysis are the hearings required by PC 1203.1c to assess inmates’ ability to pay the fees and then to order the fees. The costs of conducting such hearings, which include the
provision of legal counsel, were not readily available from the Bakersfield Superior Court (BSC) at the time of this report. However, in an informal discussion, administrative staff at the BSC expressed concern that such hearings would impinge upon an already overcrowded judicial schedule in which other types of hearings are already being postponed for lack of available “judicial time.” Thus, while an internal analysis of feasibility by the courts would be necessary to more definitively assess this factor, it appears that limited “judicial time” would be a principle obstacle in implementing a cost effective program pursuant to PC 1203.1c.

- **Applicability:** Another obstacle is the limited portion of the inmate population to which PC 1203.1c would apply. The code allows for reimbursement from a defendant who is, “…convicted of an offense and is ordered to serve a period of confinement in a county jail...” Thus, strictly interpreted, this would limit the program’s applicability to inmates sentenced to county time (as opposed to those sentenced to time in state prison), which comprised approximately 26.6% of bookings in 2009.

- **Inmate’s Ability To Pay:** Another cost/benefit factor that must be considered is the degree to which inmates’ would be able to pay the fees assessed. Given that Kern County’s current unemployment is at a record-high 18.3%, this would not appear to be promising prospect. Unlike other court fines, fees assessed pursuant to PC 1203.1c would be based on the defendant’s ability to pay. The cost of incarceration set by the Board of Supervisors establishes a maximum amount, but the defendant’s affluence serves as the basis for the actual amount assessed. Thus, the affluence of the inmate population serves as a limiting factor on how much revenue could be generated.

While it is difficult to assess an inmates’ ability to pay with readily available data, the amount of money inmates have in their jail accounts may provide some insight into their affluence, albeit a limited one. For example, on a randomly selected day in April, 18.6% of the inmates in custody had no money in their commissary accounts, while 59.5% had funds of less than $10. Only 13.5% had more than $100. The median account balance was $3.55.

For reference, the average cost of incarceration for Kern’s jails in the FY08/09 calculation for state reimbursements was $70.53 per day. At this rate, the average 21-day jail stay could result in a fee of $1,481.13. If the funds in their jail accounts are indicative of inmates’ ability to pay incarceration fees, these figures do not improve the prospect of a cost effective program.

- **Revenue Split with Other Fines:** As pointed out by County Counsel in 1995, any inmate monies available to be assessed pursuant to PC 1203.1c would likely be apportioned between the cost of incarceration and any other fines or reparations an inmate is already required to pay. This splitting of the assessed fees would further reduce the cost effectiveness of the program.
• **Costs of Collection:** Once the courts assessed a fee, initial collection of the fee would probably fall to the Revenue Recovery Division of the Bakersfield Superior Court. In the event that a defendant failed to make payments as required, either the Revenue Recovery Division or the Civil Division of the Sheriff's Office would take action to recover the funds owed. The Revenue Recovery Division is self-funded by the fines they collect. However, this dynamic may not hold for PC 1203.1c recoveries because they are limited by an inmate’s ability to pay. As use of the Sheriff’s Office Civil Unit involves Deputy Sheriffs going to people’s places of employment or banks to recoup funds, this would likely prove a more expensive recovery option.

I hope this information will assist the Grand Jury to better serve the citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

cc: Undersheriff Marty Williamson
    Chief Deputy Willy Wahl
    Chief Deputy RoseMary Wahl
    Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda
    Chief Deputy Francis Moore
    Clerk of the Board
    Foreman-Kern County Grand Jury
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Reports

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE CENTRAL RECEIVING FACILITY AND KERN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE LERDO DETENTION FACILITY

Response to Findings:

The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury’s findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendations:

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Sheriff’s responses to the Grand Jury.
KERN VALLEY STATE PRISON

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP) on October 20, 2009, to inquire into the condition and management of the Prison pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met the Acting Prison Information Officer (PIO) and Assistant Warden. A brief question and answer session was conducted prior to the Committee being taken on a tour consisting of the prison grounds, Vocational/Educational facility, Pharmacy and the main kitchen.

