

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administration		(2) MEETING DATE August 22, 2006		(3) CONTACT/PHONE Vincent Morici, 781-5020	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve recommended responses to a single finding and a single recommendation contained in the report on the San Luis Obispo County Jail and Honor Farm, and to forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.					
(5) SUMMARY OF REQUEST The Grand Jury has prepared a report addressing the San Luis Obispo County Jail and Honor Farm. The Grand Jury requests a response from the Sheriff-Coroner and the Board of Supervisors to the one finding and one recommendation contained in the report.					
(6) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve the attached responses and forward these responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.					
(7) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A		(8) CURRENT YEAR COST N/A		(9) ANNUAL COST N/A	
(10) BUDGETED? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A					
(11) OTHER AGENCY/ADVISORY GROUP INVOLVEMENT (LIST): The Sheriff-Coroner was consulted during the preparation of the response to the Grand Jury report.					
(12) WILL REQUEST REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, How Many? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Term _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Contract _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Help _____					
(13) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) <input type="checkbox"/> 1st, <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd, <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd, <input type="checkbox"/> 4th, <input type="checkbox"/> 5th, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All			(14) LOCATION MAP <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		(15) Maddy Act Appointments Signed-off by Clerk of the Board <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
(16) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			(17) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances (Orig + 4 copies) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		
(18) NEED EXTRA EXECUTED COPIES? <input type="checkbox"/> Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			(19) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		
(20) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) _____			(21) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		(22) Agenda Item History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____
(23) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW <i>OK - Jim Grant</i>					

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County of San Luis Obispo

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, RM. 370 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5011



DAVID EDGE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Vincent Morici, Administrative Analyst
DATE: August 22, 2006

SUBJECT: Response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report on the San Luis Obispo County Jail and Honor Farm.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached response as the Board of Supervisors' response to the report on the San Luis Obispo County Jail and Honor Farm and forward the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury reviewed the operation of the County jail and honor farm and issued a report that includes one finding and one recommendation. Overall, the Grand Jury found that the jail "appears to be an efficient, well-managed facility staffed by conscientious and motivated professionals." However the, report includes a finding and a recommendation that deal with the issue of crowded conditions at the women's jail. The Grand Jury has required that the Sheriff-Corner and the Board of Supervisors respond to the finding and recommendation contained in the report.

Attached to this report is a copy of the Sheriff-Coroner's response to the Grand Jury report. After evaluating the Grand Jury report, staff has prepared a recommended Board of Supervisors' response to the finding and recommendation of the report. The recommended Board of Supervisors response to the Grand Jury Report is contained in Attachment 1. The Sheriff-Corner response is shown as Attachment 2.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The Sheriff-Coroner was contacted as part of the evaluation of the response to this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost of constructing a new women's jail is estimated to be in the range of \$14 to \$20 million. The Board of Supervisors has recently allocated \$1.29 million dollars for the design of a new women's jail facility. The state continues to consider issuing a bond to assist with the construction of local jail facilities since the issue of local jail overcrowding is a statewide issue. The recently authorized work on the women's jail

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will aid the county to be in a position to qualify for state funds should they become available.

RESULTS

Adoption of the findings and recommendations will fulfill the County's obligation to respond to Grand Jury reports as specified in Section 933 of the Penal Code and contributes to the County's communitywide goal of having a well-governed community.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1055 Monterey, Room D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408
(805) 781-5450 • FAX: (805) 781-1350



TO: The Honorable Rodger Piquet,
California Superior Court, San Luis Obispo County

FROM: County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors
Katchik "Katcho" Achadjian, Chairman

DATE August 22, 2006

RE: 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report - San Luis Obispo County Jail and Honor Farm.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury report related to the County of San Luis Obispo Jail and Honor Farm. This memo is the County Board of Supervisors response to the report. The Sheriff-Coroner has responded to this report and sent his response to you separately. A copy of his response is also included with this report.

Grand Jury Finding 1

The jail is overcrowded, particularly in the women's section, where inmates sleeping on mattresses placed on the floor is a daily occurrence. Plans to expand the women's section appear to have stalled at the design stage for which funds were allotted several years ago.

Board of Supervisors' response to Finding 1

The Board partially agrees with this finding. We agree that there are times when the jail, particularly the female jail, experiences overcrowding. The county provided dollars to begin a program to develop a new women's jail as part of the 1999-2000 fiscal year budget. A Master Plan of the County Operational Area on Kansas Avenue looked at the land planning for future facilities, including the women's' jail. This Master Plan was completed in 2001. A master planning effort specific to the overall property of the main jail was begun and completed in 2004. A women's jail design program was begun in 2004 and completed in 2005. During Fiscal Year 2005-2006, the county sought request for qualifications for firms to engineer and design a women's jail facility. In July of 2006, the county approved a contract to design a women's jail and approved the expenditure of up to \$1.29 million dollars for this purpose. Work toward the development of a women's jail has been progressing in phases.

Many counties in this state struggle with jail overcrowding. Constructing and staffing jail facilities is expensive. San Luis Obispo County has taken prudent and appropriate steps toward the construction of a new women's jail facility.

ATTACHMENT 1

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Grand Jury Recommendation 1

The Board of Supervisors should place a high priority on funding the expansion of the women's jail, and construction should begin as soon as possible.

Board of Supervisors response to Recommendation 1

This recommendation has been partially implemented. The Board of Supervisors does place a high priority on the construction of a new women's jail as can be seen by the allocation of \$1.29 million for the design and architectural services as the necessary first step. At the same time, the Board has a responsibility to assure that the jail can be constructed in a manner that preserves the maximum amount of local dollars so that other services and needs can be balanced with the need to construct the jail. To this end, the Sheriff and the county have been working with other counties and the state in the effort to find an overall financing solution for the cost of constructing local jail facilities. The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan outlined in his December budget included 4 billion in General Obligation bonds specifically for the purpose of local jail construction. While this was not included in the Governor's revised budget or in the budget adopted by the legislature, there remains considerable momentum within the state to have a statewide solution to the issue of jail over crowding. Staff will continue to pursue a cooperative effort with the state to fund the construction of a women's jail. The process to get a state bond approved by the voters will involve one or more years. Nonetheless, the county is committed to constructing a new women's jail and will continue working toward this end.

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August 8, 2006

The Honorable Roger Picquet
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

**RESPONSE TO 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORT - SAN LUIS OBISPO
COUNTY JAIL AND HONOR FARM**

Dear Judge Picquet:

I have received and reviewed the above entitled Grand Jury report. The report focused on both the men's and women's main jail facility and the honor farm facility, both located on Kansas Avenue in rural San Luis Obispo.

Responses to specific findings and recommendations as required are as follows:

Findings

The jail is overcrowded, particularly in the women's section, where inmates sleeping on mattresses placed on the floor is a daily occurrence. Plans to expand the women's section appear to have stalled at the design stage for which funds were allotted several years ago.

The department partially agrees with this finding. The department agrees that the men's and women's jails are overcrowded, however the department disagrees that plans to expand the women's section appear to have stalled, as a facility design contract has been awarded and a design team is in place, is meeting regularly and is moving forward.

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JAIL AND HONOR FARM

ATTACHMENT 2

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Recommendations

The Board of Supervisors should place a high priority on funding the expansion of the women's jail, and construction should begin as soon as possible.

While the department agrees that funding and construction of the women's jail should be a high priority and is committed to working with County Administration, General Services, Auditor and the Board of Supervisors to that end, the recommendation will not be implemented by the Sheriff's Department as the authority to approve capital improvement projects such as facility expansion remains with the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hedges
Sheriff-Coroner

PH/sb

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