



August 6, 2018

The Honorable Judge Renee C. Day
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Amador
500 Argonaut Lane
Jackson, CA 95642

RE: 2017-2018 Grand Jury Response

Dear Judge Day,

The following is the official response to the above listed report in the requested format.

Responding Agency: Amador County Sheriff's Office

Response by: Sheriff Martin Ryan

GRAND JURY FINDINGS:

Finding #1 –

The Amador County Jail, built in 1984 with a 20-year lifespan, is obsolete and overcrowded. It has an aging infrastructure; a lack of programming space; and an inability to properly classify and segregate inmates.

Response to Finding #1 –

The Sheriff agrees with this finding.

Finding #2 –

An expansion and renovation of the facility was approved on November 2, 2015. There is no current completion date due to legal issues.

Response to Finding #2 –

The Sheriff partially agrees with this finding.

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While there have been some delays with the expansion of the Jail, these issues are being resolved and the expansion project is moving forward. It is correct that there is no completion date. With a project of this scale, and the many state and local agencies involved, projecting a completion date is not reasonable until construction begins.

Finding #3 –

Because of California State Assembly Bill 109, the State prison system continues to work on reducing their population, and in turn, contributes to all of the State's county jail's overcrowding issues.

Response to Finding #3

The Sheriff agrees with this finding.

Since the implementation of AB 109 in October of 2011 through July of 2018, the Amador County Jail has received 719 additional inmates that would not have been booked into our facility if not for AB 109.

Findings #4 –

The current authorized staffing for the Amador Jail is inadequate.

Response to Finding #4 –

The Sheriff disagrees with this finding.

The Board of State and Community Corrections, while they set some standards for jails, they do not set a minimum staffing level for jail facilities. The Amador County Sheriff's Office currently has 1 vacant Corrections Sergeant, 2 vacant Corrections Officers, and 2 vacant Corrections Assistant positions. The Sheriff's Office has been accepting applications for these positions and testing is underway to fill the vacancies which will correct the current staffing problems. The existing jail daily staffing plan is operating at safe levels and the authorized staffing is adequate for existing conditions and inmate population.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation #1 –

The expansion and renovation plan should proceed as soon as possible.

Response to Recommendation #1 –

The Sheriff agrees with this recommendation.

The Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors have been addressing the need for jail expansion or replacement since 2009 when Assembly Bill 900 provided counties with funding for jail replacement. The county received a conditional award from the state, however, the increasing costs associated with the jail replacement project made it impossible to proceed and the conditional award was returned.

With the emergence of Senate Bill 863, state grant monies were again made available for a much less expensive expansion project. Amador County submitted an application in the small county category for our new 40 bed jail expansion project (\$17,179,000) which includes critical medical, mental health and program space.

This award of over \$17 million, unlike the previous AB 900 award that had to be returned due to matching costs, means that the county General Fund will be minimally impacted due to construction costs. In July of 2016, the SB 863 funds were officially established. The county is working with an architectural group and contractors to complete the expansion. After some delays, in March of 2018, the Board approved moving forward with the project and finalization of the plans are being completed.

Recommendation #2 –

It is recommended that alternative funding be sought for the replacement of the current Jail Facility as the planned addition to the Jail is seen as a short-term resolution.

Response to recommendation #2 –

The Sheriff disagrees with this recommendation.

While it is always the goal of the Amador County Sheriff's Office to plan for the future, the planned expansion of the Jail is not a short-term solution. Additional funding has already been used to upgrade the CCTV system, control panels, and intercoms in the current facility to make it safer and more efficient and to interface with the new expansion project. The new expansion will include critical areas for inmate programming, an expanded medical examination room, a medical isolation cell, and space for future dental services. The state rated bed capacity for the new combined facility will increase our current beds from 76 to 116.

Replacement of the current facility is not fiscally possible. Even with over \$22 million dollars in AB 109 grant funding the costs of the county's share of the project and additional staffing costs made that initial new jail project impossible.

Recommendation #3 –

It is recommended that funding be sought for additional staffing to rectify old deficiencies and to bring the current and new facility to adequate staffing levels in accordance with acceptable local adult detention facility practices.

Response to recommendation #3 –

The Sheriff partially agrees with this recommendation.

The current staffing levels as previously addressed under Finding #4 are acceptable, adequate, and safe. The Amador County Sheriff's Office has in place a staffing plan for the new expansion needs. I am unaware of "old deficiencies" that need correction. Local detention facility staffing levels are not standardized by the state or any other entity. The "acceptability" and safety of staffing is determined by each individual Sheriff.

I agree that the new Jail expansion project will require additional Correctional Officers once operational, and a plan is already in place to do so. Funding for these positions has been secured through a mutual agreement between the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors and recruitment and hiring will begin when a completion date for the expansion is determined.

As always, the time and effort expended by the Amador County Grand Jury on this report is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,



MARTIN A. RYAN
Sheriff-Coroner

MAR/es

CC: Lynn Morgan, Chairman, Amador County Board of Supervisors
Chuck Iley, Amador County CAO
Gary Redman, Undersheriff
Bryan Middleton, Operations Captain
Jarret Benov, Corrections Captain
Jim Cardoza, Lieutenant
Jeremy Martin, Lieutenant
Adam Stone, Lieutenant