BACKGROUND:

KVSP is a Level 4 facility consisting of four semi-autonomous facilities and two stand alone Administrative Segregation Units surrounded by a Lethal Electrified Perimeter Fence. There is also a Level 1 Minimum Support Facility. Facility D houses the Substance Abuse Program and will house the Transitional Housing Unit. KVSP is on 600 acres with an additional 200 acres for future use.

FINDINGS:

1. The population of KVSP on October 20, 2009, was 4,748 inmates. KVSP was designed to house one inmate per cell with a capacity of 2,448. In the past year KVSP’s population has temporarily reached 4,800.

2. The kitchen facilities consist of a main kitchen and sixteen satellite facilities. Meals are prepared two to three days in advance and trucked to the satellites for distribution at meal times. KVSP provides two hot meals and a sack lunch daily.

3. KVSP Pharmacy has been remodeled with new cabinets and countertops allowing for more workable space. The pharmacy now employs four pharmacists and eight pharmacy technicians. The State of California Guardian System (computer software) is now in place to track discarded pills and enables medical records to follow the inmate if transferred to another facility.

4. Due to State of California budget constraints the Educational/Vocational training programs have been cut by approximately 60%. Eleven of the twenty-one employees have received layoff notices. Programs being cut are Adult Basic Education, Janitorial, Landscaping and Graphic Arts. Programs continuing are Auto Mechanic, Welding and Small Engine Repair.
5. Other programs and services being cut due to budget constraints include Substance Abuse Program and inmate visiting hours.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

When funding becomes available Educational/Vocational Programs should be reinstated as a first priority.

Kern Valley State Prison should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.cc.kern.ca.us/grandjury

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at click on: Sign up for early releases. www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA  93301

cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA  93301
November 20, 2009

Michael B. Lewis, Presiding Judge
1415 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Honorable Judge Lewis,

This is in response to the letter I received dated, November 11, 2009, concerning the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury report on Kern Valley State Prison. The following is submitted in response to the aforementioned letter:

- Per California Penal Code Section 933 (a), Kern Valley State Prison agrees with the findings located in the Kern County Grand Jury's report for 2009 - 2010.

- Per California Penal Code Section 933 (b), Kern Valley State Prison agrees with the recommendation that when funding becomes available Educational/Vocational Programs should be reinstated as a first priority. However, at the present time there is no time schedule to determine when these funds may become available.

- Kern Valley State Prison has implemented the recommendation that the Kern County Grand Jury's report be posted where it is available for public view. Kern Valley State Prison has posted the report on Institution Bulletin Boards, placed in the In Service Training Bulletin, and scanned a copy to be viewed on Institutional computers.

Please contact Lieutenant Jeff Smith, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer should you have concerns/questions at (661) 721-6314.

Sincerely,

KELLY HARRINGTON
Warden (A)
Kern Valley State Prison

cc: John C. Mainland, Foreman
2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury
Suite 600
1415 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility (Crossroads) on February 2, 2010, to inquire into the condition and management of the facility pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Crossroads Division Director, the Assistant Division Director, the School Principal and the Volunteer Services Director. An informative presentation, question and answer session was followed by an extensive tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND:

Crossroads is located at 17824 Quality Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308 and is devoted to redirecting the lives of some of the most delinquent youth in the County. Previously, many of the minors committed to Crossroads would likely have been sent to the Division of Juvenile Justice, formally known as the California Youth Authority. The facility is situated on 13 acres of county land adjacent to the Lerdo Jail facilities. Crossroads opened in 2004 and has the capacity to house 120 male minors. The facility consists of three split level housing units capable of holding 40 Wards each with a maximum population of 120 minors.

FINDINGS:

1. Due to budget constraints for 2009-2010, Crossroads has had to close one unit, thus reducing capacity from 120 to 80, a reduction of more than 30 percent, and was forced to reduce the program from 26 weeks to 24 weeks.

2. Crossroads currently employs approximately 90 to 100 full-time personnel of which 56 are Juvenile Correctional Probation Officers. Due to the budget, the facility was unable to fill 76 vacant positions and 14 fulltime staff were relocated.

3. Crossroads is a secure residential institution with a complete medical and mental health component.

4. The program model is to train, educate and guide minors who are committed by the Juvenile Court toward a more productive and delinquency-free lifestyle.
5. Minors are committed to Crossroads for a period of one year, ideally spending six months in custody and six months on furlough.

6. Upon commitment minors are classified, needs assessments are completed and case plans developed before being placed in a living unit at the facility.

7. The kitchen facility prepares all meals for Crossroads and for the James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall.

8. Medical facilities are operated from 7 am until 7 pm, seven days a week. After hour medical emergencies are evaluated and, if necessary, sent by ambulance to Kern Medical Center. About one third of all detainees have been prescribed to take “Psych meds” and are seen regularly by mental health practitioners.

9. Crossroads has outstanding community based volunteer organizations that provide valuable programs to help educate and train the detainees. Volunteer programs currently provide positive training and include:

   - The Tutoring Program started with volunteer students from San Joaquin College who visit Crossroads three nights per week to assist tutoring needs.

   - Stay Focused Ministries provides the “Fatherhood Program,” to teach minors how to be good fathers, a “Self Esteem Class,” and a “Smart Moves Class,” (Chess Game), related to making the right moves in real life.

10. Crossroads has an excellent partnership with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Minors attend school 270 minutes per day and the program is designed to meet individual academic needs. Often a student’s grade level in reading, writing and math improve as much as two grade levels while in the program.

11. Vocational programs such as oilfield training are provided by Westec. On-site vocational training is also offered to detainees in a Construction Class. Students work at construction modules that include carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry and roofing. Students are encouraged to develop a portfolio complete with pictures and a resume to be used at a later date when interviewing for an apprentice job in the construction industry.

12. The recreation program is making the most with less than adequate and unfinished facilities. There is adequate land for athletic fields, but inadequate funding to complete the grounds and a covered basketball court. In spite of these inadequacies, Crossroads has had outstanding success with students who have participated in the national Presidential Physical Fitness Test. Young men have earned national recognition for their effort in this program.

13. Community Service is an integral aspect of the Crossroads overall program. Minors are encouraged to give back to the community by performing community
service to many nonprofit organizations. After successful completion of the program the minor is furloughed to the Aftercare Unit. The minor is then assigned to a Probation Officer who develops a case plan, monitors the minor’s progress in the community and provides intensive supervision to ensure compliance with the orders of the Court.

COMMENTS:

The Crossroads Facility program represents a collective effort to change negative habits, attitudes and behaviors. Juvenile Correctional Officers, Probation Officers, Mental Health personnel, teachers and minors’ parents or guardians all play a role in making a positive lifestyle change possible.

Community service organizations and volunteers devote much appreciated time and effort toward the realization of this goal. In 2009, a total of 36,000 volunteer hours were donated at an estimated value of $800,000. Currently there are more than 300 “super active” volunteers serving Crossroads.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. When funding becomes available, reopening the third 40 bed housing unit should be made the first priority.

2. Continuing efforts should be made to find necessary funding through grant applications and/or outside sources to complete the five acres of athletic fields and a covered basketball court for year-round use.

3. Crossroads should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public reviewing.

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

cc: FOREMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 6TH FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Reports

LARRY J. RHOADES KERN CROSSROADS FACILITY

Response to Findings:
The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury’s findings are substantially correct.

Response to Recommendations:
The Probation Department will continue to prioritize its operations with full consideration of the resources available. The department will also continue searching for grants in support of its operations.

JAMES G. BOWLES JUVENILE HALL

Response to Findings:
The Board of Supervisors notes that the Grand Jury’s findings are substantially correct and joins the Grand Jury in its compliments on the facility’s operations and staff.

Response to Recommendations:
The Probation Department will continue to prioritize its operations with full consideration of the resources available. The department will also continue searching for grants in support of its operations.
PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the McFarland Police Department (Department) on April 20, 2010, pursuant to Penal Codes §919b and §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief) of the Department and the City Manager and after a question and answer period the Committee was given a tour of the Department and the City Hall facilities.

BACKGROUND:

The McFarland Police Department and City Hall are located at 401 West Kern Avenue, McFarland, California 93250 and share a common facility.

FINDINGS:

1. The Department became operational in August 2009 after the City terminated a 17 year contract with the Kern County Sheriff’s Department. The City estimates a cost saving of $400,000 annually.

2. The Department’s location is in the old Sheriff Substation that has one temporary holding cell. Arrestees are detained no longer than 30 minutes to an hour while the decision is made to release on citation, transfer to Delano or Bakersfield jail facilities.

3. The Department personnel consist of the Chief, three Sergeants, one Senior Officer, seven Patrol Officers, one Community Service Officer, three fulltime Dispatchers and three part-time Dispatchers.

4. There are two Officers on patrol in the City at all times including the Chief and Sergeants.

5. All sworn personnel and Dispatchers are California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certified. All sworn personnel were hired after an extensive background investigation conducted by T. J. Law and Associates in Selma, California.

6. All non-sworn staff are cross-trained to handle additional responsibilities. Dispatchers perform other duties of Records Clerk and Receptionist. The
Community Service Officer also serves as the Code Enforcement Officer and Property Room Control Officer.

7. The Department has four Reserve Officers and is developing a plan for a Volunteer Service Program and Explorer Post.

8. In February 2010 the Department with the assistance of the Kern County Street Interdiction Team (SIT) conducted a gang related sweep in McFarland. The SIT sweep made numerous arrests of gang members and other individuals.

9. The City purchased 12 surplus vehicles for the Department. Each Officer has home retention of a patrol vehicle with the stipulation that the Officer reimburse the City for roundtrip mileage from the Department to residence.

10. McFarland’s population varies from 12,000 to 17,000 depending on the agricultural season and is 75% to 80% Hispanic. The Department has three bilingual Spanish speaking Officers.

11. The City and Department are not yet listed in local telephone directories and do not have an internet website or link.

COMMENTS:

The Chief and City Manager are to be commended for developing the new Department and being at a high level of operation in such a short period of time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Department should coordinate with the City to become listed in the Kern County telephone directories and recruit a volunteer to develop and maintain an internet website link.

2. The McFarland Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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RESPONSE REQUIRED WITHIN 60 DAYS TO:
PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE 2ND FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CA  93301

cc: FOReMAN
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA  93301
May 17, 2010

Honorable Michael B Lewis, Presiding Judge  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Judge Lewis,

The McFarland Police Department is in receipt of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury, Law and Justice Committee report dated May 11, 2010. It was a pleasure meeting with the committee members and we would like to thank them for volunteering their time and continued support.

We are proud to be the newest law enforcement agency in the county and feel we have built a professional agency that is reaching out to our community to build trust and foster a collaborative relationship. We are in our fifth month of full operation and we are continuously adding components to our agency that will enhance our effectiveness and community outreach.

In the report, the Committee recommended “the Department should coordinate with the City to become listed in the Kern County telephone directories and recruit a volunteer to develop and maintain an internet website link.”

Response:

The department has made many contacts with allied agencies and county supports agencies and supplied them with all of our contact phone numbers and staff email addresses. We have contacted AT&T and requested our police department non-emergency phone number, 661-792-2121 is placed on the first page of the white pages of “The Real Yellow Pages” phone book that for area code 661 (Bakersfield). We have also requested to be added to the YellowBook.com website under government agencies. This will assist people who look up our agency using an internet search engine.

In March 2010, we started a “soft” recruitment for volunteers for the police department using the nationally recognized VIPS (Volunteers In Police Service) program format. We are ready to bring one volunteer on board and are gearing up for a local recruitment with flyers, banners and recruitment visits when invited to community gatherings. We have one person interested in assisting us in developing a City website. We plan to start work developing the website in the next 30-45 days and hope to have it ready for roll out by September 2010. Once the City website is up and running, we will develop a police department link and populate it with information regarding the police department, employees, contact numbers and programs available. We will also conduct volunteer and Police Explorer recruitment through the website link.
In closing, we would like to thank the members of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury, Law and Justice Committee for their comments and recommendations. We welcome external review of our department as it gives us a different perspective to help us build the best department to service our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wilburn
City Manager

David Frazer
Chief of Police

Cc: John C. Mainland, Foreman
2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury
Suite 600
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
NORTH KERN STATE PRISON

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On November 16, 2009, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the North Kern State Prison (NKSP) to inquire into the condition and management of the facility according to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Public Information Officer (PIO) and the Litigation Coordinator. The Committee was taken on a tour consisting of the Reception Center, main kitchen facility, medical and pharmacy facilities, exercise yards and various cell blocks. Following the tour the Committee met with the Acting Warden and the Management Staff for a brief question and answer session.

BACKGROUND:

North Kern State Prison is located at 2737 Cecil Avenue, Delano. The prison was built in 1993 to be a single cell facility and shortly after opening was changed to a Reception Center. NKSP processes approximately 500 incoming and outgoing inmates per week.

FINDINGS:

1. The NKSP Records Section manually processes approximately 1,000 inmate files per week. The NKSP is in the process of converting to paperless inmate computer files. No estimated date of completion has been established.

2. Currently all vocational and substance abuse programs have been eliminated due to State budget constraints. No job losses have occurred; affected personnel have been re-assigned to other areas.

3. The main kitchen prepares all meals fresh daily. Meals are then trucked to satellite kitchens and put on carts to be transported to all cell blocks and served in the day rooms.

4. NKSP has approximately 1,700 employees of which approximately 1,000 are correctional staff. The remaining employees are in Administration and Medical sections. NKSP provides a gym on site for use by all employees.

5. Inmates in all cell blocks have access to the exercise yards for two hours twice a week.
6. Visiting is allowed on Saturday and Sundays and designated holidays from 7am to 3pm.

7. NKSP offers services for approximately thirty different religious programs for the inmates to attend.

8. Population of the prison averages 5,300 at any given time; 280 are general population and are permanently housed at the facility.

9. The pharmacy has converted to the “Guardian” medication program through the State and follows the inmates throughout the prison system.

COMMENTS:

The Law and Justice Committee commends the PIO and Litigation Coordinator for the professionalism, knowledge and courtesy they showed the committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

North Kern State Prison should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, click on: Sign up for early releases

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED
PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Shafter Community Correctional Facility (SCCF) on March 10, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief), the Assistant Chief of Corrections (ACC) and other staff members. The ACC gave a brief presentation followed by an extensive tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND:

The SCCF is located at 1150 E. Ash Avenue, Shafter, California. The facility opened in 1991 and is owned and operated by the City of Shafter. The City contracts with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to house minimum security inmates. The SCCF is situated on approximately six acres and has 77,000 square feet of building space. The SCCF has eight dorms with a capacity of 70 inmates each and can house a total population of 560.

FINDINGS:

1. The SCCF operates under the Police Chief. The facility staff is comprised of one Assistant Chief of Corrections, two Correctional Lieutenants, one Vocational Sergeant, four Correctional Sergeants, three Senior Correctional Officers, 42 Correctional Officers, two Office staff, three Instructors, Canteen Supervisor, Maintenance Supervisor, Licensed Vocational Nurse and five kitchen staff.

2. The SCCF has a contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The annual contract amount is $9,058,161 and expires in 2017.

3. The SCCF provides educational and program services to the inmate population including computer applications, building/maintenance vocation, anger management, Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous. The SCCF also provides various work assignments within the facility.

4. The SCCF utilizes inmate work crews to assist other non-profit agencies. The work consists of various construction and maintenance projects. Currently the SCCF has seven contracted work crews with: four assigned to Cal-Trans, one
each assigned to the cities of Delano and Porterville and one to Cal State Bakersfield.

5. The SCCF population on the day of the visit was 521. Inmate’s length of stay at the SCCF can be up to 36 months.

6. The SCCF has two control centers each monitored by a Correctional Officer visually supervising four dorms. Both control centers provide excellent visual surveillance including audio and video systems.

7. The SCCF is situated in an industrial/light manufacturing area of the City. The close proximity to other buildings has caused incidents of contraband being tossed over the facility walls. The problem will soon be rectified with the construction of a guard tower overseeing the entire yard and outside perimeter.

COMMENTS:

The SCCF staff is to be commended for designing and operating a well functioning correctional institution. Special mention and recognition is given to the Outside Work Crews Program that could serve as a model program for other county or city facilities to follow. The Kern County Board of Supervisors should visit the SCCF to see an efficiently operated correctional facility. Further information on the SCCF may be obtained on the website: www.shafter.com

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Shafter Police Department and the SCCF should post a copy of this report where it would be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand web-site: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED
PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Shafter Police Department (Department) on March 10, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §925(a).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief) and the Captain of the Department and a tour of the facility was conducted by the Chief. Additionally, the Chief took the Committee on a tour of the new Animal Control Rescue facility and the Firearms Range located at the site of the former City Waste Management facility on the outskirts of the City.

BACKGROUND:

The Shafter Police Department is located at 201 Central Valley Highway, Shafter, California 93263.

FINDINGS:

1. The Shafter Police Department physical facility was completed in 2008 and all command personnel had input into the design of the approximately 12,000 square foot building. All areas were designed with future expansion in mind.

2. All restricted areas of the building are equipped with a card lock security system that tracks the time and the ID of the individual entering. A video surveillance system was installed throughout the building. Video and audio recording devices are located in the two interview rooms.

3. The Department jail section covers approximately 1,200 square feet consisting of six holding cells and a booking and receiving area.

4. The dispatcher’s area doubles as a reception office with access for the public. There is space for an additional four to six work stations. The City of Wasco is considering sub-contracting with the Department for dispatching services.

5. The property room is a state of the art design for the preserving and security of evidence and materials.

6. The Department facility was built with a backup generator large enough to power the entire building in an emergency and for future expansion.
7. The conference room/auditorium is designed for multi-use purposes e.g. training, meetings and community use and is booked in advance for the remainder of the year.

8. The Department staffing includes the Chief, Captain, four Sergeants, four Senior Officers, 10 Patrol Officers, five to six Reserve Officers, a Records/Dispatch Supervisor and six dispatchers. All Patrol Officers work a 12 hour shift. Other personnel work eight to 10 hour shifts.

9. The Animal Control Rescue facility located at 18849 S. Shafter Avenue, is one of the Chief’s many other responsibilities. The new building opened approximately three months ago and is operated by the Animal Control Officer, two kennel employees and numerous volunteers. Since the new facility has opened, an adoption rate of 60% has been achieved.

10. The Firearms Range (Range), a new facility yet to be completed, is located at the old City sewer plant on the same 97 acre site of Animal Control Rescue. The Range consists of one pistol and one rifle range. The Chief has plans to turn the facility into a regional firearms range by year-end to be used by other agencies and the general public to create an additional source of revenue.

11. In 2007 the Department became part of a “Mutual Aid compact” with the Kern and Tulare County law enforcement agencies that elected to participate. This is a collective effort “to systematically interdict street level crime in the participating agency area of operation.”

COMMENTS:

The Chief, staff and city leaders are to be commended for planning and building a state of the art facility with the future in mind. Further information on the Shafter Police Department may be obtained on their website: www.shafter.com

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Shafter Police Department should post a copy of this report where it would be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED
TAFT
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited Taft Community Correctional Facility (TCCF) on April 27, 2010, to inquire into the facility pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Lieutenant of the TCCF, was given a tour and the Committee’s questions were answered.

BACKGROUND:

The TCCF is located at 330 Commerce Way in Taft adjacent to the Taft Police Department and began operations as a correctional facility in 1991. The TCCF is a private correctional facility owned and operated by the City of Taft under contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. A total of 63 employees includes: Manager, Captain, four Lieutenants, four Sergeants, two Senior Correctional Officers, 42 Correctional Officers, four teachers, a Maintenance Supervisor, two Maintenance Techs and a Medical Tech.

FINDINGS:

1. The TCCF is a two story building with four dormitories on each level that can house up to 68 inmates each. The TCCF has a capacity for 544 inmates and on the day of the visit the count was 544. Inmates are held at the TCCF for up to three years. There is a control room on the first and second floor used for audio and visual monitoring of inmates in the entire area 24/7.

2. The TCCF vocational training programs include a basic computer lab with 20 workstations and basic carpentry/wood shop. The TCCF recreational library operated by the inmates has hundreds of paperback books and current periodicals. The inmates refurbish bicycles for the City of Taft Police Department which are distributed to needy children throughout the year.

3. Inmates operate the laundry and also provide clean linens to the Taft Police Department jail.

4. The TCCF has an Inmate Work Program crew that provides daily landscape maintenance for the City of Taft.
5. The TCCF kitchen facility is operated by the inmates and serves two hot meals and a sack lunch during the week and three hot meals a day on weekends.

6. A medical doctor is on duty during the week from 8 a.m. until “sick calls” are completed. After “sick calls” are completed medical needs are evaluated by the Medical Tech and patient inmates are transported to Wasco State Prison as needed.

7. Visiting hours at the TCCF are Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

COMMENTS:

The TCCF staff is commended for a well organized and clean facility.

The TCCF should examine the possibility of expanding the use of prison labor work crews in the community.

Further information on the Taft Community Correctional Facility may be obtained on the website: www.taftcityhall.com.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taft Community Correctional Facility should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED
TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Taft Police Department (Department) on April 20, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §919(b) and §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief) and the Lieutenant of the Department. After a question and answer period the Committee was given a tour of the facilities.

BACKGROUND:

The Taft Police Department is located at 320 Commerce Way, Taft, California 93268 and the present location was built in 1990. The Department’s service area covers approximately 10 square miles with a population of approximately 10,000.

FINDINGS:

1. The Department personnel consist of the Chief, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, eight Patrol Officers, one School Resources Officer, three Citizen Service Officers, one Animal Control Officer, one Animal Control Technician, five Dispatchers and three Reserve Officers.

2. The Department has two to five Officers on the streets at all times. All Officers and Dispatchers work three twelve hour shifts per week.

3. All Officers have home retention of a patrol vehicle with the understanding that the officers live within 12 miles of Taft.

4. The Department has a good working relationship with the Kern County Sheriff’s Department. The Departments monitor each other’s radio frequencies and respond to assist in emergency calls.

5. The Chief stated that the City of Taft has the lowest crime rate in Kern County due to the Department’s involvement in the community and the lack of gang presence. The last homicide occurred in 1990. Graffiti is almost non-existent in Taft due to the Department’s aggressive response and the City’s cleanup program.

6. The Department is actively pursuing grants and donations to establish a Police Activities League.
7. The Department has an “Are You Ok” (RUOK) program which makes automated telephone contact to senior citizens and shut-ins daily.

8. The Department is actively developing a Neighborhood Watch program that will be referred to as “Adopt-A-Block”.

9. The Chief referred to the 2007-2008 Kern County Grand Jury recommendation of acquiring a K-9 Unit (Police Dog). He stated that the City of Taft does not need a K-9 Unit because of the lack of a major drug trafficking problem.

10. The Department has a 14 cell jail with the capability to hold individuals pending arraignment or release and is monitored 24/7 by the Dispatchers from the workstation.

11. The Department procures a large percentage of equipment, i.e., vehicles, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, an electric cart and various other tools through the Federal 1033 Surplus Program. The Department has assisted the Sheriff’s Department and other agencies to acquire equipment by the same means.

COMMENTS:

The Chief and Lieutenant are to be commended for saving taxpayer funds by their expertise in acquiring law enforcement related equipment from other agencies and the Federal Government.

Further information on the Taft Police Department may be obtained on their website: www.taftcityhall.com.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Taft Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED
TEHACHAPI POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Tehachapi Police Department (Department) on March 24, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §925a.

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief) of the Department and was given a tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND:

The Tehachapi Police Department is located at 129 East “F” Street, Tehachapi, California 93561. The Department became operational July 1, 2007, and is located at the former Sheriff Substation facility.

FINDINGS:

1. The Department covers the eight square mile area of the City of Tehachapi. The Department is located in a small compact facility with no room for expansion. There are plans to build a new facility within the next three to five years.

2. The Department personnel consists of the Chief, two Sergeants, two Senior Officers, one Detective, one School Resource Officer, seven Patrol Officers and two office staff.

3. The Department has a volunteer program consisting of one Reserve Officer (two more soon to be added) and a Citizen Service Unit (CSU) that assists in traffic control, parking and crossing guard duties. The CSU assists in clerical support including courier duties for court documents and evidence delivery to Bakersfield.

4. The Department’s dispatching duties are contracted to the Bear Valley Police Department.

5. The Chief stated that crime in the area consists mainly of assaults, domestic violence and some minor gang graffiti crime. The biggest issue is methamphetamine dealers, users and the associated crimes.

6. The Chief stated that the location of the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi has not resulted in an influx of inmate families moving into the area.
7. The Department has a good working relationship with all law enforcement agencies in the area. The Chief stated, “The Department receives excellent support from the City Manager and staff.”

8. The Department has an Explorer Program for local youth ages 14-21 and currently has 10 members with three to four parent advisors. The Tehachapi Explorer Post 1018 has won many awards in past Explorer competitions and has participated in several community events such as the Mountain Festival and the 4th of July parade. The Explorer Program is hosting this year’s Explorer Challenge competition to be held this spring.

COMMENTS:

The Chief and his staff are to be commended for their professionalism and commitment to serve the community of Tehachapi.

Further information on the City of Tehachapi Police Department may be obtained on their website: www.tehachapicityhall.com

RECOMMENDATION:

The Tehachapi Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED.
Purpose of Inquiry:

On September 1, 2009, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited Wasco State Prison Reception Center (Prison) to inquire into the condition and management of the facility according to Penal Code §919(b).

Process:

The Committee was taken on a tour by the Public Information Officer (PIO). The tour consisted of Level III General Population inmates, the Receiving and Release unit, an Exercise Yard and Pharmacy.

Background:

The Prison is located at 701 Scofield Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280 and was opened in February 1991 and covers 634 acres with a design capacity to house 2,450 inmates. Currently the Prison has 1688 employees including custody, medical and support staff.

Findings:

1. Wasco State Prison is primarily a Reception Center which receives approximately 500 inmates a week from thirteen counties in the State and processes and transfers the same amount to other prisons in the State. Inmates are also contracted to be housed in prisons in Arizona, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Tennessee. The process takes approximately 70 to 80 days during which time the inmates go through a dental, medical and mental evaluation.

2. The energy efficient upgrade has begun with the installation of energy conservation lighting in some of the housing units. Installation of solar panels is scheduled for the future.

3. The prison has parole violator’s hearings on a daily basis.

4. Pharmacy area is extremely small and employees are working shoulder to shoulder. The prescriptions are filled at the pharmacy then transported and administered by a pharmacy technician. As mandated by law, prescriptions are brand names and not generic. Unused prescriptions are recycled. The Pharmacy has been upgraded to the state wide computer system for medication dispensing. When a prisoner is transferred from one facility to another all prescription records in the computerized system are transferred as well with no delay.
5. The prison has a contract with the medical supplier for a recycled pill system and receives a monthly credit towards prescription cost. No one is allowed in the pharmacy except pharmacy personnel. No cameras are present and will not be installed.

COMMENTS:

The Law and Justice Committee commend the Personnel Information Officer for providing the Committee with a tour of the facility and for outstanding knowledge and courtesy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Wasco State Prison should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public view.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED